

# The VOX

## The Official *On-Line* Newsletter of the



**Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club - W3OI / KB3SYV**  
**Allentown, Pennsylvania (Lehigh County) - USA**



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### LVARC Frequencies

**146.34 / 146.94 (PL 71.9)**

**147.735/147.135 (DCS - 315)**

**Club Simplex Freq. - 147.420**

### LVARC/RACES/ARES Net

**Every Monday at 7:30 (ET)**  
**146.940 (PL 71.9)**

**Check-Ins welcome!**

W3OI Home Page: <http://www.w3oi.org>

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## LVARC TEST SESSIONS



The LVARC test sessions are held the third Friday of every month (except June and July). **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. To REGISTER, contact Mark (AK3M) at 610-865-9183.



Newsletter submissions can be sent to Mark (AK3M) at  
[AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com)  
Your submissions can be text and/or graphics.



The April, 2016 LVARC meeting will be held on  
**April 5, 2016 at the Tri-Clover Fire Company at 7:30.**

## 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 (DCS 315)  
The Net begins at 7:30 pm local time (ET).

**Many club announcements  
will be heard there !**

### Monday Night RACES/ARES Check-In Summary - 2016

<u>Month</u>	<u>Number of Check-In's</u>	<u>Number of Nets/</u>
<u>Mondays</u>		
January	129	4
February	194	5



### LVARC Debuts New Web Design

(see page 10)

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar with links for Home, Club Info, ARES/RACES, License Testing, and Misc. Below the navigation is the club's logo featuring a mountain peak and the text "Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club". The main title "Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club" is prominently displayed in the center.

## Minutes of the March, 2016 LVARC Meeting

de - Mike (KC3BLF)



### Opening:

The regular meeting of the Lehigh Valley Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 8:40 on March 1 by President Bartos.

There were a total of 22 members in attendance, and the club was joined by 3 guests.

Guests: Chris KC3EXN and wife Kathy, Chon Gann K3DHS

The following Board Members were present at the meeting: John Bartos, Chuck Ballard, Brian Snyder, Mike Mandell, Paul Ryan, Gary Decker, Mark Miller

### Approval of Minutes

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

Moved: Don, N0VGA

Second: Dave, KC3BFO

### Treasurer's Report (Brian-KB3QHA)

Treasurer's report was read.

Motion to approve: Rick, KC3EXO

Second: Chuck, WB6CDY

Motion carried

### Committee Reports

#### **Repeater:**

The 94 repeater will be replaced with a new Motorola unit in April as part of the Limerick Nuclear emergency fund. The Dstar C module is not working properly....appears very weak on transmitting.  
Program:

Hands on will be D-Rats. Next month will be grounding, and John AB3LZ will do JT65 and JT9.

### **Volunteer Examiners:**

At the February 19, 2016 test session, 6 tested and 6 passed. Congratulations to:

Phillip Dickey - Tech KC3GOJ

Chris Schmidt - Tech-KC3GOK

Ross Fortner - Tech KC3GON

Susan Pierce - Tech KC3GOL

William Pierce - Tech KC3GOM

Jonathan Swavely - Tech KC3GOO

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M), Walt (KE3SP) and Don (N0VGA).

(Minutes cont. on page 5)

## **ARES:**

The first ARES event of 2016, will be the St. Luke's Half Marathon. The LVARC has been asked once again, to provide communications support for this event. About 11 operators will be needed. The date is Sunday April 24, 2016. Volunteers are needed. Anyone wishing to participate, contact Mark (AK3M).

The EPA Ecomm summit has been rescheduled and will be sometime later than March.

## **Communications:**

Chuck, WB6CDY said they are going to try to switch the new website to the new server on Thursday this week.

## **Club Station:**

The beer cooler is cleaned, painted, storage is in it and it is locked. John asked for an authorization for another 800.00 for a working table/bench, ground equipment, feed lines, etc..

Moved: Paul, N0KIA

Second: Chuck, WB6CDY

Carried.

John is organizing a work party Sunday to assemble the bench for the club station.

## **Old Business:**

The pavilion for the club picnic has been reserved. Don, N0VGA volunteered to be in charge of the picnic. Date is July 23.

## **New Business:**

Steve, K2OPA said the General classes are starting up at DLARC.

## **Good of the Order:**

Rick, KC3EXO mentioned "Engineers without Borders" is running a fundraiser and Meet an Astronaut. Lehigh University is looking into starting up the Lehigh club again.

HF bands seem decent in the past few weeks.

## **Sick Report:**

## **New Member Applicants:**

None

## **Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:22PM

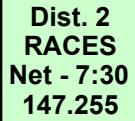
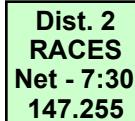
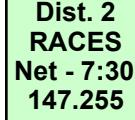
Moved: Chuck, WB6CDY

Seconded: Karl, K3ATX

Carried

Minutes submitted by: Mike, KC3BLF

# This Month In Ham Radio

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1  APRIL FOOLS' DAY	2 MS QSO Party MO QSO Party SP DX contest
3 N. Amer. SSB sprint	4 	5 	6 	7	8	9 JIDX CW contest NM QSO contest OK/OM DX SSB contest
10 Deadline to schedule test	11 144 MHz sprint 	12	13 	14	15 	16 Holyland DX contest Worked all provinces of China contest
17	18 	19 	20 	21	22	23 10-10 Int.Spring digital contest
24  Half Marathon	25 	26	27 	28	29	30 FL QSO contest

LVARC meeting - Tuesday April 5 (7:30 pm) - Tri - Clover FC

LVARC test session - April 15 - Hanover Elel. (6:30 pm)

## LVARC Activities/Events Mark your Calendar

PRINT, CLIP and POST



- Monday April 4 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Tuesday April 5 --- LVARC Meeting (7:30 - Tri Clover FC)  
Sunday April 10 --- Deadline to schedule for test session  
Monday April 11 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Friday April 15 --- Test Session at Hanover Elem. School  
Monday April 18 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)  
Tuesday April 19 --- LVARC Activity Night (7:30 pm - Tri Clover FC)  
Monday April 25 --- LC RACES/ARES Net - 7:30 pm (146.94)

2016

### LVARC VE Report

de Mark (AK3M)

LVARC  
VE  
Program



At the February 19, 2016 test session, 6 tested and 6 passed.

Phillip Dickey - Tech  
Ross Fortner - Tech  
William Pierce - Tech  
Jonathan Swavely - Tech

Chris Schmidt - Tech  
Susan Pierce - Tech

VE's in attendance included Mark (AK3M)  
Walt (KE3SP) and Don (N0VGA)

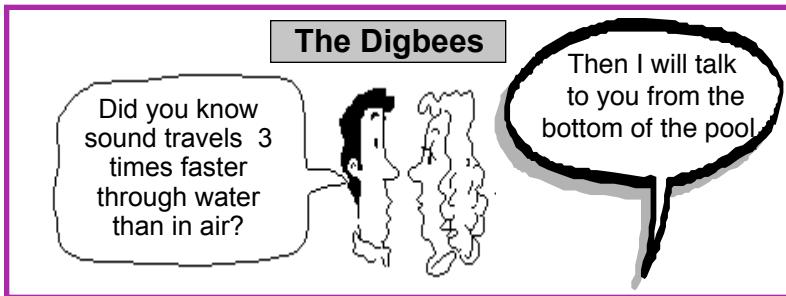
**LVARC 2016 Test Session Dates** --- Test sessions are held at the Hanover Elementary School (3890 Jacksonville Road ) in Bethlehem, Pa., the **3rd Friday of the month at 6:30 pm**. **REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY**. To register, contact Mark (AK3M) at [AK3M@rcn.com](mailto:AK3M@rcn.com).



March --- March 18  
May --- May 20

April --- April 15  
June --- Testing at Field Day **ONLY**

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](mailto: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!**



**April Fools' Day**, sometimes called All Fools' Day, is one of the most lighthearted days of the year. Its origins are uncertain. *Befitting for a holiday like this!*

## Did you know ..... that Pennsylvania has a, "Yellow Dot" Program?

This information is from my township's newsletter. The program is a cooperative effort among the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation, Health and Aging, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and First Responders and local law enforcement.

**What Is the Yellow Dot Program?** Participants complete a personal information form, which includes the participant's name, emergency contact information, medical history and medication, etc. A photo showing only the participant's head and shoulders is then taped to the information sheet. This information sheet is then placed in the glove compartment of the vehicle.

A yellow dot decal is provided in the program kit and is placed in the lower left corner of the participant's vehicle's rear windshield. This yellow dot decal alerts first responders that vital information can be found in the glove box.

To get more information, go to:

<http://www.penndot.gov/TravelInPA/Pages/Yellow-DOT-Participation-Form.aspx#.VrpXON28HjQ>



**Mark your calendar.** The LVARC annual picnic will be on Saturday July 23, 2016. More information as the date nears.

## 2016 ARES Events

EDITOR SUBMISSION

Below, is a list of anticipated 2016 ARES events. Specific dates will be published in the VOX, and announced on Monday Night Nets and at meetings. **Mark your calendar and volunteer your help for one or more of these events.**

- (1) LVRR/St. Luke's 1/2 Marathon - April 24, 2016
- (2) Hanover Township "Spring 5K" - June 4, 2016
- (3) VIA / LVHN Marathon - September
- (4) Harvest 5K - September
- (5) Women's 5K Classic - October
- (6) Hanover Township "Fall 5K" - November



**Does putting a wet electronic device in rice really help dry it out?**

READER SUBMISSION

de Mark AK3M



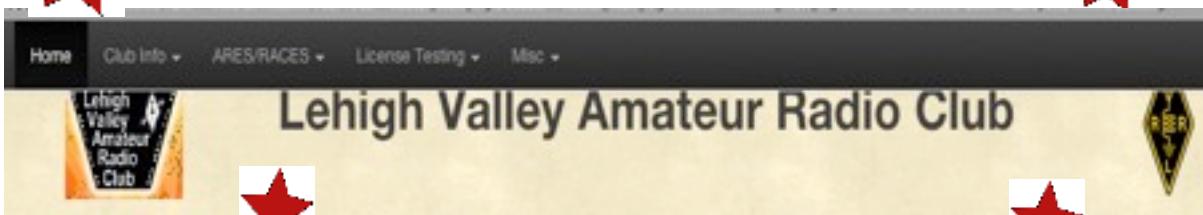
We have all heard that if you put an electronic device (ie. ipad, cell phone) in rice for a day or so, it will dry it out and make it useable again, but does that really work? My daughter accidentally put an ipad into the laundry. It went through an entire wash cycle, including hot water. She put it in a bag of rice for four days and it **WORKED!** If you get your electronic device wet and that includes your HT, try the rice trick and it *may* get your device back to normal.



**REMEMBER:** Participation in LVARC activities will earn you a ticket and make you eligible for drawings at the December Holiday Program night! The more you participate, the more tickets you earn!



## LVARC Launches New Web Design



**The LVARC Has a New Design!** Members of the LVARC have been working very hard to design a new improved design and their efforts have been rewarded. The new design went live on March 1, 2016 and the the result and comments have been terrific! Navigation has improved and information about the club is now easier to find! **CONGRATULATIONS** to the Communications Committee for their work.

The old URL is still in effect but will house the new design. Go to: <http://www.w3oi.org> to see the new design.



**A BIG TNX** to those who have worked tirelessly on the *Communications Committee* for many months. They are responsible for the development, design and completion of the new LVARC design!

Those on the committee include, **Chuck** (WB6CDY), **John** (W3AMD), **Rod** (N3XG), **Mark** (AK3M), **Paul** (N0KIA), **John** (AB3LZ), **Scott** (KB3YOT) and **Igor** (KC3ASC). By the way, *John (W3AMD) has spent almost 200 hours on this project!*



## Share How You Got Started In Amateur Radio

NEW FEATURE

John (W3AMD) was the inspiration for this new feature. While working on the new LVARC web site, my (AK3M) LVARC history came up during a conversation with him. He asked me if I would write up my road to amateur radio and put it in the VOX. It occurred to me that this would be a great, "interactive," feature for the newsletter where LVARC members can tell *their* journey to amateur radio.

John started this feature and his story follows.

Please send me (AK3M) your description of how you got started in amateur radio and one per month will be published in the VOX.

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### **"How I got started in Amateur Radio" - de John (W3AMD) , Formally KC3ASE**

I was born on February 12, 1974 to my parents Bernhard and Susan. My father is German and was born and lived in Kohn until immigration to America and my mother was born in America having Swedish and Scottish decent. I have a younger brother Richard who lives also in PA. My father had worked for Nynex telephone company in NY, which is now Verizon. My mother was our homemaker. I have three children Anna 19, Abigail 18, and John Jr. 3.

Even as a child in school I had a knack for exploration and science. My friends and I would explore the areas around us and we all got into radio when we were teenagers. In growing up on Long Island though, we could never go too far without getting to the ocean. I was about 6 when being able to realize what a CB radio was that my dad had used in the car to get traffic information for trips. When you go off the island there are only a few ways out and you better have the best one!

I had already got a gift one Christmas some years prior of a 50 in 1 electronic set ,of course from Radio Shack. My father helped me put together the experiments and explain what the items were from the experience in his employment. I did most of the experiments in the manual but found myself highlighting the radio ones. Then, way too early I did my own experiment without enough understanding and placed a 9V battery directly to an LED. Boy it was bright for a few seconds until the magic smoke was let out.

When I was 14 , my dad no longer used the radio so much and saw my interest continue in it. He let me have his radio and we set it up in my room. I was afraid to use it a little at first but I quickly came into it. When I was first on there were only a few people that would use it in the area but by the time I was 18 there were about 30 people who would talk night to night. At about 16 I had looked into Amateur radio but there was Morse Code requirements which I didn't yet understand.

In the background and during this time frame I had also a Commodore VIC 20 introduced to me by my organ teacher when I was about 12. I was simultaneously playing and experimenting with both. I started in BASIC as he also taught me how to do basic programming and gave me some examples. Later on, I bought, with my father's help, a Commodore 64 with a tape drive. Oh, the things I could do now. I progressed further and further into programming understanding BASIC and later on Pascal and machine language. I got my first PC computer in 1992 with Windows 3.1 and I came to a crossroads. I had been working on both software and hardware sides and for me, I took off with software first.

On Long Island when I was 18 I had been working retail and retail management levels. Realizing that I wanted to do something different and use my skills with software and electronics, I had developed. I entered the USAF at 22 years old in 1996 and completed 4 years with honors.

After this period, I joined with Sumitomo Cryogenics Inc. where I work as an Engineer predominantly doing software development but have also back been expanding back into hardware. I have been an inventor of the engineers in our group and are on quite a few of our company patents and also the lead on a few.

I came back into radio ~3 years ago. I got my technician's license in 2013, my General license the year after and followed it up with the trifecta with my Extra in 2015. For me, it was the completion of a dream. When I looked up testing, I was so surprised that Morse Code was no longer a requirement of the test. Additionally, Hams have brought me more back into electronics so now I'm found trying to put both pieces together and there's a lot of work to be done.

My current projects are the W3OI website with the communication committee, revamping the NEC antenna modeling software and mostly fun but not always my full time employment! I joined W3OI in 2013 when I got my license and Dave W3AMC has been my Elmer ever since. Two years later, the W3AMD call became available and I grabbed it after talking with Dave. It is my honor to have the callsign behind his. ----- 73, John W3AMD



### IMPORTANT

**NOTE:** The current **Extra** pool of questions will change effective July 1, 2016.

The FCC question pool for Amateur Radio Extra license exams has been revised and will be **effective for exams conducted on or after July 1, 2016.**



## The 2016 LVARC Mid-Winter Dinner Was Well Attended!

The 2016 LVARC Mid-Winter dinner at the Old Country Buffet was held on Tuesday February 16, 2016. About 35 members and guests attended.

This is a terrific annual event that allows members to enjoy each other's company in a situation other than a meeting. A BIG TNX to Phil (KB3HMK) for arranging it each year!



## New Hams Get Their Licenses!

Those who tested at the February 19, 2016 test session, received their licenses on Friday February 26, 2016.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to:

**Phillip Dickey - KC3GOJ**  
**Chris Schmidt - KC3GOK**  
**Susan Pierce - KC3GOL**  
**William Pierce - KC3GOM**  
**Ross Fortner - KC3GON**  
**Jonathan Swavely - KC3GOO**



*Welcome to and enjoy  
the hobby!*

## Pres Schuler Award Recipient List

As you know, the Pres Schuler Award is given annually to an LVARC member for *Excellence in service to the LVARC*. This award was started in 2001 in honor of Preston Schuler (W3VQ - SK), a charter member of W3OI. The recipient is chosen by the membership. Nominees for this award are solicited in October and the award is presented at the LVARC annual holiday party in December.

Following, is a list of LVARC recipients of this award. As you can see, the 2003 award recipient is missing. *If you know who won the Pres Schuler award in 2003, please send to Mark (AK3M).*

- 2001 - Paul Ryan (NOKIA)
- 2002 - Ed Romig (KD3NH) (SK)
- 2003 -
- 2004 - Rod Wolfe (N3XG)
- 2005 - Mark Miller (AK3M)
- 2006 - Frank Unger (W3FTU)
- 2007 - Phil Bigg (KB3HMK)
- 2008 - Brian Klock (KW3K)
- 2009 - Jeff Willett (KB3OCP)
- 2010 - Paul Ryan (NOKIA)
- 2011 - Charles Zimmerman (N2WXO)
- 2012 - Gary Decker (W3GRD)
- 2013 - Walt Snyder (KE3SP)
- 2014 - Miles Bodisch (KB3ZMA)
- 2015 - Rex Mott (KC1WE)



## Nice pictures of old equipment

### READER SUBMISSION

de Matthew (KB3UZE)

<http://philadelphia.craigslist.org/sys/5434965488.html>



**Its time to think ARES activities!** The first ARES event of 2016 will be the **St. Luke's Half Marathon**. This event is scheduled for **Sunday, April 24, 2016**. Dr. Martinez has once again asked for amateur radio communications support for this event. About 11- 12 operators will be needed. If you can help by offering your time and communications expertise, contact Mark (AK3M@rcn.com). ***Check your calendar and volunteer now!***



## **No More Paper Copies of your Ham License**

As you may know, the FCC no longer sends you paper copies of your license. You can print a *Reference Copy* of your license from the FF web site. Here are the steps for printing your license.

1. <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>
2. click (select) **licenses**
3. type your call in the search box
4. click on your call
5. click on the **ADMIN** tab
6. select **AUTHORIZATION-LICENSEE**

A **REFERENCE COPY** of your license will download to your computer or be displayed for screen capture, depending on your set up. The result will be a display suitable for printing.

## The LVARC “*Beer Cooler*” Continues to Develop!

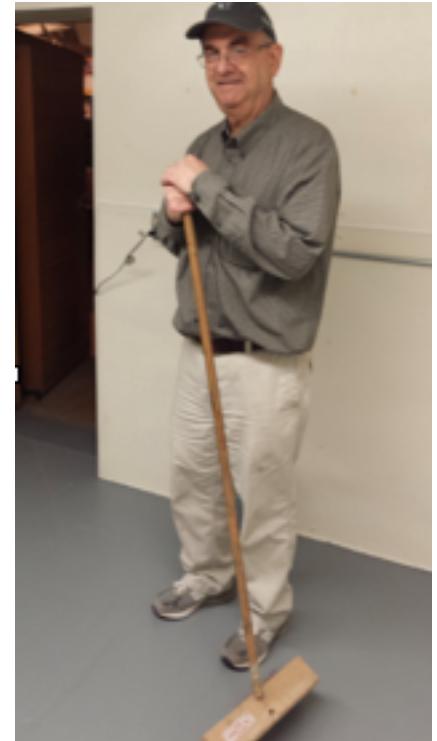
**“What is that,” you ask?** The LVARC has secured a room at the Tri-Clover Fire Company’s site for our own ***club operating room***, affectionally dubbed, the “Beer Cooler”! It has been many many years since the club had an active operating room of our own. The room is being developed from scratch. Cleaning, electric and feedline and installation, painting and more is progressing nicely, TNX to John (AB3LZ) (and many others), who has been heading this activity. There is still plenty of work to be done. If you can help, contact John (AB3LZ).



Beer Cooler door  
(hence the name)  
(left)



Chuck (WB6CDY)  
and new shelving  
(right)



John (AB3LZ)  
cleaning the newly  
painted floor  
(above)

## **More LVARC Improvements!**

**In addition to a new website and a new LVARC radio shack, the LVARC repeaters are bring updated!**

The following LVARC repeater and voter information was submitted by Jeff Kelly (N3MFT).

In July of 2015, I [Jeff] applied for a PEMA radiation protection grant to replace the 146.94 repeater . The previous 2 repeaters were purchased with these grants . Since we are a host county for Limerick we can apply and use these funds for RACES communications . They should be awarding Motorola the contract in the next 30 days (2/24/16).

We (the LVARC) we will be getting is a new 94 repeater, a MTR 3000 repeater with a new CAT 200 controller a new used voter installed . I knew this was coming so I purchased 2 new used MTR2000 voting receivers to donate to the project so everything will be newer technology . So by mid to late April, the new system will be online and the old 94 repeater will be in standby mode if anything should happen to the new one. I will keep you posted as this gets closer to being completed . The county will then place the new system under their 24x7 service contract with Motorola .



# MARS Presentation at the LVARC

Chon Gann (K3DHS) gave an excellent presentation about Army MARS at the March 1, 2016 LVARC meeting. Chon is the district 3 public information officer and traveled from Montgomery Village, Maryland for this presentation. Chon's attendance at the meeting was arranged by Mike (KC3BLF). Below (left to right) is a picture of Mike (KC3BLF), John (AB3LZ) and Chon (K3DHS).



## Ham Radio Fun With WSPR On 630 Meters

**READER SUBMISSION**

de Larry (NR3R)

<https://youtu.be/yc3CX1YpvRY>



## Raspberry PI 3



**READER SUBMISSION**

de Bob (WB3JSZ)

A \$35 computer?  
Check it out!

<https://www.raspberrypi.org/blog/raspberry-pi-3-on->