



N4LNR

JANUARY 2016

News & Views

P. O. Box 3276

Lenoir, NC 28645



Serving Amateur Radio

In Caldwell County

LARC Launches 30 Year Celebration with APRS at January Meeting

Next LARC Meeting

Thursday, January 14
7:00 PM

Gamewell Fire Dept.
2806 Morganton Blvd
SW, Lenoir

LARC Weekly Net

Thursday 9:00 PM
146.625 Minus 94.8 Alt
147.330

Caldwell ARES Net

Sunday 9:00 PM
147.330 Plus 141.3

DMR UHF Digital Net

Tuesday 8:00 PM
Lenoir Local DMR

The first meeting of the New Year will be “everything you ever wanted to know about APRS.” APRS (Automatic Packet Reporting System) is an [amateur radio](#)-based system for real time tactical digital communications of information of immediate value in the local area. In addition, all such data are ingested into the APRS Internet System and distributed globally for immediate access. Along with messages, alerts, announcements, and bulletins, the most visible aspect of APRS is its map display. APRS is used in many Club events such as, bike rides and disaster drills. The photo to right shows Todd AL0I with his portable APRS station.

Additionally, the business meeting will review outstanding items from 2015 and several new items the Club may wish to pursue. Come prepared to discuss the direction you want the Club to go in in 2016.



President's Comments: 30 Years of LARC



30 years! 3 decades! A little over a quarter century! No matter what terms you put it into, 30 years is a really long time. This year the LARC club will turn 30 years old. What an accomplishment for a non-profit group to have! Throughout the years many people have helped make the Club what it is today. From the original members to those who have joined along the way, we would not be where we are today without each one becoming a piece in the LARC puzzle.

For some of the newer members who may not have heard the story, I wanted to briefly speak about the history of the Club. The Club was officially established in April of 1986. It started as a Saturday morning breakfast meeting of ham operators. Often times there would be as many as 15 people there. After a while, there was a vote to establish a committee to draft a Constitution and Bylaws. Those were approved and the Club was founded. They called themselves the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club.

From those beginnings, we have the LARC of today. I hope this year we will be able to celebrate the accomplishments of the Club over our history as well as accomplish a few of our more current goals. Pending a vote, I would like to have an anniversary meal/picnic sometime this year to commemorate the 30 years as a Club. I think it will be a good time to get the current members together and possibly to invite all of the hams in Caldwell County to celebrate.

As I thought about the Club this month and the amount of time that it has been a formal organization the thought of accomplishment and achievement was at the forefront of my mind. One word seemed to embody "work achieved over a lifetime of effort" and that word is legacy. Now legacy is a word that gets thrown around by many people. Announcers often times refer to it when talking about a professional sports athlete's career and politicians reference it when talking about current and past leaders of our country. The official definition is "something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past."

The older I get, the more I begin to realize that there is a finite end to each life. When you are younger you have this feeling that your life will go on forever and never end. After you experience loved ones that have passed you begin to change your view. I have been thinking personally about the legacy I want to leave to those that I will eventually leave behind. What qualities will I embody that people will remember after I am gone? This may seem like an exercise with a dark twist but I think it is healthy from time to time because it helps adjust our minds from the "here and now" way of thinking. We often get stuck into making decisions for our lives with only the near future in mind.

LARC can benefit from taking time this year to think about some of the same things. What goals do we have this year? What do we want to embody and accomplish that will be remembered for the future generations of members that will come after us? How will the Club be remembered in the community? What will be our legacy? How will we affect the future of the hobby?

This month my challenge is to think about your personal legacy. Think about how you would like to be remembered and then live every day with that goal in mind. See you at the January Meeting!

Tanner KK4SZI

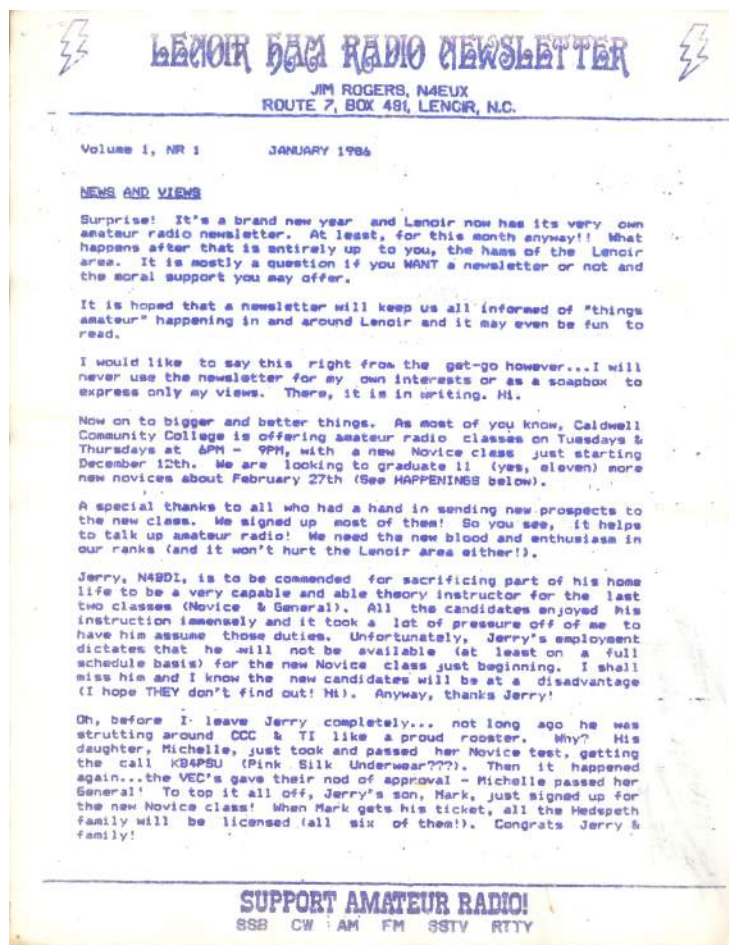
Club Newsletter Gets New Look

The old cliché “you can’t know where you are going until you know where you’ve been” still rings true today. So a look at history is always a little enlightening and fun to read. While the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club had not officially formed, its founders launched a first newsletter in January 1986. The newsletter intended to serve a community of local amateur radio operators to “keep us all informed of ‘things amateur’ happening in and around Lenoir...”

As we celebrate LARC’s semisixagennial year, each monthly issue of *News & Views* will look back at those “happenings” and shed some light on our Club’s early beginning. To launch this flash from the past, *News & Views* is also getting a facelift. My hope is that the Newsletter will be easier on the eyes while “keeping you informed of things amateur.” I will continue to refine the format as your comments are received.

First, let’s look at the front page of that first Newsletter edited by Jim N4EUX. The medium is that old purple mimeograph that many of us loved to smell in our pre-Xerox school days. As I read thru the 1986 Newsletters, I was instantly carried back to those days when I ran the mimeograph machine in the Principal’s Office.

CVCC was offering amateur radio classes, with 11 enrolled in Novice class expecting to receive licenses. Talking up amateur radio was how these prospects were encouraged into the class. Still a valuable way to recruit new hams today!



Interest in amateur radio in Lenoir was growing with 10 new hams joining the ranks by the end of 1985, one of them being James Bradshaw KB4PSX (now N4NIN). James was on-air with his brand new ICOM IC-02AT HT and Isopole. Plans were being made to attend a hamfest in Elkin. An experimental “breakfast club” was organized for Lenoir area hams on February 1 at the Smith’s crossroads Burger King. These happenings certainly remind me of Josh N4JDE talking about his new HT, Tom KA4HKK lining up attendees for the Catawba Valley Hamfest, and Tanner hyping a new breakfast ham gathering at Subway. Umm, lessons from the past.

And, the first organized “yard sale” for ham equipment was touted for the next Newsletter.

Every good newsletter leaves its readers with a bit of wisdom. That first edition hit it out of the park with “Christmas has come and gone, the holidays are in the past. Time to forget glitter and tinsel, and enjoy those things that last...HAM RADIO!”

LARC Eatin' Meetin' ~ Festive Ending to 2015

Several LARC members their and families gathered on December 10 at Picollo's Italian Restaurant in Lenoir for the annual Eatin' Meetin' and to enjoy the fellowship and fun of the "Dirty" Santa gift exchange. Attendance was low but the room was packed with laughter and the food was plentiful! Tom KA4HKK and James N4NIN kept the conversation lively with plenty of storytelling about good times both in the Club and life in general. The dirty Santa went well with not too many steals. Everyone seemed pleased with what they ended up with. And in the spirit of fun, no official business was conducted.



President Tanner KK4SZI welcomed those attending and expressed the appreciation of the entire membership to Phil KG4BCC as outgoing Treasurer and Tom KA4HKK as outgoing Vice President. He asked for continued leadership and hard work from each member in moving the Club forward in 2016.

All attending went home with a smile and a new trinket from Santa. Ho Ho Ho til next year!



Update from the FCW

A lot is going on at Foothills Community Workshop.

On November 14 and December 19, FCW held two Arduino for Beginners classes for a total of 22 participants. The classes covered the setup and initial programming of the Arduino embedded processor boards that are popular among electronic hobbyists. These low cost boards have been used in Amateur radio as keyers, rotor controls, repeater controllers, and other equipment. The classes were 3 hours long and included some sample programs.



The FCW open house was held on Friday and Saturday, December 11 and 12. There were not a many attending as had been hoped (probably due to exceptionally good weather for Dec.) but those who did enjoyed food, fellowship, demos, and the new "kids area" containing a smaller railroad, Lego projects, and games.

Much new equipment has been

donated. In the woodworking shop, a new planer and drum sander has been added. Also, in the electronics shop, a spectrum analyzers covering 300Hz-1.5Ghz. an RF generator covering up to 1.3GHz, a sweep/function generator covering up to 12MHz, 4 channel

400MHz oscilloscopes and numerous other meters generators and scopes were donated. So, FCW is now able to work with some decent RF projects.



A new mount for the HF antenna has been constructed and should be on the roof shortly, along with a weather station, VHF/UHF beams, and another dipole.

Classes either scheduled or in the planning stage include:

- Blender 3d - a free 3d illustration, modeling, video, and gaming program.
- Draftsight - a 2d drafting package similar to Autocad
- C Programming - the low level programming language used in numerous embedded and high performance systems.
- Microprocessor Comparison - How to choose from the Atmel, PiC, Propeller, Basic Stamp, Picaxe, ARMs, Arduino, Raspberry Pi's, and other systems for projects.
- Getting started with the Raspberry Pi - Setup, updating and basic usage of the popular low cost single board computer.
- Intro to Digital Electronics - a beginner's class on digital logic and components.
- Intro to Woodturning - using the wood lathe for projects.
- Intro to Metal lathe - setup and using the metal lathe for projects, including custom threading.
- Amateur Radio Technician License - assistance in passing the Technician VE exams.

Watch the website <http://foothillscommunityworkshop.org> for announcements.

Ever wish you had enough space and money to build the antenna farm of your dreams. See a spectacular [video tour of VE6JY's antenna farm](#). Remember not to drool on the keyboard!



Some Club projects are more fun than others! But, that's what makes our Club so great. Get involved in Club projects and watch your interest and knowledge of amateur radio grow.



New Hams...



Josh N4JDE welcomed a baby boy and future ham (and Panther fan) on December 18, just in time for a tax deduction. Conner arrived around 01:45am. He weighed in at 7 lbs 6oz and was 20"long. He has been very bright eyed, is quite strong and has a very large appetite like his old man. Labor went as good as could be or possibly better than expected for Kasey. Josh even used the FM radio on his Baofeng HT during that time, as she wanted upbeat music playing. There were no complications. He was eager to get here, actually almost beating the Doctor into the room.

Look at that smile!

Ro K4HRM welcomed a great nephew on November 24. Baby boy Asher arrived at 12:39 am, weighing in at 7 lbs 10 ozs. He couldn't wait till his due date and sent his mommy into medical distress. Fortunately, the birth went well. Asher got to go home but his mommy spent another week in the hospital. Aunt Ro got plenty of rocker time during that week (and since then, too). He doing great - a bubbly baby always smiling and eating - mommy is still on the mend.

What a cutie he is! Sorry, Josh, he is a Green Bay Packer fan.



OPS – Other People's Stuff

By Art Marshall W1FJI

Somehow it happens every time I visit a hamfest; I'm just walking around minding my own business and that voice grabs my attention from across the room, "Arthur, Arthur look, I'm over here." Who's calling my name? I head on over to where I heard that voice and I find that it's not a 'someone' calling, but a 'something!' Oh boy, LOOK! It's a treasure! It's this thing just sitting there staring at me. It's kinda worn and grimy, but it's got cracked paint, chrome and fancy dials – I haven't seen one of these things in fifty or sixty years! "Does it work," I ask seller who replies "no, but I'll give ya a great deal," but, but, I really want it! I need this thing, whatever it is. Quick, I must have this treasure before someone sees it and buys it! So what if it doesn't work.

Gathering up my treasure and with a smile from ear to ear I head off towards more tables with more treasures. Although my feet are killing me, and it's hot out, I've not only filled my backpack and made more than a few trips to the car, I'm still on the hunt for that one big treasure, that one great 'whatever' non-working thing that I need and must have. Oh look, scraps of wire of various lengths and sizes, or holy cow, a 300 pound frequency meter from the 1930s or 40s. Now don't misunderstand me, I have bought some really great items at flea markets. Flea markets really can yield some great treasures. There are just at times when I cave to something that really looks and sounds like a bargain, but often I come to find it really isn't. In reality, these things are really discarded OPS, or 'Other People's Stuff!'

At one time I had bought so many Motorola RX and TX FM strips from surplus that there was no more room to store them. How about some 1950s vintage or earlier, Navy TBS-5 receivers? I even found a photo of the receiver on the Internet. At that time, we thought we might have been able to convert them to six meters. Yep, I did buy them but never got them to play on six meters. As I remember, the tubes in the transmitters were 808s or something. My first clue should have been, if the Navy threw them away, then why in the world would I think I could use them.

Other gems found their way into my collection including Motorola weatherproof cabinets, used hardline, and other treasures, including a 75A3, SW3 and FB7. When we left Massachusetts for Scottsdale, AZ in '82, Janet took a couple of loads of OPS to the town dump in my pickup, as well as a couple of loads over to the local radio club. Over the years I've rescued sooooo many treasures that I can't remember what they were or why I bought them. A good example was my Model 19 RTTY with an Alltronics Howard TU that was so noisy that when it was printing you could not hear it throughout the house but you could feel the floor shaking as well! And yes, it was shock mounted.

There are times when hamfests can yield many good items. One man's junk is another man's treasure. KA1BOF, my XYL, coins the phrase 'OPS' and I can't bring anything else in unless I remove something in the bargain. If One OPS comes in then One OPS has to leave. It's possible that you have seen some of these photos in previous articles of mine but this time I'll try and explain a little about each one of them.



The three photos (above) show a gem from the past I bought at a swap meet in Arizona. It's a receiver built on a homemade wooden chassis. I can see that the solder has corroded. The front panel was made from an actual baking pan! The dial looks like the type that was on my SW3 National receiver. Looking at the front panel you will notice there are two red jacks which were for audio out to a pair of headphones such as Trimm. The Trimm headphones had two small plugs that would fit this type of jack and I'm sure other headphones of that era utilized similar types of jacks.

Many years ago I had a power supply and the chassis was a baking pan. Did the receiver work? No, and I didn't even try to get it working. Obviously I would have had to strip everything and rebuild it. I paid a whole dollar for it but it was worth it! I now wish I had sat down with the ham I bought it from and had asked him more about it. There has to be a great story here.



The next gem (left) is a Globe Scout 680A. By the photos you can see it really looks complete and clean inside and it is, but it does still need a power cord. I bought it to rebuild and that was almost 30 years ago now. No, I didn't rebuild it, and it has been sitting on the shelf waiting for some attention.

\$60 for it. All right already, it kept calling my name so I bought it! I had good intentions for sure but over the years I have bought many, many other OPS gems with good intentions too. Whoever wired it prior to me before I got my hands on it did a very nice job; it just looks like it needs some TLC, that's all.

The OPS in the two photos (right) are Gonset Converters that we used for mobile operation in the 50s. The one on the right was called a Super 6 which was used on different band clusters including 10/11, 15/19/20, 40/49 and 75 meters. With the Super 6, you can actually set the car BC radio (AM) to 1430 kc.



I have since forgotten what needed to be done to get the converter and car radio calibrated to play nicely together. One look at the manual and it brought back ole memories. The converter uses 6-volt heaters (filaments) and two 'B+' lines of 80 to 180 volts according to the manual. The manual I have is dated 1955.

Actually, the converters were either mounted under the dash or on the L-shaped bracket, which was mounted to the steering column. The one shown (on the left) is a 2-meter AM converter. You would have to supply 6 volts DC (that's right I said 6 volts DC) that was required to power up these lovely converters. Then you would plug your ham radio antenna into the converter and plug your BC radio into it. The BC radio needed to be set to a specific frequency and like magic you were receiving signals via the Gonset/Super 6 – which anyone was on. Back then, most of us had separate transmitters and receivers, which were, powered for mobile operation by either a 'vibrator' power supply or a PE 103 'dynamotor.' Every time I would key the microphone PTT, the car would hesitate! If it were nighttime the headlights would dim as well. Neat stuff huh? See what y'all new hams missed?



The next two photos (left) are of what I believe is a receiver and an aerial tuner. The call letters of the person who built it are on the front panel and I still need to do some research

on that call. I bought it back in 1988 at a hamfest in Arizona. Please don't ask why. I can't tell you much about them mainly because I would be guessing.



Here's a National SW54 (left). I was supposed to rebuild that one also. Well, I had good intentions. At least it lights up!

Here's an S38C (right). Does it work? Take a guess – Nope!



Here are two Heathkit AR2 receivers (right) I bought to rebuild. I don't know for sure when I got them, maybe thirty years ago...never did anything with them. Well once again my heart was in the right place, but my get-up-and-go just got-up and went before I could get started. I just never got around to it. The one on the bottom is good for spare parts, and the top one was the one I wanted to rebuild.

So when you take a look at the photo below, you might ask yourself, why in the world did Art buy the coil and the tube? Really, who knows? The tube is a HD203C, and was used in diathermy equipment way back when, WHEN YOU ASK? Why in the late 30s to early 40s.

How about a Barker and Williamson coil wound for 8.0 to 11.0 MC. This is a coil unit from a Military WWII BC610. Do I have a BC610? Of course not! I found the same coil on eBay for \$70, so maybe it's an investment. The photo will let you compare these two great items to a current-day dual band HT. No, the HT isn't for sale, although, I don't use it, in fact, I haven't turned it on in months, so maybe I'll sell it. I guess.



Don't misunderstand me, not all of them didn't work, many did work. The OPS items you see here are some of the ones that I ran out of steam on in my quest to repair.

At one time, I bought hand keys like they were going out of style. Over the years I've sold many of them for a good profit and I've kept several that will



The board the key is mounted to is original. Now I would like to locate the Steiner Sounder to make the set complete.

I must be getting close to a ham radio flea market someplace because I'm hearing my name called again! No, no, this time I'm not buying. This time I'm selling! Am I cured? Not really, I still breakout in a sweat when I see something that I just have to have.

Well there ya have it! 'Stuff.' Who was the comedian who did a routine on STUFF, I think it was George Carlin.

'C' Ya at the flea market and just maybe you'll find some OPS you too just can't do without, unless of course, I beat ya to it!

eBay here I come!

Until next time – 7 3! Art Marshall W1FJI art-marshall@comcast.net

Time to renew your LARC membership

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

Ham Happenings...

January 9, 2016 Winston-Salem Hamfest at Summit School, 2100 Reynolds Rd. Winston-Salem NC, sponsored by the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, see <http://www.w4nc.com/>

January 9, 2016 Techfest at Gwinnett Medical Resource Center, 665 Duluth Highway (GA-120) Lawrenceville GA sponsored by Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

February 28, 2016 North Carolina QSO Party starts at 1000 EST to 2000 EST. For details, see <http://rars.org/ncqsoparty/>

March 11-12, 2016 Charlotte Hamfest at 4551 Old Airport Rd. 4571 Hwy 49 North, Concord NC sponsored by Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, see <http://www.charlottehamfest.org>

April 2, 2016 44rd Annual RARSfest/North Carolina State Convention at 1025 Blue Ridge Rd, Raleigh NC, sponsored by the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, see <http://www.rars.org/rarsfest>

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