

# The VOX

## Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club March 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 - Mike Tyniec ([mtyniec@gmail.com](mailto:mtyniec@gmail.com) or 646.483.8232)

In February we announced that club communications will be via “Groups.IO”. Beginning in May 2026 - all VOX publications will be sent out via this new method. To join our club’s new communication platform - please head over to <https://groups.io/g/LVARC> and click:

[+ Apply For Membership In This Group](#)

if you’re not already subscribed.

## Upcoming Events:

- Monthly Club Meeting - March 3rd - 7:30PM - Tri-clover Fire Company  
Presentation by **Rich Taylor - NC3RT** - “We’re Digital Now! The ARRL, ExamTools, and the Future of W3OI Amateur Radio License Testing.”
- Hands on Night - March 17th - 7PM - Tri-clover Fire Company  
*To Be Determined*

[⇒Click Here for February 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!***

# The VOX

Calendar:

March 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 <b>Happy St. Patrick's Day</b>  TBD Hands on Night @ 7PM	18 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	19 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	20	21 <a href="#">POTA Adventures</a>
22	23 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM  2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	24 Tesla Tuesday @ 8:00  <a href="#">ARRL On the Air Live</a>	25 Digital Mode Net – 145.550 @ 7:00PM	26 2m FM Simplex – 147.42 @ 8:00PM	27	28
29	30 RACES/ARES Net @ 7:30PM  2m Net - 144.255 USB @ 8:15PM	31 Tesla Tuesday @ 8:00				

# The VOX

## February 2026 Meeting Minutes:

Combo Local and Remote via Zoom

The Meeting was called to order by Dan Longo @ 7:30 PM

**Secret Word is Valentine and needs to be emailed to [Phil @ philbert17@ptd.net](mailto:Phil@philbert17@ptd.net) to show attendance for online participants.**

Dan 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 34 members in attendance with 10 remote members (as per the email method) and 24 local attendees.

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 Present**

**Matthew Vanderhoff Present**

### **Guests and Attendees of Note:**

No guests in attendance

1 - Proceedings:

A motion was made to approve the January Meeting minutes as published in the February VOX newsletter.

Motion to approve was made by Rod (N3XG) and 2nd by Scotty (W3SGT)

Motion Passed = Y

# The VOX

## **Program for tonight:**

Tonight's program will be Matt (N3VAN) doing a presentation on JS8 Call.

Hands on night will be Matt demonstrating JS8Call.

March will be an overview on the new procedures for license testing.

## **2 - Treasurer's Report** (Paul - N0KIA)

Paul presented the monthly financial report for the month of January

Motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Matt (N3VAN) and 2nd by Ed (KC3OLB)

Motion Passed = Y

## **3 - ARES & VE Report**

VE Report:

The VE team has purchased 5 android tablets to be used for testing. Testing will be done online. The March program will be an overview of how the testing will be done.

ARES Report:

Rod (N3XG) reports that the first event will be The St. Luke's Half marathon held on April 26 th . He is looking for volunteers for the event.

## **4 - Communications:**

Website:

Matt (KB3UZE) mentioned he did want to contact Matt (N3VAN) about an issue on the website. It pertains to the Event Calendar being down. Matt will look into it. If you have any content for the website, let Matt (N3VAN) or Matt (KB3UZE) know.

## **5 - Repeater report:** by Rod N3XG.

There have been some minor issues with some of the voters. Depending on where you are located depends on what voter you access. Sometimes your signal may jump back and forth between voters. That's where the intermittent signal comes from.

## **6 - Club Station / Trailer:**

Everything that was taken out for Winter Field Day has been returned to the trailer or the cooler.

## **7 - Old Business:**

Ed (KC3OLB) and Kevin (W3KCF) presented some ideas for club hats. The club logo will be on the front. There was discussion on the color of the hat. They also stated that if members after the hats are worked, the club can look at T-shirts or sweatshirts with

# The VOX

the logo on them. Dan said he will send an email out with a survey to see what members are interested and the color of the hat.

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:**

Scott (KB3YOT) stated that during Winter Field Day that when he tried to do a mass email to let the members know of the event ending early, some of the emails were blocked. This prevented getting the information out to some of the members. Matt (N3VAN) stated that he can create a generic email address that can be used to send information out. Scott (KB3YOT) made a motion for Matt (N3VAN) to set up a bulk email account to be able to send out emails to the club members. Rod (N3XG) seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Scott (KB3YOT) mentioned the bulletin board on the website. It was discussed about using Groups IO to get information out. The club can set it up and then send an invitation out to the members. If the member wants to participate, they can respond. The member doesn't have to set up an account with Groups IO. Discussion followed. Matt (N3VAN) will set it up. Scott (KB3YOT) and Matt (N3VAN) said they will be moderators.

It was asked if the presentations could be recorded and placed on the website. The presentations that have Power Points have been added to members only section. Discussion followed.

## **8a - New Members:**

There were no new members for this month.

## **9 - Sick Call**

No report

## **10 - Good of the Order:**

Mike (KC3UCX) reported that there are two upcoming hamfests. The first one is the Cherryville Hamfest on Saturday March 14 th . The second one is the York Hamfest on April 25 th . Contact Mike for more info.

Mike is also cleaning out his dad's house. He has a tubular radio tower that is free to any member. Contact Mike if interested.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Scott (KB3YOT) and 2nd by Scott (N3PVA)

Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM

**Respectfully Submitted Phillip Bigg KB3HMK, Secretary**

# The VOX

## Winter Field Day - 2026



Thanks to everyone who was able to participate in this year's Winter Field Day event at Lake Nockamixon. It was a rough year for Winter Field Day due to having to change our cabin reservation at the last minute due to emergency maintenance on cabin #4 and the winter storm.

This year we were in cabin #9. We arrived on Friday afternoon and setup two antennas. The first was a Rybakov antenna that is capable of 160M to 6M. The second antenna was a random wire antenna that is capable of 160M to 6M. I

want to thank Matt N3VAN for supplying the Rybakov and Random wire antennas.

For 2M and 70CM we used HT's with the roll up J-pole antennas that were built during the club antenna build.

We setup two stations, the club's FT-710 for voice and my IC-705 as a digital station. Battery power was provided by Matt N3VAN, Phil KB3HMK, Rod N3XG, and me. We had more power than we knew what to do with. Thanks to everyone who brought their power stations.

Friday night and Sat morning we did POTA activations of the park. Sat morning at 11:00 AM was the official start of the Winter Field day event. We ran as a 2I (2 radios indoors) site. One radio was voice and the second was digital. The digital mode used was PSK31. We made a total of 90 contacts, approximately 2/3 were digital and 1/3 voice. Our multiplier was 21 and our total points were 2898. We met 63% of the WFD objectives for this year. We ended the event early on Sat at about 8:00 PM due to the worsening weather.

All in all, it was a great event again this year. For those who couldn't make it to the event this year due to the weather concerns, we hope to see you at Summer Field Day and next year's Winter Field Day.

Again, I want say thanks to all the participants and to the rest of the LVARC club for supporting this event. We couldn't do it without your support and encouragement.

Looking forward to Summer Field Day next.

73 - Scott KB3YOT

# The VOX



## 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.

# The VOX

## Welcome to Mesh Talk!

Good news! This month's column is a collaborative effort between me - Terry/KD3BEG and Jeff/WA3PNY. I will start by talking about some similarities and differences between Meshtastic and MeshCore and Jeff will dive deeper into one particular aspect of the differences.

First the similarities. Both are mesh networking technologies based on LoRa that let people send text based messages to each other. We will dive deeper into mesh networks and LoRa in future issues, but here is some quick info. Mesh networks are basically dynamically formed networks. Think about people wandering around a Hamvention carrying nodes in their pockets or people driving around in a car in the Lehigh Valley. APRS is also based on mesh principals. LoRa is the radio part and both Meshtastic and MeshCore use the same LoRa radio transceiver chips.

So the big question/debate: which is better Meshtastic or MeshCore? Well, that question leads directly into the differences between the two. One of the main differences is how messages are passed or routed from one node to another. By default all Meshtastic nodes will rebroadcast messages they receive whereas MeshCore separates the role of send / receiving messages vs. rebroadcasting, so a node does one or the other.

What that means is that each one is more suited to a different scenario. Meshastic lends

itself to more dynamic scenarios such as a Hamvention, where there is no fixed infrastructure. MeshCore on the other hand lends itself more to scenarios where fixed infrastructure can be deployed. Like in the case of driving around the Lehigh Valley. With some well placed fixed infrastructure in the area you could reach even beyond your local county. This is also possible with Meshtastic, but in practice it can be more difficult to achieve because of the tendency toward network congestion when all nodes are re-broadcasting.

Both Meshtastic and MeshCore are being used in our area. However, it seems MeshCore is more recent and gaining steam and converts as infrastructure is built out. Jeff will dive deeper into the difference kinds of MeshCore nodes and what they are used for.



This is KD3BEG, over to WA3PNY...

# The VOX

## Welcome to Mesh Talk! (continued)

Thanks Terry. With Mesh Core, there are three basic module types which are dedicated to their functions: Companion Nodes, Repeater Nodes, and Room Server Nodes.

Companion nodes function as your entrance to the network. You may only have a \$35 HelTec Companion Node and a smart phone, and you will still be able to text to everyone on MeshCore in your area.

One of the devices that is unique to MeshCore is a Room Server Node. These nodes offer a non-public place to text chat between stations. This is different than the Public Chat, in that a password is needed to gain entry, and that messages for you will be there even if your companion node has been off when the message originated. Many Rooms allow users to enter with the password "hello" which means the owner is allowing everyone to use the room.

Why, you might ask, would you need a Room Server?

Imagine that there was an emergency, and there was a FM voice net on our 94 repeater. The Net Control has changed the password on the club's Room Server, which now only allows net participants to enter. The basic net control is accomplished using voice, but data and welfare info is to be sent to the Room Server.

This is data where spelling and errors matter, so it is info which is better sent as data, not voice. That means every net participant with a Companion Node can originate data to Net Control. The Room Server retains the messages until the Net Control resets the node.

The phone net and the data net are both important. Together, that's a really useful combination.

That was just one example of the value for this off-grid communication system. The Room Server could be used for club information when there's not an emergency, and the magic is that the messages will be there waiting for you to read even if your companion has been turned off when the message was posted.

More next month ...



Jeff - WA3PNY

# The VOX

## Come on Spring - "POTA Adventures" Dates & Locations!

\*\*Please note that these events are weather dependent\*\*

Saturday March 21st 2026 @ 11:00 AM - US-4358 (Jacobsburg Environmental State Park)

GPS: 40.790444, -75.301168

Google Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/oEC6LuKQRBdvaXfM8>

Notes: New location! Meet and activate in parking lot noted above. Will have HT on 94 Club frequency as well as 2M Simplex.

More locations and dates coming soon.

If you have a date and location you are interested in please send me ([n3van@vanderson.net](mailto:n3van@vanderson.net)) an email and it can be added if scheduling permits!

If you have a radio you want to test please bring it along! We can help you get it set up and tuned if time and weather permits.

## 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

# The VOX

## Shop & Swap:

**Rich Klinman - W3RJ** - has an excellent condition Drake L4B amplifier for sale. Pick up and demonstration at his QTH (Coopersburg). \$1,200.

Pictures and more details will be sent to inquiring hams.

73 Rich W3RJ [w3rj@ptd.net](mailto:w3rj@ptd.net)

**Steve Siegel - KC3UKE** - has a 50ft. 50-ohm low-loss coax cable, unused, with type N connectors on both ends. It's free to whomever wants it.

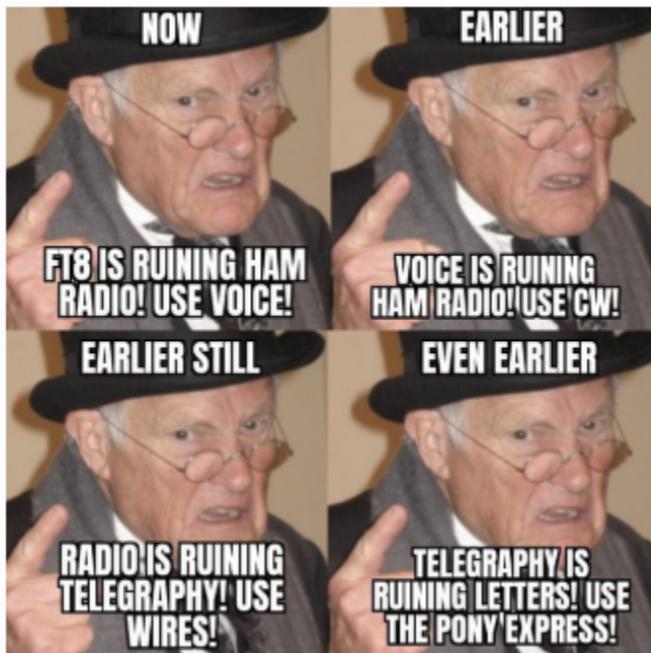
Steve's in Fogelsville, about 10 minutes from where the club meets.

stefans@enter.net

610-217-6736 cell

**Mike Salvaggio - KC3UCX** - Mike is cleaning out his Dad's house. He has a tubular radio tower that is free to any member. Contact Mike if interested  
[mfsalvaggio@gmail.com](mailto:mfsalvaggio@gmail.com)

## Ham Humour:



# The VOX

## ARRL News

### **On The Air Live Offers Learning Opportunities for ARRL Members**

The monthly On the Air Live offers a monthly opportunity for hams to receive instructional content each month from ARRL Education Specialist Wayne Greene, KB4DSF. Wayne provides a monthly topic that is related to various capabilities, practices and abilities within amateur Radio. “My goal is to inspire ham radio operators to try something new or try different approaches to enhance their ham radio experience.” Says Greene. “In the past year we have covered topics including how to use your HT, a deep dive into APRS, how to send and receive SSTV images, and how to use your ham radio privileges to keep in contact with family and loved ones outside of a disaster area where you may be at that moment.”

On the Air Live airs on the ARRL learning center, <http://learn.arrl.org/>, on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 8PM Eastern.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday March 24th @ 8PM Eastern

### **2026 is the Year of the Club.**

As previously announced to members, the ARRL Board of Directors has designated 2026 as the Year of the Club, recognizing the essential role that local amateur radio clubs play in building community, mentoring new operators, and delivering public service at the grassroots level. This nationwide focus celebrates clubs as engines of civic engagement and local connection. Icom America is the Official Sponsor of the ARRL Year of the Club. [\[More information.\]](#)

## Let's Learn CW Together

It has been 19 years since the FCC removed the license requirement for Morse code proficiency. There are some of us in the club looking to learn CW and become proficient. What better way to learn than “together”.

If you're interested in joining us as we form a small, yet interested group, please drop Mike Tyniec (AC3OT) a line at [mtyniec@gmail.com](mailto:mtyniec@gmail.com) to let him know you're interested.

# The VOX

## 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:

What health hazard is presented by electrical current flowing through the body?

- A. It may cause injury by heating tissue
- B. It may disrupt the electrical functions of cells
- C. It may cause involuntary muscle contractions
- D. All these choices are correct

### General:

Which of the following is used to determine RF exposure from a transmitted signal?

- A. Its duty cycle
- B. Its frequency
- C. Its power density
- D. All these choices are correct

### Amateur Extra:

When evaluating RF exposure levels from your station at a neighbor's home, what must you do?

- A. Ensure signals from your station are less than the controlled maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits
- B. Ensure signals from your station are less than the uncontrolled maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits
- C. Ensure signals from your station are less than the controlled maximum permissible emission (MPE) limits
- D. Ensure signals from your station are less than the uncontrolled maximum permissible emission (MPE) limits

# The VOX

## LVARC VE Test Results

### W3OI Testing Stats: 2026 (Cumulative)

Demographics					
Unique Candidates		Previously Tested @ W3OI		Mem W3OI	Joined W3OI
2		0%		0%	0%
Technician			General		
Total Tests	Total Pass	Rate	Total Tests	Total Pass	Rate
2	2	100%	2	0	0%
Extra			All Elements		
Total Tests	Total Pass	Rate	Total Tests	Total Pass	Rate
0	0		4	2	50%

2/20/26

### Licenses Earned: Feb 2026

Candidate	Call Sign	License(s)	Mem W3OI
Andrew Gudinas	KD3CRE	Technician	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natalia Stezar	KD3CRB	Technician	<input type="checkbox"/>

Congratulations Hams!



# The VOX

## 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](mailto:rolyat.drahcir@me.com).

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.
- 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 \*\*\*\*\***

# The VOX

## 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

**York Hamfest** Sponsored by the York Hamfest Foundation

Saturday April 25, 2026

**TAILGATING SET UP AT 6 AM SATURDAY MORNING:** \$10 per 10' space (outside) or table (inside), \$5 per each additional space, plus admission

**GENERAL ADMISSION AT 8 AM**

\$10 per person

Children Under 16 FREE when accompanied by an adult

Unlicensed Spouses FREE . Contact Mike for more info.

At the GLENVIEW ALLIANCE CHURCH - [10037 Susquehanna Trail S, Glen Rock, PA 17327](#)

## Monthly Net Report

### January Net Report

#### Monday ARES / ACS

1/5 - 55

1/12 - 55

1/19 - 54

1/26 - 58

**Total ARES / ACS - 222**

#### Monday 2m SSB

1/5 - 6

1/12 - 7

1/19 - 7

1/26 - 9

**Total 2m SSB - 29**

#### Tesla Tuesday

1/13 - 5

1/27 - 5

**Total Tesla Tuesday: 10**

#### Wednesday Digital Net

1/7 - No Net

1/14 - 6

1/21 - 4

1/28 - 4

**Total Digital - 14**

#### Thursday 2m FM Simplex

1/1 - No net, New Year's Day

1/8 - 5

1/15 - 3

1/22 - 4

1/29 - 7

**Total 2m FM Simplex - 19**

# The VOX

## Trivia/Tech Net - Answers

Tech: **D.** All these choices are correct  
General: **D.** All these choices are correct  
Extra: **B.** Ensure signals from your station are less than the uncontrolled maximum permissible exposure (MPE) limits