



The VOX



The Official Newsletter of the
Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI / KB3SYV
Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA

Officers

President: **John Bartos - AB3LZ** (e03145jab@gmail.com)
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Secretary: **Phillip Bigg - KB3HMK** (philbert17@ptd.net)
Treasurer: **Paul Ryan - N0KIA** (paul.f.ryan@gmail.com)

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VOX Editor - Mark S. Miller (AK3M) ---- (AK3M@rcn.com)

LVARC Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)
147.735/147.135 (DCS 315)
147.42 Club Simplex Freq.

LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

Every Monday at 7:30P (ET)
Check-Ins welcome!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
February					1	2
3	4 LVARC Net 7:30p	5 LVARC meeting 7:30p	6	7	8	9
10 Deadline to register for test session	11 LVARC Net 7:30p	12	13	14 	15 LVARC Test Session 6:30p	16
17	18 LVARC Net 7:30p	19 Old Country Buffet 6:30	20	21	22	23
24	25 LVARC Net 7:30p	26	27	28	2019	

The first LVARC ARES event will be the **St. Luke's Half Marathon on April 28, 2019**. Mark your calendar and volunteer early! Your help is needed to make the 2019 LVARC ARES program a success. Contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com to volunteer.



Don't forget to keep your information up to date. Notify Paul (N0KIA) of any changes in US and/or email addresses.

LVARC TEST SESSIONS

The LVARC holds monthly test sessions on the third Friday of every month. The test is held at Hanover Elementary School at 3890 Jacksonville Road in Bethlehem, PA at 6:30p. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** To register, contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com or call Mark at 610-428-4475.

2019 DUES ARE DUE

March is the last month to pay dues for 2019.

Regular: \$20.00
Student: \$15.00
Family: \$25.00
Lifetime: \$500.00

Dues can be paid from the club website, at a meeting, PayPal or via US mail.

Winter Tip

An old car battery with a trickle charger attached (until you need it) will keep your HT or mobile radio on the air for many hours in the event of a Winter power outage.



The LVARC holds it's monthly meetings on the FIRST TUESDAY of the month at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield, Pennsylvania.

On days that have bad or severe WX conditions, you may want to monitor the LVARC's repeater(s) in case someone needs assistance.



The February LVARC meeting will be on Tuesday February 5, 2019 at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield at 7:30p (local).

The program scheduled is, **"The Maker Movement."**

Plan to attend!

Your “Go Bag” - de Mark (AK3M)

Should Lehigh County EMA (RACES), PA (ACS) or ARRL (ARES) call on the LVARC for communications support, you will need to have your, “Go Bag,” ready. That bag should contain equipment that will keep you on the air for about four hours. Keep in mind that we are **not** first responders. That will allow you some time in which to deploy but that is not the time to gather your equipment. Your, “Go Bag” should be ready to go.



There have been many presentations on, “Go Bag,” equipment but remember that whatever you decide to take, you will need to pack in a format which you can easily carry.

Your bag should contain essential items like a **flashlight** (with good batteries), a charged **spare HT battery**, an **AC/DC adapter**, a **note pad** and **pen**, a **pocket knife**/multi tool, a **spare antenna** (including an external antenna like a mag mount), an **extra HT**, appropriate **RF connectors**, a roll of **duct** or **electrical tape**, **LVARC/RACES ID**, **communications vest** and **headphones** or earbuds. Don't forget creature comforts like water, medication, sunglasses, rain poncho, folding chair, appropriate clothing etc.

Take enough equipment to stay on the air for about four hours. After that time, additional operators should be in place. They can relieve you at your position or take equipment to you that you may have forgotten or need.

Some operators will be asked to deploy and others may be asked to stay home and monitor VHF/UHF communications and function as relay stations on HF frequencies. For that reason, VHF/UHF equipment is a priority for your, “Go Bag.”

A **NEW LC RACES APPLICATION FORM** has been developed. It appears on page 7 of this issue of the VOX. *Disregard the one presented in the January 2019 issue of the VOX.* **Please complete the NEW RACES FORM and get it to Mike (KC3BLF) at a meeting or US mail it to him at the address on the form. This form will also be posted on the LVARC website in a Word format.**

Remember, you need at least ICS 100 AND ICS 700 certifications to be a LC RACES member

ARES, ACS, RACES and the New ARRL Initiative **de Mike Mandell (KC3BLF)**



Let's quickly explain what these 3 organizations are and what they do...not complete, but you can look it up online if you want the whole story.

ARES---this is the ARRL organization for Amateur Radio Emergency Services. It is ONLY ARRL, not county, not state, not FEMA. We generally report our public service activities to ARRL through the ARES program. Any ham can be a member. Until now, every ham was an equal member—more on that below.

RACES—this is a Federal program that is widely misunderstood. The law creating this from 1952 included the Presidential War Powers Act and can basically remove any ham from the ham bands who is NOT a member participating in RACES. RACES has some (minimal) qualifications in addition to your ham license, ICS 100 and ICS 700, both FEMA courses you take online for free. These courses explain the structure of emergency response and our place in it, NOT how to operate as a radio volunteer. Government can “call out” RACES, but generally just calls out ham radio, at least on our level. If RACES were actually activated, there are extreme limits on nets, who can be on them and what you communicate on them. In an ideal situation, every amateur participating in an emergency, should be RACES qualified so they understand how to structure works in an incident no matter what size. It doesn't matter whether you call it ACS, RACES or anything else. Like the motto of Faber College, “Knowledge is Good” (Animal House).

ACS—this is the Pennsylvania Auxiliary Communication System. Ham radio is a part of this, but it includes all kinds of things like phones, microwave, cell systems, computer systems, etc. It is not FEMA, not RACES. Not ARES. When our county or State (PEMA) asks for amateur radio help, we operate under ACS and despite common belief, not necessarily RACES. Again, RACES is very restricted in who can be on the air, who you can talk to and what traffic you can pass. ACS emergency operations are more aligned to what we're familiar with. Is our Monday Net a RACES net, as we say weekly? Technically, no. Practically, we call “official government” nets and activation RACES and it really doesn't matter unless the President exercises his War Powers and shuts down amateur bands. No living ham in our club has ever experienced this, and probably never will.

You, as a ham, can be enrolled in all three of the above. It might be a very major commitment, however.

The new ARRL ARES initiative---I'll keep this very brief as there is much more to come on this. Starting in 2019, ARES members report their own participation (marathons, nets, etc.) online at ARES CONNECT. This is a brand-new ARRL thing that is similar to how a lot of other organizations report public service hours. How? Well, we're working on that. Relax... for now. In the past your ARES folks from the club took care of this reporting. No longer. Also, in the new ARES initiative, there will be 3 levels of ARES member.

Level 1 is basically any volunteer who is interested in serving and learning, with the only qualification being a license. Same as right now. **Level 2** is where ARRL wants to see most members and that requires ICS 100, 200, 700 and 800 as well as ARRL's course EC001 (basic emergency communications). **Level 3** is required for leadership positions in ARES and includes all the above plus EC016.

ARES membership also implies the willingness to deploy somewhere other than your QTH to participate. We all do this in our public service events like marathons, 5Ks, etc. We will have to do it if called upon to fulfill our real obligation to emergency services. ARES is NOT a work-from-home job. Nor is RACES. Somebody has to get out to a shelter, etc. and pass that information back up to the proper people.

The ability and willingness of Amateur Radio is to provide public and emergency service is a major reason we continue to be allowed such wide bandwidth on the RF spectrum. It's worth a ton of money A couple years ago fragments of the 700Mhz spectrum were auctioned off for over 40 BILLION dollars. That's a lot of money available for something we get free. We have to earn this. We need to be active in service and get the information to ARRL they need to put in front of the people who are being lobbied all the time to grab pieces of our bands.

In this Vox, you'll see yet another RACES sign up form. I know you've probably filled one out several times before. This time is a little different. We really don't care what bands you can work from home. You won't be working from home. We DO care that you are willing to volunteer and deploy somewhere (generally local) in case of emergency. RACES sign up is not for casual operators who think it might be cool to stay on the air when the President shuts down our frequencies (it will not be fun in that case....all business and nothing but business). **If you have the 2 required ICS courses and you have the willingness to deploy, please fill out the new form (page 7). This will constitute the RACES list; all older lists will be discarded.**

As far as ARES goes, it's going to be just like always except for reporting your own contributions. I'm not sure yet what hours we report, but if other organizations are any indication it may include hours taking the ICS courses and things of that nature in addition to working on public events or emergencies. We'll all learn this together.



Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club RACES Application Form

(Please print)

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Call _____

House Phone _____

Cell Phone (for SMS notification) _____

Cell Phone Carrier (AT&T, Verizon etc.) _____

Address (City State Zip) _____

Email _____

* ICS Certification (Circle all that apply) **ICS 100** **ICS 200** **ICS 700** **ICS 800**


Other ICS/EMCOM Certification(s) _____

Signature _____ Date _____

* **ICS 100 AND ICS 700 are mandatory for LC RACES membership.**

Mail to:

Mike Mandell
KC3BLF
1524 Colgate Dr.
Bethlehem, PA 18017



LVARC RACES 1/1/19



The **VOX** will be sent to you via email and will be on the LVARC website monthly. If you are not receiving the VOX via email, please send your **current** email address to Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com.

Send your submissions for the newsletter to Mark (AK3M). This is **YOUR** club's newsletter. Submit your articles with text and/or graphics that you want to appear in the newsletter.



Mark your calendar

- (1) The LVARC holds its monthly meetings on the **first Tuesday of every month at 7:30p** at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield, PA.
- (2) The LVARC has an **activity night** on the **third Tuesday of the month**.
- (3) The LVARC holds a **RACES/ARES/ACS Net** every Monday Night at 7:30p on the 146.940 repeater. Many club activities will be announced there. *All are welcome to check in.*
- (4) The LVARC provides communications support for seven community events each year (**ARES**).
- (5) The LVARC holds **monthly test sessions** for those who want to get their amateur radio license or those who want to upgrade their existing license. Registration is required. Contact Mark (AK3M) at AK3M@rcn.com.
- (6) **2019 ARRL Field Day** will be **June 22 & 23**.

LVARC activities and events are announced with details in advance, on the Monday Night Net, in the VOX and at meetings. Mark your calendar and help support your club.

The LVARC's newest addition is a 16 foot communication trailer. Work should be complete and the trailer available for use this year!

Look for this trailer at 2019 events.



***Mirage B34-G amplifier**. Perfect to bump up 5 watts to 35 watts \$125

***MFJ902 Travel Tuner** \$75

***Tokyo Hi-Power HL50B HF amplifier**. Turn 5 watts to 50 watts. This amp is the very hard to find and sought after amp and is a perfect item for the Yaesu FT817/ND and the new FT818 \$325

***Elecraft T1** QRP tuner with the memory cable. Perfect for the FT817/D and the new FT818D \$75

* **MFJ-971** Portable QRP to QRO tuner. Perfect for QRP rigs. This tuner has the antenna 'in and out' switch modification. \$75

***AIM** regulated 4 Amp power supply Model 38-384 \$25

***SGC ADSP2** noise cancellation speaker with mounting bracket. \$75

* **End Fed** antenna 20 meters \$15

* **Yo-Yo** 'tenna 2 reels, portable dipole \$15

***MFJ 1621** Portable antenna \$50

Pictures of all items available on request.

Contact: Larry Miller (NR3R) at nr3r@ptd.net



A **hitch platform**. Asking \$75 or best offer.

Contact: Phil Bigg (KB3HMK) 610-390-7565 or email philbert17@ptd.net.



The LVARC will hold its annual, “*Beast Feast*,” at the **Old Country Buffet** on the February activity night.

Join the group on **Tuesday February 19** at **6:30p** at the **Old Country Buffet** in Whitehall.

Come and enjoy an evening of food and fellowship!
Guests are welcome! Hope to see you all there.



The LVARC IS AN ACTIVE CLUB! LVARC offerings include:
(1) monthly **meetings** (2) monthly **testing sessions** (3) **programs**
(4) **FD activities** (5) **ARES events** (6) a monthly **newsletter**
(VOX) (7) **club amateur radio station** (8) **weekly net** (9) annual
picnic (10) annual **dinner** (11) two **repeaters** (12) an **active**
membership (13) **web site** and **more!**

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (W3OI) Meeting Minutes

Date: January 8, 2019

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 24 members in attendance, and the club was joined by one guest.

The following officers and Board Members were present at the meeting:

President - John Bartos
Vice President - Chuck Ballard
Treasurer - Paul Ryan
Secretary - Phil Bigg
Board Members: Myles Bodisch
Mark Miller
Rick Pearce
Matt Kriebel
Don Hoppes

Guests: Glenn Schnell – KC3LBI

Corrections additions to the minutes: None Noted

Motion to accept by: Chuck – W3CDY

Seconded by: Myles – KB3ZMA

Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

The financial report was presented

Motion to accept by: Chuck – W3CDY

Seconded by: Rick – KC3EXO

Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

Committee Reports:

Repeater: Some interference during the net. Nothing major. Members will monitor to see if it continues. The 147.135 repeater has been moved to its new location (same site). Rods repeater has also been moved. The D-Star repeater has not been moved. Certain members will have limited access to the repeater site.

Program: Jared (N3GMP) was scheduled to do a presentation on the “Maker Movement” tonight. Due to illness, he was not able to do it. John came up with a backup program to do. February and March will be a joint presentation with John and Chuck. Their program will be on ionizing radiation.

Volunteer Examiners: On December 21, 2018, one tested and one passed. **CONGRATULATIONS** to Fred Miller who passed his Technician test. Fred received his call **KC3MQY** on December 28, 2018. VE's in attendance included, Mark (AK3M), Walt (KE3SP) and Mike (KC3BLF).

The next test session will be Friday January 18, 2019.

NOTE: [The deadline to schedule for the January 18 test session has passed (Sunday January 13) and no one *contacted me to test. As a result, there will be no test session on January 18, 2019*].

A review of 2018 LVARC test sessions:

MONTH	NUMBER TESTED
January	5
February	4
March	1
April	1
May	1
June	3
July	No test session scheduled
August	No one scheduled to test
September	1
October	2
November	No one scheduled to test
December	1
TOTAL	19

A donation of \$200 was made to Hanover Elementary School for use of the building for 2018. The funds for this donation came from the VE account

ARES / RACES: 2018 ARES REPORT

The LVARC provided communications for **seven** community events during the 2018 year.

The first scheduled ARES event of 2019 will be the St. Luke's Luke's Half Marathon on Sunday April 28, 2019.

Communications: The website has improved. Paul and Bill have been working on it. If you notice any problems with the website, please let Chuck or John know. The VOX has been resurrected. Mark (AK3M) has volunteered to take it over. If you have any material that you would like to see in the VOX, let Mark know.

Club Station: Everything looks good. John said the station is there for members to use. The board will discuss about having the station open on a certain night.

The trailer is coming along fine. The flooring has been installed. Thank you to Myles, Steve and Tom for working on it. Some more work is needed to be done. John is hopeful to get it done by spring.

Old Business: The annual Dinner Get Together (aka: Beast Feast) will be on February 19 at the Old Country Buffet in Whitehall. It starts at 6:30 PM.

In addition to Jared doing his presentation, we will be having a field trip to his facility. It will be on January 22. The address is 905 Harrison St., Suite 101 in Allentown. More info to follow.

New Business: Paul recommends purchasing a money CD with some of the money we have. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Good of the Order: Chuck mentioned that EBAY and Radioddity has good prices for the Baofeng tri-band radios. EBAY also has good prices for a QYT quad band radio.

Northampton County and DLARC will try and do a simplex net. Lehigh County will also participate. More info to follow.

There is an ARRL RTTY contest coming up. Check the ARRL website for more info.

John asked that members would volunteer to take refreshments to the meetings. He is looking for volunteers to do this for the meetings. Phil said he would do February.

New member applicants:

Name: Glenn Schnell

Callsign: KC3LBI

New Members Motion to accept made by: Rod – N3XG

Seconded by: Doug – N3WGH

Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

The LVARC Monthly Business Meeting Closed at 2007 hrs. (EST.)

Motion to accept made by: Chuck – W3CDY

Seconded by: Carl – AA3IX

Motion passed by voice vote: (Y/N) Y

Respectfully Submitted de KB3HMK, Secretary.



In this issue of the VOX, several references were made to ICS 100 and ICS 700. **What is ICS? Why do I need these certifications? How do I get them?**

ICS means **I**ncident **C**ommand **S**ystem. This system was developed by FEMA and offers instruction on what to do and how to appropriately respond, in an emergency situation.

If you want to be a member of Lehigh County RACES, you **MUST** have successfully taken, passed and earned a certificate for at least **ICS 100 AND ICS 700**. You **CANNOT** be a member of LC RACES or participate in a RACES event without having passed **ICS 100 AND ICS 700**. You may, of course, take more than ICS 100 and ICS 700 if you want.

You can take both the **ICS 100** and **ICS 700** courses on-line along with many other ICS courses. Go to FEMA's website at <https://training.fema.gov/nims/> to see a list of the courses and how to take them.

After completing each course, you will receive a pdf certificate for each one you have taken and passed.

As Mike mentioned, he is creating a **NEW RACES MEMBERSHIP LIST**. The current list will no longer be valid. To be on the new list, please print and complete the new RACES form on page 7 and get it to Mike.

Note: **NO ICS certification(s) are needed to participate in ARES activities.**

2019 Presentation Schedule

REVISED

Month	Presenter	Topic
January	John Bartos	Fourier Series
February	Jared Steckel	The Maker Movement
March	Bob Heil	TBD
April	Edison Fong	Tri Band Antenna Design
May	Regina Monaco	Genetically Modified Organisms
June	Myles Bodisch	Field Day
July	Al Wiemann	Quartzfest
August	Ballard/Bartos	Ionizing Radiation
September	Dave Jenkins	Shot and Metal Detection
October	Paul Ryan	TCPIP & Home Networks
November	Gordon West	TBD
December	N/A	Officer Elections

LVARC programs may change. Listen to the Monday Night Net and meeting announcements for updated information.

Lots going on with the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club in 2019!



- (1) Attend meetings
- (2) Check into the
- (3) Monday Night Net
- (4) Submit something for the VOX

Get involved with your club!