



The Vox

President's Message

It is my pleasure to introduce the first edition of the new VOX. This marks another milestone in the history of the LVARC. I would first like to thank Mark (AK3M) for his many years as the editor of the VOX. Mark did an outstanding job producing interesting and colorful editions of the VOX. I would also like to thank John (WB3DX) for taking the editors job from Mark and carrying on his outstanding work. While John is the new editor, the VOX belongs to the members of the LVARC. Its ultimate success is dependent on us, the LVARC members, supplying John with HAM related articles, article suggestions, event pictures and suggestions for improvements. Please pitch in and let's make John's new job a success.

I would like to take the opportunity review past and coming club events for 2016. The most notable item is the progress on establishing a Club HAM station. We now have a functioning station in the Tri Clover fire station basement. We have operational HF and VHF/UHF radios. We still have more work planned and hope to have additional HF and VHF/UHF radios operational by the end of the year. In addition to the club station we have had successful Spring ARES events, Filed Day participation, and Club picnic. I want to offer a sincere thanks to all Club members who have made these activities and events a success.

Looking forward to the end of the year we have the four Fall ARES events. Operators are still needed for these events. Please volunteer. These efforts are greatly appreciated by the event sponsors and are fun for volunteers. We will be looking for nominations for club officers starting in October with elections in December. Please start thinking about who you want to lead our organization. I will also be looking for nominations for the 2016 Pres Schuler Award. Look at the year's activities and with an eye to identifying the person who has significantly contributed to the LVARC and HAM radio.

The success of the LVARC and the VOX are in the hands of the Club membership. Please come to meetings, volunteer for events and contribute to the VOX. I look forward to the remaining years activities and the fellowship of the club membership.

73!!! de AB3LZ, John

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Officers

President: [John Bartos, AB3LZ](#)
Vice President: [Chuck Ballard, WB6CDY](#)
Secretary: [Mike Mandell, KC3BLF](#)
Treasurer: [Brian Snyder, KB3QHA](#)

Board of Governors

[Rod Wolfe, N3XG](#)
[Gary Decker, W3GRD](#)
[Mark Miller, AK3M](#)
[Scott Leichsennring, KB3YOT](#)
[Paul Ryan, NOKIA](#)

Communications

VOX Editor: [John Hilderbrand, WB3DX](#)
Webmaster: [John Borchers, W3AMD](#)
Webmaster: [Igor Kasriel, KC3ASC](#)



AM Radio Nostalgia

Do you remember when AM radio actually played music? It was quite a while ago most of the major stations converted to a "talk radio" format (well, we still have Sunny 1100 AM during the daylight hours with music). Since many of us have an ideal setup for shortwave listening, you might want to try 9925 kHz at 8PM on Saturday nights. This is "The Mighty KBC" and it's geared toward listeners in the Eastern US. The programming is from the Netherlands, but the transmitter is in Germany.

They use slightly more power than ham radio (125,000 watts). It is strong enough to come in fairly well on a lot of portable shortwave radios, but your HF rig and dipole really pick it up well. They typically also transmit a digital signal in the 2nd hour of the program, which can be a picture (MFSK) or some other file.

I have been listening to it most Saturday nights for a couple years now. Those of us old enough to remember

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"If you have heard about Wires-X but could not find an access node or repeater, you might want to try a new node in Macungie."



Wires-X Simplex Node in Macungie de WA3PNY

If you have heard about Wires-X but could not find an access node or repeater, you might want to try a new node in Macungie. As shown in the shack picture, I have assembled an analog node. The node computer (upper center) is a PIPO running Windows 10. Directly below is the Wires-X interface and the node radio (FT7800R). The radio is set up as an exciter and is outputting 5 watts because of the continuous duty presented as a node. The amplifier (upper left) is a Yaesu FL2050 with an output of 40 Watts. A Diawa meter is seen in the upper right to monitor the station output. Not shown is a Comet Duplexer to share the antenna with a 70cm rig. The node antenna is only up 35 ft. Shown in the second picture. It is a Comet GP-6 offering 6.5 dBi of gain at 2 meters.

If you would like to try it out here is what you need to know:

- Wires-X Simplex Node
- You can use a standard Analog FM radio
- 145.675 MHz
- Tone 131.8Hz for access
- To disconnect from America-link send a * DTMF
- To connect to another room, send #xxxxx where xxxxx is the number of the room.
- Rooms are listed at https://www.yaesu.com/jp/en/wires-x/id/active_room.php

Please disconnect when you are done, it will then auto reconnect to America-link.

Give it a try! Jeff, WA3PNY

AM Radio Nostalgia

Continued from page 2

Bruce Morrow, Wolfman Jack, etc. will hear a familiar theme.

Shortwave is not completely dead yet. There are a few holdouts who still target North America with their transmissions. Radio Romania, for some reason, literally booms into the East Coast. You can always get Radio China International (rebroadcast from Canada), Turkey, Egypt, Cuba, Vietnam (from England), and North Korea if you're lucky. Australia is usually strong in the AM. Those are mostly talk, though.

If you're trying to use 40 meters after sunset and are frustrated by all the QRM, turn your mode switch to AM and see what's on that interference.

Note that shortwave stations change frequencies seasonally (or sometimes randomly it seems to me). There are guides to shortwave programming online,

but I have used "primetimeshortwave.com" for a while. This only lists programming in English, which filters out an awful lot of stuff you would otherwise have to sift through. For the more patient listeners and those who are interested in novelty, you can hunt for "pirate radio" stations. Try "freeradiocafe.com" for info on this. Pirate stations pop on and off the air and naturally don't really publish their "schedule" anywhere.

Many of the big old names in shortwave have either ceased transmitting (Russia, for one) or ceased their English transmissions to North America (BBC, Deutsche Welle, VOA and others) because they're on the internet (or TV and commercial radio here).

Tune in your ham rig or dig out the old Grundig and have some fun on shortwave while it's still on the air.

Mike, KC3BLF

"For the more patient listeners and those who are interested in novelty, you can hunt for "pirate radio" stations."

Your Story Goes Here



Your VOX input is needed!

Send any VOX submissions to:

John, WB3DX at johnahilderbrand@gmail.com

The VOX is your newsletter. Feel free to submit articles and pictures for inclusion of the VOX.

RACES and ARES Information



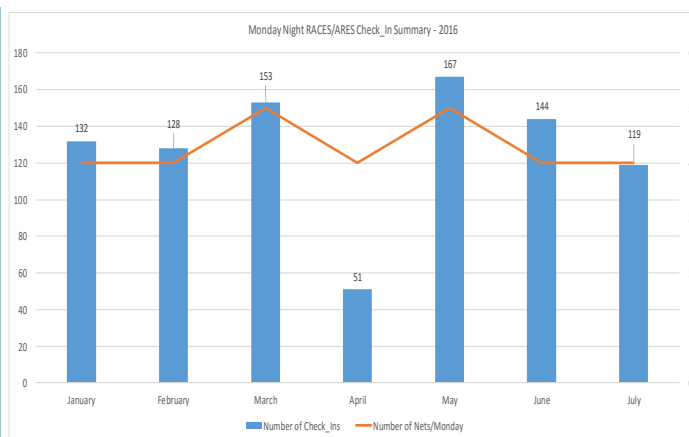
LVARC ARES Events—2016	
Event	Date
VIA / LVHN Marathon	Sunday, September 11th
Women's 5K Classic	Saturday, October 1st
Hanover Township "Fall 5K"	Sunday, November 6th
D&L Rail Trail Half Marathon	Sunday, November 6th

"The LVARC provides communication support for many spring, summer and fall community events (ARES) during the Spring, Summer and Fall. If you are interested in participating contact Mark, AK3M at AK3M@rcn.com. Participation in these activities earns you "incentive tickets" to be included in the December prize drawings. Your help is greatly needed and appreciated!"

LVARC / RACES / ARES Net



Monday Night Check-In Summary 2016		
Month	Count	Days
January	132	4
February	128	4
March	153	5
April	51	4
May	167	5
June	144	4
July	119	4
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		



Check-Ins Every Monday Night
 LC/LVARC/RACES Net on 146.94 (PL 71.9)
 Alternate frequency on 147.735/147.135 (DCS 315)
 The Net begins at 7:30 pm local time (ET)

LVARC Repeaters
 146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)
 147.735/147.135 (DCS - 315)
 Club Simplex Frequency - 147.420

LVARC Activities and Events



LVARC Activities and Events	
Event	Date
LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)	Monday, August 1st
LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)	Tuesday, August 2nd
LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)	Monday, August 8th
LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)	Monday, August 15th
LVARC Activity Night (7:30 pm - Tri Clover FC)	Tuesday, August 16th
LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)	Monday, August 22nd
LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)	Monday, August 29th

"When studying for the Extra test, be sure you are reading the CURRENT extra question pool."

LVARC VE Report



LVARC VE Report
Mark, AK3M

Volunteer Examiners

There will be NO test session in July and August.

The next test session will be on September 16

at Hanover Elementary School

in Hanover Township (Northampton County) at 6:30 pm.

As always, registration is required.

To register, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com

Two are already scheduled of that test session.

Important Test Information

The current Extra class test question pool expired at the
end of June, 2016.

When studying for the Extra test, be sure you are reading
the CURRENT extra question pool.

LVARC Minutes August 2, 2016

Tri-Clover Fire Company, Orefield, PA

2/2/2016

Opening:

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

There were a total of 17 members in attendance, and the club was joined by no guests.

Guests: none

The following Board Members were present at the meeting: John Bartos, Chuck Ballard, Mike Mandell, Gary Decker, Rodney Wolfe

Approval of Minutes

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

Moved: Chuck, WB6CDY

Second: Walt, KE3SP

Treasurer's Report (Brian-KB3QHA)

Treasurer's report was read by John, AB3LZ in Brian's absence.

Motion to approve: Gary, W3GRD

Second: Phil, KB3HMK

Motion carried

Committee Reports

Repeater:

Rod, N3XG reported that the 94 repeater is dropping out. It is assumed the repeater itself may have an independent timeout. You have to completely let the squelch tail drop and reset for the time being, until this is corrected. Both D Star repeaters are transmitting at extremely low power. John reported that to the best of his knowledge the additional voters for the 94 repeater are not up yet.

Program:

Tonight's program is APRS by Rodney, N3XG, and hands on will be an APRS demo. Next month will be ham station setup by Chuck, WB6CDY.

Volunteer Examiners:

There will be NO test session in July and August. The next test session will be on September 16 at Hanover Elementary School in Hanover Township (Northampton County) at 6:30 pm. As always, registration is required. To register, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or call 610-428-4475. Two are already scheduled of that test session.

ARES:

There are 4 more ARES events yet to come in 2016. YOUR HELP IS NEEDED. Those events include: VIA/LVHN Marathon - September 11, Women's 5K Classic - October 1, Hanover Township Fall 5K - November 6 and the D&L Rail Trail Half Marathon - November 6. There are two events on November 6 which means many volunteers will be needed on that day. To volunteer for one or more of these events, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or call 610-428-4475.

Communications:

We have a new Vox editor, John Hildebrand, WB3DX

Club Station:

John reported the long wire antenna needs some adjustment to brace it up. We tested the Kenwood TS940S and it appears to work fine. The fire company has no issues with an installation of the vertical antenna as long as we do not penetrate the roof. Chuck is working on a mounting system and has ordered some of the required material. Eventually we would like to replace the existing Slim Jim with 2 nice UHF/VHF antennas.

Old Business:

John, AB3LZ got information from ARRL about their insurance program. Their max is 15,000 in equipment. They will pay replacement cost with a comparable new unit. Equipment must be individually listed.

Rod, N3XG reported our Field Day score was 1482 in total, with 296 contacts. Total score included bonus points. Rod will send a letter to Lehigh County EMA and Eastern PA EMS thanking them for their support and giving them a recap of Field Day. The picnic was very good. It was discussed possibly moving the picnic to the Fall in the future.

New Business:

None, other than new member.

Good of the Order:

HF has not been really good for a while and the solar cycle is deteriorating.

Sick Report:

Paul, N0KIA was in the hospital and is recuperating at home. John, W3AMD is still working through medical issues.

New Member Applicants:

Todd Worrell, KB2GGS

Motion to accept: Ken, KC3BLE

Second: Steve, K2OPA

Carried

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 8:08PM

Moved: Chuck, WB6CDY

Seconded: Matthew, KB3UZE

Carried

Minutes submitted by: Mike, KC3BLF



september 2016

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 LARES/RACES Net 7:30 pm Labor Day	6 LVARC Mtg Ham Shack Setup 7:30 pm	7 District 2 RACES Net 7:30 pm 147.255	8	9	10
14 Deadline to Schedule VE Test	12 ARES/RACES Net 7:30 pm	13	14 District 2 RACES Net 7:30 pm 147.255	15	16 VE Test Session Hanover Elem. School 6:30 pm	17
18	19 ARES/RACES Net 7:30 pm	20 Hands On Night Tri-Clover 7:30 pm	21 District 2 RACES Net 7:30 pm 147.255	22	23	24
25	26 ARES/RACES Net 7:30 pm	27	28 District 2 RACES Net 7:30 pm 147.255	29	30	
notes						

LVARC Club Announcements



Congratulations to Chuck Ballard, WB6CDY
Who's upgrade was posted on the FCC website on June 12, 2016
after being involved with the FCC computer SNAFU

Your VOX input is needed!

Send any VOX submissions to:

John, WB3DX at johnahilderbrand@gmail.com

The VOX is your newsletter. Feel free to submit articles and pictures
for inclusion of the VOX.

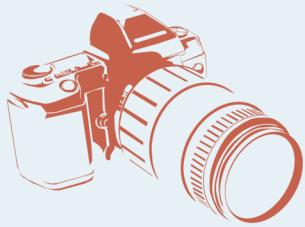
General Interest



[How Accurate is a Radio Controlled Clock?](#), Submitted by Mike, KC3BLF

[A Passion for Ham Radio](#), Submitted by Chuck, WB6CDY

LVARC Club Photos



LVARC Picnic



Photos courtesy of Don, NOVGA