



N4LNR

JUNE 2017

News & Views

**P. O. Box 3276
Lenoir, NC 28645**



**Serving Amateur Radio
In Caldwell County**

Next LARC Meeting
Thursday, July 13
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

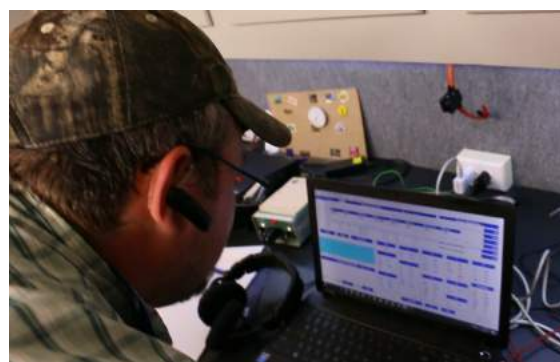
DMR Digital Net
Tuesday 8:00 PM
Lenoir Local DMR

Slow Scan Television

LARC July Meeting

Got an HF rig, an antenna, a computer, sstv software and you too can send a digital picture around the world in under 2 minutes! Come see John Crowe AG4ZL demonstrate how to set up your system to send and received slow scan television images.

A brief business meeting will follow, including a report on Field Day 2017 and lessons learned.





President's Comments

John Crowe NC4JA

Now that Field Day 2017 is over, we can all kick our feet up and relax. But, the thought of Field Day 2017 will stay in our minds until we do it again next year. I hope everyone had a good time this year for we worked hard to set up and operate from the parking lot of the EOC. This event could not have been done without volunteers. Teddy Roosevelt once said the best executive is one who has sense enough to pick good people to do what he wants done and self-restraint enough to keep from meddling with them while they do it.

I believe our individual abilities and the tasks that were a perfect fit. I want to thank each of you who pitched in to make Field Day 2017 happen. It was a great success even though our stations were fewer than in previous years. You really couldn't tell that we were a 2 Alpha operation this year because we made a lot of contacts. Again, thanks to everyone for their participation, patience, and hard work.

In closing, I would like to invite everyone to our monthly meeting on July 13, at the Gamewell Fire Department starting at 7 PM. The program for this meeting will be on Slow Scan Television. I will demonstrate how to receive and transmit slow scan television over the airwaves. I really hope to see everyone there.

7 3 John NC4JA

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED CATAWBA VALLEY HAMFEST SPECIAL EVENTS STATION

LARC will be operating the special events station at the Catawba Valley Hamfest on August 3-5. Volunteers for setup/takedown of the Communications & Antenna Trailers and operators to man the station are needed.

Tom KA4HKK will be discussing final operating arrangements at the July Club meeting. You do not have to be a Club member to volunteer to operate.

ASHEVILLE RADIO MUSEUM TO HOLD SALE IN SEPTEMBER

The [Asheville Radio Museum](#) currently has more items than they are able to properly display. So, in September, they plan to sell a few special items on eBay, along and dozens of others from their storage location in Asheville (including both ham and farm/home radios going back to the 1920's).

Additional sales information on available items, dates, times, locations will be included in the August Newsletter. Stay tuned!



LARC Field Day 2017

The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club held its Field Day 2017 event this year in the parking lot of the Caldwell County EOC. Due to delays in getting the HF antenna mounted on top of the facility housing the EOC, the Club was not able to operate from inside the EOC, however, were able to use the EOC's ICOM IC-7300 transceiver in the Club's Communications Trailer. The Club operated as a 2 Alpha station this year; however, the contacts (157 CW and 622 phone) challenged those made in prior years as a 4 Alpha station and both stations operated continuously for the 24-hour period—no catnaps! Generator and solar power were used, and points were earned for press coverage and visits from elected and agency officials. The weather cooperated, no thunderstorms but it did get a bit warm with the setup on asphalt and in full sun.

There are always interesting stories about Field Day happenings. One notable event this year was a visit by Karl Bowman W4CHX, the NC ARRL Section Manager, on Sunday morning. It's a great experience for the Club to have the recognition of an ARRL official. Accompanying Karl was Gary Pearce KN4AQ. Gary is the founder, host and journalist for HamRadioNow. Gary has a YouTube channel dedicated to anything ham radio related. Some of our Club members will remember the video Tom KA4HKK showed prior to Field Day a couple years ago "The Last Big Field Day"

(<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=the+last+big+field+day+station&view=detail&mid=359D99493B923184CA98359D99493B923184CA98&FORM=VIRE>). Gary is working on a Field Day 2017 video and interviewed a few of us and took video inside the communications trailer while others were operating.

A big "thank you" to those who made the LARC Field Day 2017 a success – Tom KA4HKK, John AG4ZL, Brian KM4KIS, Dick KOCAT, Josh N4JDE, Ro K4HRM, James N4NIN, Mark K9FWA, and Irv W4IWK.







Getting
ready for
Field Day
2018



Are You Prepared For After The Disaster?

By Shirley Kanode, Caldwell County CERT/REACT



There are many stories after Hurricane Katrina and other catastrophes of victims having difficulty receiving insurance payments and other services because of a lack of documentation. Property ownership can be difficult to prove after wars or disasters that destroy government records. If a family member dies, you may need to prove your relationship.

Make copies of important documents for your emergency kit. This may not be the sexy part of preparing for disasters, but could save you a lot of difficulty later. Your list will vary based on your circumstances. You may wish to scan everything and save the files on the Cloud and flash drives, and make hard copies on special

waterproof paper. Send a copy to a trusted family member or friend who will have access to the information even if your location and files are destroyed by fire, flood, hurricane, etc. Keep a copy in your emergency kit that you have prepared to grab at a moment's notice. Here are some examples of what to include.

Personal

Birth Certificates
Social Security Cards
Passports
Marriage Certificate
College Degrees
Drivers Licenses
Concealed Handgun Permits
Names, addresses, and phone numbers of family members, doctors, insurance agent, CPA, attorney

Proof of Ownership

Certificate of Title and registration for vehicles
Deeds for property
Mortgage or lease contracts

Financial

Income Tax Filing Form-last one filed
Credit and Debit Cards
Blank Checks/statements for checking accounts
IRA/401K Statements
Pay or Pension Check Stub
Will/trust documents

Insurance

Auto Insurance Statement/Policies
Auto Insurance Cards
Health Insurance Cards
Home Owners Insurance Statement/Policy
Life Insurance Statement/Policy
AAA Membership Cards

FEMA has a free publication online, the **Emergency Financial First Aid Kit**. The EFFAK has four sections, each of which includes a checklist of important documents and forms to compile your relevant information:

- Household Identification
- Financial and Legal Documentation
- Medical Information
- Household Contacts

This guide also offers suggestions on safeguarding and storing your EFFAK, as well as information on protecting your family, property, and other resources.

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1441313659987-38b0760a58131b871d494ddacbf52b6e/EFFAK_2015_508.pdf

Tower Building 101: Preparing For Tower Base Pour

By Dick Blumenstein K0CAT

As you may recall from last month's saga, the XYL requested that the tower location be moved from its original county-approved position. The tower, in all its magnificent glory was planned to be about 25 feet from the western edge of the back yard, but could be easily seen (and blocking a little bit of the "view") with one sitting on our back deck.

I went back to the County and told them that I wanted to move the tower to the west about 20 feet relatively near a fence line we had. The white pipe in the below picture marks the approximate position of the center of the tower.



It was unclear from the drawing of our septic leach (drain) field if where we were thinking of moving the tower would be in the "repair" area (that is, an alternate drain field site when/if our primary drain field fails). We paid the County to come out to our house and they deemed it clear of the repair area, so that was a stressful hurdle to get over.

However, the proposed tower was now so close to the trees on our western property edge, that it was obvious the antenna array (at a minimum height of 35 feet or so (with the tower cranked down) would hit the trees. One of these 2 trees was deemed close enough to Lake

Hickory that I had to touch base with the Water Quality Regional Operations Section of the N.C. Division of Water Resources (not Duke Power as some people told me) to discuss tree-trimming rules. We got an OK to trim them, so I brought in an arborist with his bucket truck to trim the trees. There were delays in getting that done since recent storms had dropped trees on houses and it was a while until he showed up.



The tree trimming was just accomplished a few days ago. I now have enough clearance from the trees for the antenna array and tower for probably the next 10 or more years.

I am anticipating the arrival of a construction guy maybe next week with a back hoe to come dig out the 5' x 5' x 8.5' deep hole. "X" marks the spot!

My thoughts are now turning towards the used tower that has been sitting in my back yard for a year since I bought it. The next item to fix up is the tower base. Wheeling it on a cart to my garage today to scrape off the funky/chipped paint and surface rust made me decide that this crucial part really needs better protection since I couldn't do a decent job of getting off the old paint and rust.

I located a person who does sandblasting and took it to him while I waited. It took about 15 minutes to remove all rust and paint. Amazing what steel looks like when it is not rusted (almost like it already had gray primer on it).



When we were done, the sandblasting guy looks up in the sky and says, "I hope you can get it home before it's rained on!" He was right! I barely made it home before it started drizzling, stuck it in the garage and immediately applied cold galvanizing spray to it; several coats over the next few hours on both sides. It turned out pretty well.

Next month (hopefully).... digging the hole, lowering the rebar cage, building the anchor bolt holding assembly and Ufer grounding system and getting it inspected before the concrete pour.



To be continued...

Upcoming Hamfests: Mark Your Calendar

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>

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
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Suggestions and articles are appreciated.