



MARCH 2017

N4LNR

News & Views

P. O. Box 3276

Lenoir, NC 28645



Serving Amateur Radio
In Caldwell County

Next LARC Meeting

Thursday, March 9
7:00 PM

Gamewell Fire Dept.
2806 Morganton Blvd SW
Lenoir

LARC Weekly Net

Friday, 9:00 PM
146.625 Minus 94.8
Alt 147.330

Caldwell ARES Net

Sunday, 9:00 PM
147.330 Plus 141.3

DMR Digital Net

Tuesday 8:00 PM
Lenoir Local DMR

Severe Weather Preparedness Week

March 5-11, 2017

The Statewide Tornado Drill will be held on Wednesday, March 8, 2017, at 9:30 AM. Every school, business, workplace, and family across the state is encouraged to participate in this drill. This event is a good time when amateur radio operators can test their notification warning system as well. Many NOAA Weather Radio receivers (including the older Midland WR-100 radios) do not sound an audible alert for the Required Monthly Test (RMT); instead, they may have a blinking light on the display to indicate that an RMT was received. If your



NOAA Weather Radio does not sound an alarm at the time the RMT is issued, you should manually turn on your NOAA Weather Radio receiver at 9:30 AM and simply listen to the audio broadcast to hear when the RMT is issued, which will mark the beginning of the statewide tornado drill.





President's Comments

John Crowe NC4JA

Coming up is one of my favorite times of year ~ SPRING. We have flowers blooming, birds singing, fishing, and hiking trips. But spring is that time of year when many things change, including the weather! Never underestimate old man winter. The super storm of 1993 (also called the Storm of the Century) was one of the most intense mid-latitude cyclones ever observed over the Eastern United States. I am sure many of you remember!

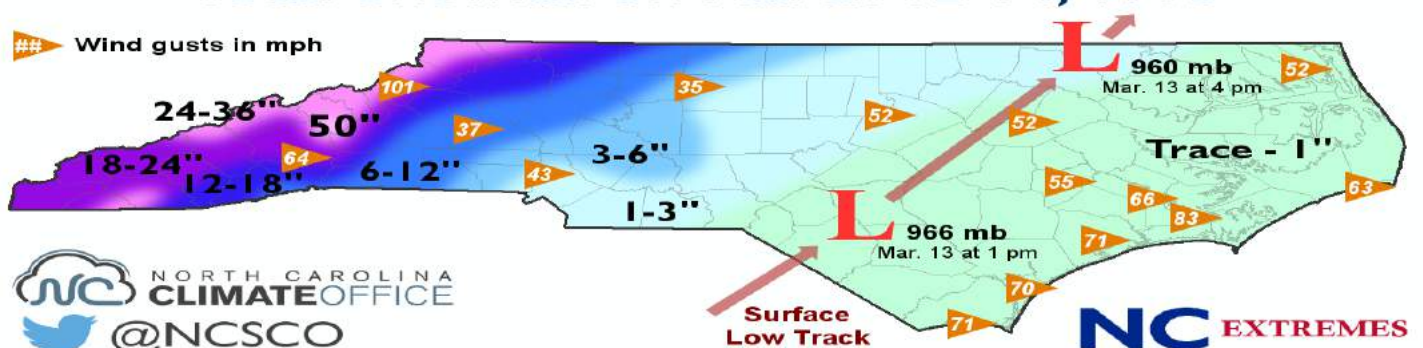


The super storm of 1993 ranks among the deadliest and most costly weather events of the 20th century. Often by the time we are aware of an approaching storm, we have little if any time to prepare.



We do know that when spring arrives, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods are real possibilities. So why not take the surprise factor out of severe weather and prepare yourself, your family, and your home? When/if these events happen, you are ready.

Total Snowfall on March 12-14, 1993



In other words, I would say it was an active month for LARC. The Club participated in the NC QSO party this year and we had a great time. We hope to have the final numbers on QSO's and points at this month's meeting. Also, there has been an increase in participants on the weekly LARC and CARES Nets. We will continue working to improve Net activity as the year progresses. Plans are underway for supporting the Cycle to Serve bike ride on Saturday May 19, 2017. Volunteers are needed.

I hope to see everyone at the Club meeting on March 9. I will lead a program discussion on "preparing for severe weather emergencies." Hope to see you there!

John NC4JA

Time to renew your LARC membership

Mail your check to the Club address or see Ro K4HRM to pay your dues

Individual \$15 Family \$25 Associate \$10

Carl's Quiz by Carl Hayes, NN5I

NN5I calls his old friend KD5BH on the TARS repeater. KD5BH, however, does not answer. NN5I then clears, as follows: **"Nothing heard. NN5I clear."**

Question: : Is this good procedure? Why, or why not?.

Answer: NO!

Saying "nothing heard" on a repeater is almost always dumb. Anybody who can hear the repeater knows no one answered. When I first started using repeaters, I heard somebody say this after calling another station, and I thought "that must be the right way to do it." After a while I noticed that only beginners said this, and figured out that it served no purpose other than to life-test my transmitter.

There is an exception. On HF nets, often there are stations who cannot hear each other, but who can hear Net Control. On an HF net it is good practice for Net Control to say that he heard nothing. Because VHF nets, including those that are run over repeaters, ought to teach standard net practice, it is appropriate for Net Control to use all standard HF net practices, including "Nothing heard". Anyone who isn't Net Control should never say this.

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Interested in a low cost HF antenna for 160 meters? Try this
["No excuses" vertical by K6MM](#) .

NC QSO Party

February 26



LARC participated in the NCQSO Party on Sunday, February 26. The Club communications and antenna trailers were setup on Diamond St. in Hudson. Tom KA4HKK, John NC4JA, and James N4NIN were the operators.

The NCQSO Party is an operating event (80 meters thru 2 meters) where stations in NC contact as many NC stations as possible as well as out-of-state stations, one contact per band and mode is allowed. A DX category is also included. The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society sponsors the event.

The LARC operators made 205 contacts and made contact with 44 NC counties. Additionally, they worked at least 4 of the bonus stations: **NI4BK** aboard the battleship North Carolina, **W4DW** RARS Club station, **WIVOA** located at Receiving Site "C" of The Voice of America, and **Anson** (ANS) county. The LARC team NCQSO score (before the bonus points are determined by the NCQSO Party sponsors) is 31,664. Last year's winning score was 207,246 – we were a little short of that! The Club competed in the category “club mixed low power.” The antennas used were a G5RV and a 2-meter beam with rotor. Lessons learned included the need to mount a short mast on top of the pneumatic mast to mount a rotor. While not ideally mounted, the G5RV functioned well spread out over the communications trailer and into KA4HKK's yard.



Upcoming Hamfests: Mark Your Calendar

March 10-11 Charlotte Hamfest, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Concord, NC,
<https://charlottehamfest.org/>

April 15 45th Annual RARSFest/ARRL Roanoke Division Convention, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC,
<http://www.rars.org/rarsfest/>

April 22 27th Annual Down East Hamfest, Down East Hamfest Association Inc, Kinston, NC,
contact Byron Highland, K4BMH at (252) 347-1498 or bhighland@nc.rr.com or further info

April 28-29 2017 SVHFS Conference, Southeastern VHF Society, Charlotte, NC, <http://svhfs.org>

May 13 13th Annual Rockingham County Swapfest, Rockingham County Amateur Radio Club, Reidsville, NC, <http://n4iv.org>

May 27 43rd Annual DurHamFest, Durham FM Association, Durham, NC,
http://dfma.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=402&Itemid=16

July 8 Firecracker Hamfest, Rowan Amateur Radio Society, Salisbury, NC,
<http://www.rowanars.org/firecracker-hamfest/>

July 15 Mid-Summer SWAPFEST, Cary Amateur Radio Club, Cary, NC,
<http://www.qsl.net/n4nc/>

July 29 WCARS Hamfest, Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society, Waynesville, NC,
<http://wcars.org/>

August 5 Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio Association, Morganton, NC, <http://cvhamfest.com>

August 12 19th Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society Swapfest, Cape Fear Amateur Radio Society, Fayetteville, NC, <http://www.cfarsnc.org>

September 1-3 61st Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL North Carolina State Convention, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC <http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>



Coming Soon!
June 24-25
Volunteers Needed

Get On The Air: The Adventures of Dick & Ro

By Ro Maddox K4HRM & Dick Blumenstein K0CAT

This month Dick has been busy crafting pieces parts for the copper ground system interface between the antenna system and the radio equipment. First, copper standoffs had to be made and attached to the copper pipe that is to be mounted to the back of the radio desk.

Two brackets were manufactured from a piece of PVC house trim where SO239 connectors are mounted to allow coax runs for antenna/radio interface. These brackets allow the antenna coax to be connected to the grounding system when not in use. Two brackets are used to allow easy identification of vintage and modern radio equipment.

The photo below shows the copper grounding buss and the connector brackets mounted to the back of the desk.



Next up: Figure out the antenna switching diagram and then make the coax connections from the radios to this panel. Right now, Dick has left 1 extra SO239 connector. There is a connector needed for 2m/440; 20m beam and a 40-160m dipole).

Now wondering where to put the 2 antenna switches needed before starting to cable everything up?



A 5' AC strip was added to supply 115VAC to the vintage equipment (left) side of the back of the rolling ham shack desk. The vintage Collins gear was designed for 115VAC, not for the 120-125VAC commonly supplied these days to households. This strip is supplied the correct voltage by a "Variac" (variable auto transformer) to step down the household supply current to the required voltage. Another "plus" for the Variac is the ability to "soft" start the power supplies (hence possibly preventing excessive thermal "shock" to vacuum tube filaments*) at about 80VAC for a few seconds and then crank up the voltage to 115VAC. This also allows one to leave on the power switches at all times and reduce the internal sparking which then greatly prolongs the life of the power switches, especially the one in the Collins 30L-1, 600-700 watt linear amplifier. (Note: One should not necessarily use this as a blanket statement. There is an interesting paper on it from W8JI https://www.w8ji.com/filament_voltage_life.htm). Since Dick has yet to power up the Collins 30L-1 (he is rebuilding it), he will have to see what happens to the AC supply when receiving vs. transmitting with that amplifier.



Dick has a Collins 30L-1 linear he bought at Dayton 3-4 years ago, which he has never turned on. He has cleaned up and replaced the finals (you know, those funny huge vacuum enclosed glass tubes). The Collins Collectors Association (www.collinsradio.org) has fantastic documentation and articles that he has used to guide him with his vintage equipment.

Dick now needs to reform the old high voltage power supply capacitors (instead of replacing them). Luckily, Gary K3OS had an old spare high voltage board with which Dick could hone his reforming skills by using a capacitor analyzer. Stay tuned!



To be continued...

The 20th Annual Catawba Valley Hamfest

Saturday - August 5th, 2017

8AM - Until

Burke County Fairgrounds

145 Bost Road

Morganton, NC

(For direction mapping only, NOT MAILINGS)

Phone: 828-437-2787

We Have VE Testing On Site

Remember to renew your LARC membership

LARC 2017 Officers



John Crowe

President

NC4JA



Josh Edwards

Vice President

N4JDE



Tom Land

Secretary

KA4HKK



Ro Maddox

Treasurer

K4HRM

**Send comments concerning the Newsletter
to Ro Maddox K4HRM hrmaddox@nettally.com**

Suggestions and articles are appreciated.