

The VOX

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club February 2026 Newsletter



2026 Officers

President: Dan Longo – KC3HWD
Vice President: John Bartos – AB3LZ
Treasurer: Paul Ryan – N0KIA
Secretary: Phil Bigg – KB3HMK

2026 Board

Eric Hagan – N3EJH
Scott Redfield – W3SGT
Mike Salvaggio – KC3UCX
Matt Vanderhoff – N3VAN
Rodney Wolfe – N3XG



“Hello” from AC3OT

Hi - my name is Mike Tyniec and I'm the new editor for the VOX. I can be reached at mtyniec@gmail.com or 646.483.8232 (call or text). Please know that any and all feedback (positive or negative) is welcome. If you have ideas for future content or would like to write an article for the VOX - please send it to me so we can get it incorporated.

Moving forward I plan to have regular columns - some ideas are as follows:

- ARRL Corner - news and important info from the ARRL
- Hamfests/Shop and Swap - have any items for sale or are looking for an item?
- Trivia/Tech Net - Technician, General and Amateur Extra exam questions

[⇒Click Here for January Meeting Minutes⇐](#)

LVARC Repeaters

146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)
147.420 (Club Simplex Freq.)
445.025 W3OI D-Star “B” module
147.165 W3OI D-Star “C” module

147.735/147.135 (DCS 315)*
*Automatic Mode Select Analog
*FM or Yaesu System Fusion

LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

Every Monday at 7:30p (ET)
On the 94 repeater.

Many club announcements will be heard on the Monday Night Net!

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January 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Combo Local and Remote via Zoom

The Meeting was called to order by Dan (KC3HWD) @ 7:30 PM

Secret Word is Winter and needs to be emailed to Phil @ philbert17@ptd.net to show attendance for online participants.

Rod covered hybrid zoom meeting procedures, zoom will be an active participant in the meeting

Remotes will raise hand to signify a nay vote otherwise no indication will be considered a yes vote

Online was interactive with full communications for both local and remotes

ATTENDEES

There was a total of 36 members in attendance with 10 remote members (as per the email method) and 26 local attendees with one guest.

The following Board Members were present at the meeting:

President – Dan Longo KC3HWD __Present

Vice President – John Bartos AB3LZ __Present

Treasurer - Paul Ryan N0KIA __Present

Secretary - Phil Bigg KB3HMK __Present

Board of Governors:

Rod Wolfe N3XG __Present

Mike Salvaggio KC3UCX __Present

Eric Hagan N3EJH __Present

Scotty Scott Redfield W3SGT __Present

Matthew Vanderhoff N3VAN __Present

Guests and Attendees of Note:

Kevin – N3KJL

1 - Proceedings:

A motion was made to approve the December 2025 Meeting minutes as published in the January 2026 VOX newsletter. Motion to approve was made by Chuck (W3CDY) and 2nd by John (AB3LZ).

Motion Passed = Y

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Program for tonight:

Tonight's program will be a review of the upcoming Winter Field Day

The hands on night will be getting the laptops ready for Winter Field Day

2 - Treasurer's Report (Paul - N0KIA)

Paul presented the monthly financial report for the month of December 2025

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Chuck (W3CDY) and 2nd by Rick (KC3EXO).

Motion Passed = Y

3 - ARES & VE Report

VE Report: John (AB3LZ) sent an email to the members who were on the VE team. They discussed the future of the program. More info to follow.

ARES Report: Rod reported the next ARES event will be in April. It will be the St. Luke's Half Marathon. He will contact the events that the club participates in and let them know what's happening.

4 - Communications:

Website: Paul reported that in the donation area, if you want to donate more than what is listed, it reverts back to the designated amounts. The issue will be looked into.

5 - Repeater report: by Rod N3XG.

The question was raised about coverage of the 94 repeater in the Emmaus area. It was thought that it might be the voter. Some members said they haven't had any issues.

6 - Club Station / Trailer:

Steve (KS3RO) donated a 100-ah battery to be used in the trailer.

7 - Old Business:

It was asked about the purchase of a new projector. It was stated that the club purchased one from Phil (KB3HMK) for \$100.

Winter Field Day is January 24th and 25th. The club will be operating in Nockamixon State Park. We have a cabin rented for January 23rd to the 25th. If you will be staying overnight, please let Scott (KB3YOT) know. Matt (N3VAN) will be coordinating the food for the weekend. It was asked for some spending money on food for the weekend if needed. Scott made a motion not to spend more than \$200 on food for the Winter Field Day event. It was seconded by Matt (N3VAN). The motion passed.

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Net control operators are needed for Monday night net, please contact Rod, N3XG if you're willing to learn and help out the running of the net.

8 - New Business:

Rod stated that 2028 will be the 100th anniversary of the club. He would like to see a committee be formed to coordinate events throughout the year. He has many good ideas. A motion was made by Eric (N3EJH) to form a committee with Rod (N3XG) as the chairperson. It was seconded by Scott (KB3YOT). The motion passed.

Ed (KC3OLB) stated that the other club they belong to uses Quick Stitch for ham radio apparel. It was suggested that ED (KC3OLB) and Kevin (W3KCF) chair an apparel committee. A motion was made by Chuck (W3CDY) and seconded by Scotty (W3SGT) to form an apparel committee with Ed (KC3OLB) and Kevin (W3KCF) as the chairpersons. The motion passed

8a - New Members:

Kevin Lee – N3KJL

A motion was made by Mike (KC3UCX) and seconded by Ken (KE3M) to accept the new member.

Motion Passed: Y

9 - Sick Call / Silent Key

Marc Bache became a silent key

10 - Good of the Order:

Mike (KC3UCX) stated that there are a couple of hamfests coming up. The first one is this Saturday in Harrisburg. The next one will be in March. It will be the Cherryville hamfest hosted by the Cherryville Repeater Association II at the North Hunterdon HS in Clinton, N.J..

Chuck (W3CDY) stated that Radioddity has a new internet HT out. He stated that there have been some issues with PayPal. You can go to the Radioddity website and check it out.

Rod stated that Mike (AC3OT) will be taking over as editor for the VOX. More info to follow.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ed (KC3OLB) and 2nd by Chuck (W3CDY)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

Respectfully Submitted Phillip Bigg KB3HMK, Secretary

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Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Club Meeting - February 3rd - 7:30PM - Tri-clover Fire Company
Presentation on JS8Call by Matt N3VAN
- Hands on Night - February 17th - 7PM - Tri-clover Fire Company
There will be a brief setup, configuration and question answering of JS8Call

2026 Club Presentations:

Would you like to share your enthusiasm for a specific facet of amateur radio? Is there something you would like the club to explore / present? If you have suggestions for programs for 2026 or would like to share your passion with the club, please contact Dan KC3HWD. All suggestions and volunteer presentations are welcome and considered.

Winter Field Day - 2026



Who would have thought that a storm with the quaint name of “Fern” could cause so much cold and snow. Our club ended Winter Field Day early on Saturday so our members could get home safely before the storm arrived in the Lehigh Valley. We’ll make sure to post our Field Day results in an upcoming VOX.

There was a non-club member at the cabin - we tried to sign him up but he didn’t have a credit card to pay his dues:



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Here are some more pictures from our members who were at Cabin 9 at Lake Nockimixon for Winter Field Day 2026.



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Weekly Nets:

Monday 7:30pm – ARES / ACS Net – 146.94

Monday 8:15pm – 2m SSB – 144.255 USB

2nd and 4th Tuesday 8pm – Tesla Tuesday Chat – 146.94

Wednesday 7:00pm – Digital Mode Net – 145.550 [Contact KB3YOT for Mode]

Thursday 8:00pm – 2m FM Simplex – 147.42

Calendar:

February 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	3 Club Meeting @ 7:30PM	4 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	5 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	6	7
8	9 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	10 Tesla Tuesday @ 8:00	11 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	12 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	13	14
15	16 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	17 Hands On Night @ 7PM	18 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	19 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	20 Test Session	21
22	23 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM 2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	24 Tesla Tuesday @ 8:00	25 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	26 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	27	28

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Welcome to Mesh Talk!

AREDN, Meshtastic and MeshCore are some examples of mesh networks. This column will be focused on sharing information and resources for learning about Meshtastic and MeshCore as well as practical information you can use to join the fun.

Wait, are Meshtastic and MeshCore ham radio? Well, no by default, but they can be. Both use the 900 MHz band which is unlicensed for less than 1W of output power. So anyone can play! However, ham radio operators are allowed up to 10W. That isn't the only difference; as you know ham radio communications cannot be encrypted. Both Meshtastic and MeshCore use encryption by default. So for a ham to use higher power, encryption must be disabled.

Anyway, I am getting ahead of things, suffice to say they are at least ham radio adjacent. For this issue I just wanted to introduce the column. I also want this to be interactive. So please feel to email me at kd3beg@oakastir.com if you have suggestions for topics or any questions.

-Terry KD3BEG

Ham Humour:



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New QRZ Award: [USA250](#)

(The 250th Anniversary of the United States of America)

In 2026, the United States of America will commemorate a historic milestone — the **250th anniversary of its founding**. To honor this once-in-a-lifetime event, QRZ is proud to introduce a special commemorative operating award: **USA 250**.

The **USA 250 Award** is available to amateur radio operators **worldwide** and is granted upon the successful confirmation of **250 two-way contacts with US-based amateur radio stations** made during the 2026 calendar year.

Award Requirements

To earn the USA 250 Award, operators must:

- Make **250 confirmed QSOs** with **US-based amateur radio stations** (operating from DXCC entities 291, 6, 110, 9, 103, 202 or 285)
- Contacts may be made on **any band** and **any mode**, Transmission may not make use of a relay, repeater or internet linking.
- Licensed operators in **any country** are eligible
- QSOs must take place **during the 2026 calendar year only**
- The operating window opens at **00:00 UTC on January 1, 2026**
- All contacts must be **confirmed on QRZ Logbook** (imported LoTW confirmations accepted)
- The official rules can be found [here](#)

Operating Period

January 1, 2026 00:00:00 – December 31, 2026 23:59:59 (UTC)

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Celebration

From coast to coast and across all bands, the USA 250 Award celebrates the spirit of amateur radio, international friendship, and the shared history of the United States. Whether you're chasing states, filling your log, or just enjoying special-year activity, 2026 will be the perfect time to get on the air.

Get ready to log, confirm, and celebrate **USA 250!**

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Trivia/Tech Net

Some of us passed these tests years ago and some are still studying. Give it a try and see how much you remember! [Answers at the end of the VOX.](#)

Technician:

Which of the following is a safety hazard of a 12-volt storage battery?

- A. Touching both terminals with the hands can cause electrical shock
- B. Shorting the terminals can cause burns, fire, or an explosion
- C. RF emissions from a nearby transmitter can cause the electrolyte to emit poison gas
- D. All these choices are correct

General:

What is one way that RF energy can affect human body tissue?

- A. It heats body tissue
- B. It causes radiation poisoning
- C. It causes the blood count to reach a dangerously low level
- D. It cools body tissue

Amateur Extra:

What is the primary function of an external earth connection or ground rod?

- A. Prevent static build up on power lines
- B. Lightning charge dissipation
- C. Reduce RF current flow between pieces of equipment
- D. Protect breaker panel from power surges

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LVARC VE Test Sessions

*** * Preregistered Applicants ONLY! * ***

Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club (LVARC) holds test sessions **every other month** at the Tri-Clover Fire Company in Orefield, PA.

Test sessions are listed on the ARRL website at

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

Test sessions begin at **6:30pm** (local time) or as notified by Rich.

2026 Testing Dates

Click on a date below to register through HamStudy. This is the preferred way to register.

To register by email contact Rich Taylor (NC3RT) at **rolyat.drahcir@me.com**.

February 20th 2026

April 17th 2026

June 19th 2026

August 21st 2026

October 16th 2026

December 18th 2026

You **MUST pre-register** at least 2 days before the session. The deadline for registering for the test is the **Wednesday BEFORE the scheduled Friday test date**.

Before the test:

You will need to get an FRN **BEFORE** the test session. You will need to take that number to the session. To get an FRN, go to

<https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do>

At the Test Session:

You will need to pay \$15.00 (EXACT CASH) at the test session AND then the \$35.00 FCC fee when your paperwork is received by the ARRL.

- Two forms of ID – If you are a student and do not have a driver's license, a student ID is appropriate.

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- Blank sheet of paper and a pen or pencil
- A COPY of your amateur license (if you have one) which will not be returned
- **\$15.00** Testing Fee (**EXACT CASH** Only). Should you not pass, another version of the test may be taken at the same sitting for an additional \$15.00 fee.

Candidates take all tests using a tablet computer provided by the VE Team. The tablet has a calculator app for candidate use during exams.

******* If you cannot attend one of our sessions, you can find other options and locations using the using the [ARRL Test Finder Page](#) *******

Hamfests

Cherryville Hamfest sponsored by the Cherryville Repeater Association II
Saturday March 14, 2026
Doors open for buyers at 8am
Admission \$8

At the [North Hunterdon HS, 1445 Rt 31, Clinton \(Annandale\) NJ](#) - 1 Mile South of I-78

Monthly Net Report

DEC 2025

Monday ARES / ACS Net

12/01 - 59

12/08 - 46

12/15 - 60

12/22 - 45

12/29 - 50

Total ARES / ACS - 260

Monday 2m SSB

12/01 - 5

12/08 - 6

12/15 - 8

12/22 - 6

12/29 - 7

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Total 2m SSB - 32

Tesla Tuesday / 94 Net

12/09 - 5

12/23 - 6

12/30 - 9

Total Tesla Tuesday - 20

Wednesday Digital Net

12/03 - 6

12/10 - 4

12/17 - 5

12/24 - Holiday

12/31 - Holiday

Total Digital - 15

Thursday 2m FM Simplex

12/04 - 4

12/04 - 4

12/06 - 6

12/25 - Holiday

Total Thursday 2m Simplex - 14

Trivia/Tech Net - Answers

Tech: B. Shorting the terminals can cause burns, fire, or an explosion
General: A. It heats body tissue
Extra: B. Lightning charge dissipation