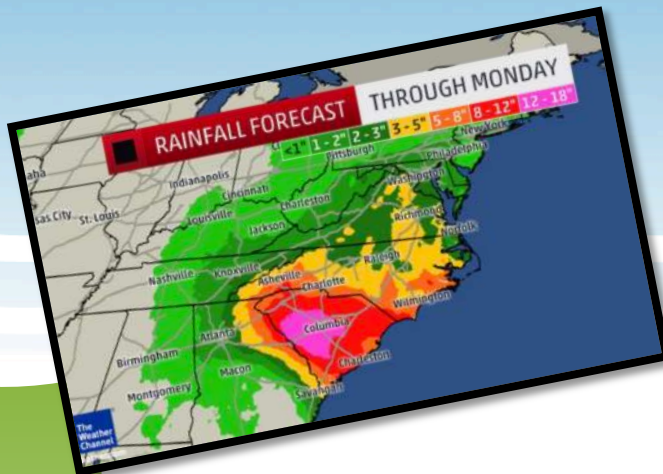


O C T O B E R 2 0 1 5

N4LNR

News & Views

P. O. Box 3276
Lenoir, NC
28645



*Serving Amateur Radio
In Caldwell County*

Save the Date!

Next LARC Meeting

October 8, 2015

Thursday, 7:00 PM

Gamewell Fire Dept

**2806 Morganton Blvd SW,
Lenoir**

LARC Weekly Net

Thursdays 9:00 PM

146.625 MHz Minus PL 94.8

Alt 147.330 MHz Plus PL 141.3

TSQL

Caldwell ARES Net

Sundays 9:00 PM

147.330 MHz Plus PL 141.3

TSQL

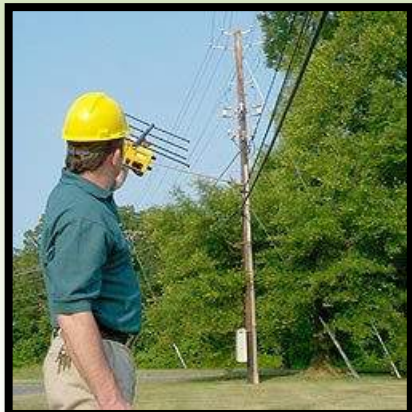
RFI & Building A Yagi Program for October Meeting

Come to the October meeting of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club and learn all about chasing that pesky radio frequency interference that plagues the bands and just may be in your home or in your neighbor's yard. Gene Rozea K1AVE will talk about how to find RFI and how to build one of the tools often used in the chase – the Yagi.



Nominations for 2016 officers will be on the agenda, as well as other Club activities.

Only two more regular meetings before the holiday gathering -- come join us and help us break this year's attendance record of 20! See you there.



President's Message

Emergency Communications and the Hobby



As I am writing this, there is talk this weekend about a tropical storm/hurricane that may make its way near the North Carolina coast. Between that and a low pressure system, there are many weather models which forecast that the Piedmont and the Coast may get up to 13-15" of rain and the mountains may get an additional 5-7". With the already wet soil, many meteorologists are forecasting flash flood conditions. Weather is always a constant concern and this weekend is not different. Emergency communication is a large and very important contingent of ham radio. We need to be prepared for helping out our community when times of inclement weather take out traditional methods of communications.

Even though the modern communications system is very robust and redundant, there are many times where they are not working or are overloaded. Ham radio shines in this situation because it does not need much existing infrastructure to be able to communicate. Communication can be established with just two people and two radios. There are many examples of how operators have been able to help out their communities in times of need. One of the examples I found was in the town of Enterprise, Alabama. In 2007, a tornado ripped through the town killing 7 and injuring 35. The Enterprise Amateur Radio Society responded and provided communications to a devastated town after much of their existing infrastructure was torn down.

Our club supports emergency communications in many different ways. One primary way is maintaining a club repeater that can be used in the event of a disaster. Lately, we finally have fixed the antenna and from all reports it is working well. We have also been hard at work this year on a portable communications trailer. This can be towed to different locations and setup to help provide assistance in times of need. We have helped support the introduction of Digital Amateur Radio into our county with the Hibriten DMR repeater. Finally, we have helped out with several events and practiced communication and log keeping so we could keep our skills sharp.

Just having the club support disaster communications is not enough. As hams, I think it is our duty to prepare ourselves for times where we could be of service. There are some simple things that we can do as individuals to be ready when the call comes:

1. Have a station setup at your house with as many different modes that you can.
2. Have a battery backup to your station.
3. Have an alternate power source in case of longer outages. (Solar or Generator)
4. Practice, Practice, Practice. Get on the air!

My challenge to you this month is pretty simple. As we move into times of inclement weather such as hurricane season and winter, be thinking about how prepared you are for a disaster? Do you have your radio equipment and your skills in order so that when the community needs someone, you will be ready for the call?



N4LNR Repeater Upgrade Nears Completion

On an overcast morning early in September, Vinnie Popowitch KG4WDX scampered up the LARC repeater tower to mount the antenna mast and re-attaching the new antenna and coax as James N4NIN, Ro K4HRM and Rick (Vinnie's helper) provided ground support. This tower climb completed the upgrade of the Club repeater, except for a few maintenance items. Vinnie checked out the integrity of the tower components and, with the exception of needing some rust paint on a couple of the top sections, opined that the tower was good for a long time to come. He recommended additional grounding on two tower legs, adding a halo ground in the shack, and providing more distance between some of the shack equipment. He suggested altering the way the coax entered the shack that James N4NIN immediately fixed. Vinnie commented that he could replace the LMR400 coax with the cable stored in the shack, including connectors, if the Club desired. James indicated that the need for a general cleanup of the shack area for old cable and discarded equipment. A workday will be discussed at the next Club meeting.

NC ARRL ARES Western Branch Meeting Set

The Fall Meeting of the NC ARRL ARES Western Branch will be held October 31 in Morganton at the Western Piedmont Community College, Higher Education Center, 2128 South Sterling St. The meeting will run from 9:00 am until 12:30 pm. Attendance is limited to 100 persons.

The agenda has not been finalized at Newsletter release; however, it will include updates and items of interest to those participating in ARES and AUXCOMM. Please let Tom Land KA4HKK know if you plan to attend at thomasland@msn.com



CERT Conference A Success!



The NC CERT Fall Conference was held Saturday, September 12, 2015, in Lenoir. The agenda included Tony Sturey, a meteorologist from the National Weather Service, who spoke about the 2015-2016 winter weather outlook for North Carolina. He reported that there is an 85 to greater than 90% probability that our winter weather will be affected by El Nino with an increased chance of more severe winter storms including colder temperatures and increased precipitation including snow, sleet, ice, or rain.



Margie Mansure, Watauga County Extension Agent for Nutrition and Foods, described preparations and measures to take in the event of a power outage to provide safe food for your family and alternative methods of cooking. It is common to lose power during winter storms in North Carolina resulting from broken tree limbs, ice, and wind. In addition to losing power to refrigerators and freezers, those with well water can lose power to run their pump.

Margie emphasized the importance of preparing ahead of time for these types of emergencies. She explained that perishable food could spoil at temperatures above 40 degrees for 2 hours or more. If you are unsure food is safe during a power outage or afterwards discard it.

Freezers and refrigerators will remain cold much longer if the doors are not opened. Freezers are more efficient when kept full. Freezing containers of water and storing them in the freezer will help the freezer operate more efficiently and keep your food cold longer in an emergency. It can also provide you emergency water.

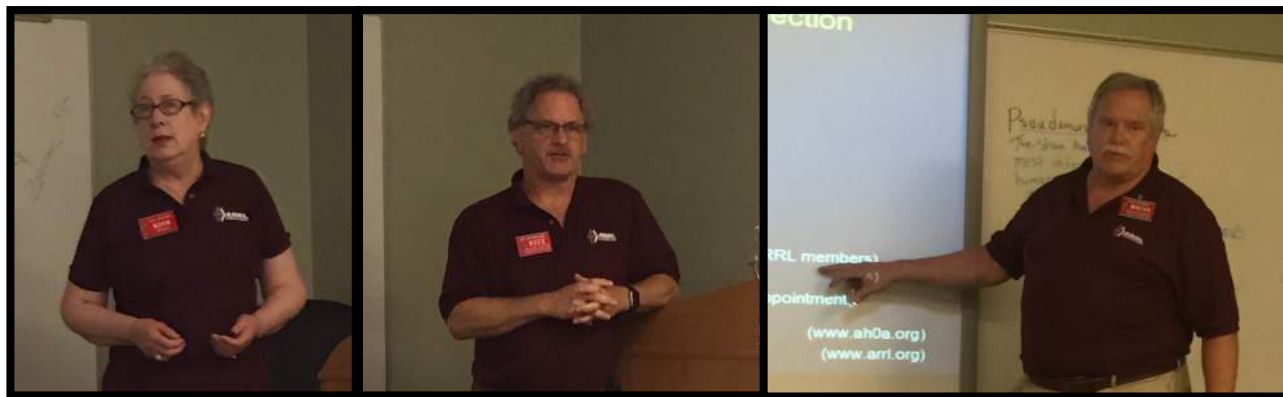


Samantha Royster, NC CERT Program Manager, and her husband, Jay, were there from Raleigh to host the event. She reported on the activities of NC CERT and led a discussion of the group about future programs. Kenneth Teague, Caldwell County Emergency Management Coordinator, welcomed the attendees and provided the meeting location and refreshments. There were representatives from several communities including Caldwell County, Matthews, Charlotte, Gastonia, and Hickory.

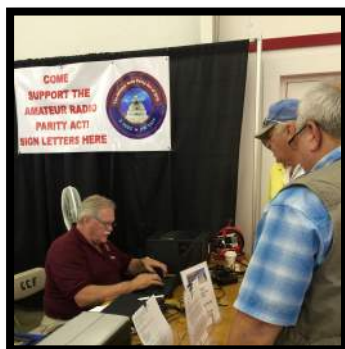


LARC members Irv W4IWK and Dave KK4MWF are shown in the photo to the left.

Shelby Hamfest Hosts Roanoke Division Convention ARRL Officials Seek Grassroots Support for Radio



ARRL President Kay Craig N3KN, Roanoke Division Director Jim Boehner N2ZZ, and Section Manager Karl Bowman W4CHX mingled with visitors at the Shelby Hamfest as they stumped for grassroots support of the Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2015 – S1685 and HR1301. Bowman recognized the many accomplishments of the 19,790 hams in NC, noting that Marv Hoffman WA4NC of Watauga ARC recently received the Miriam Smith Memorial Award. Boehner discussed the day-to-day “pushing the wet noodle” role of a Division Director. Craig spoke to the advocacy role of the ARRL, touching on efforts in regulation, legislation, litigation, public relations and technical lab research. All three spend long hours at the ARRL booth talking with area amateur radio operators.



A number of LARC area hams were spotted, including Tom KA4HKK, Ro K4HRM, Jeet KK4CCA, Warren WU3Y, Lorenzo KE4NSW, Jerry AD4JG, Floyd AD4FK, Rick WK4R, Marv WA4NC, Jack KB4JEB, Danny KE4APP, Lee KK4KEV, Bob KC4TVO, Paul KD4OZI, and several others.





NC Mountain State Fair Asheville

The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club joined with The Road Show Amateur Radio Club to sponsor a day at the NC Mountain State Fair on September 19 in Asheville. The event featured a visitor booth with displays and information about amateur radio and the N4F Special Event Station. The Fair ran for 10 days with over 193,000 visitors.

Tanner KK4SZI, Tom KA4HKK, John N4LBX and Ro K4HRM represented LARC. The radio visitor booth saw a steady stream of visitors with quite a number of former amateur radio operators interested in returning to the hobby. N4F Special Event Station featured an Elecraft K3S/100, an Elecraft KX3 (with amplifier), an ICOM IC-7600 and an ICOM IC-7100 – all loaned by the manufacturers. The LARC team fell in love with the ICOM IC-7600 but the jury is still out on the other three units. Poor propagation and the high RFI from the fair rides reduced the opportunity for radio contacts; however, over 1,000 were logged.



Special thanks go to Phillip Jenkins N4HF and The Road Show Amateur Radio Club for inviting LARC to participate in their event.

Who Are You? – QRZ.Com

By Stan Zawrotny K4SBZ

QRZ? That is one of the more common Q signals, meaning, “Who is calling me?” **QRZ.com** is also one of the most commonly known websites supporting Amateur Radio. The website has a plethora of information including Amateur Radio news, swap meets, technical forums, grid mappers, Amateur Radio license practice exams, a DX cluster and a log book, to name just a few.

Who is That Ham? But one of the most common uses of QRZ.com is consistent with the meaning of QRZ? – Who is calling me? – and that is its database. The QRZ database is derived from the FCC database of amateur radio callsigns for US callsigns, plus it includes nearly every other Amateur Radio callsign in the world. Back when I got my Novice license in 1958, you had to buy a Radio Amateur Call Book every year and manually look up a callsign to get just his name and address. Now you go to <https://www.qrz.com/lookup>, enter the callsign and find out everything about the ham. If you have setup your logging software properly, it will automatically go to QRZ and fill in the contact's name, QTH, grid, county, etc. for you right as you work him. (You'll need the XML Logbook Data subscription for this feature.)

About You But what does QRZ say about you? If you have not done anything in your account, all it says is what they know from the FCC and can extrapolate from that. The first page will show your callsign, name and address. These can only be changed by submitting a change of address to the FCC. So many people use it to find out not *who* you are, but *where* you are. There will be no biography right off hand but you can add anything you want to say about yourself simply by clicking on your own *callsign* in the menu bar to the far right, then on *Edit <your call>*, then on *Add or edit your Biography text, font, etc.* An edit screen will appear that will enable you to add and format text for your biography. You can even include pictures! You might describe your shack or your interests or how you got into ham radio; maybe your QSL information or a portable excursion you are planning. Try not to make it too long like AG6IF's. Check out some other hams for examples, especially active DX (e.g., LU1YT or 4X6TT.) Maybe just a couple of paragraphs to start off would be best and you can always add more later – you can change it anytime.

In the upper right corner of the page you post a picture of yourself or your ham shack (or both.) This is done with the Pictures function of the *Edit* feature. The first picture appears in the corner - time for a selfie? Make it nice – the whole world will see it!

Also on the first page is your QSL information. This can be changed in the *Update basic callsign data* function. There are also check boxes on this edit function for QSLing via mail, eQSL and LoTW, as yes or no, which will appear on the second tab.



Another piece of information that you can include here is your email address, if you should choose to. I do and I have never received spam. I have received informative emails following busted QSOs; e.g. he had a power failure. Also on this page is the number of lookups. I guess you can use that as a meter of your popularity. (I am at 13,106 today, how about you?)

Moving on to the second tab, *Detail*, there is some information that is either taken from the FCC (license class) or extrapolated (latitude and longitude, grid, ITU and CQ Zones, etc.). Many of these can also be changed using one or more of the editing functions. Check to make sure that your county is correct. A map on the right shows your QTH with a pointer. As a matter of fact, if you zoom in enough, you can place it precisely where your ham shack is on your property. That may also cause your six-character Maidenhead grid to shift a little. This is important if you are participating in a UHF contest and are near a grid boundary.

There is More! I have only provided a quick overview of QRZ.com. Now that you know the general landscape, with a little nosing around, you should be able to find its other features by yourself. For example, there are more tabs under your callsign that I won't go into at this time. They are for a logbook that you can keep on QRZ.com and for a set of awards that you can get if you keep your logbook there. Most of the features of QRZ.com are free, but for others require you to become a subscriber. I have found it to be worth the cost to be able to access the lookups through my logging software. And by the way, *YES, there is an App for that!* You can enjoy access to QRZ from anywhere you and your smartphone can go – just check it out at either the *Apple iStore* or the *Google Play Store*.

I encourage everyone to keep his or her information current on QRZ.com. You never know when someone will want to know whom or where you are.

Reprint with Permission. The Printed Circuit,
Newsletter of the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society.

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ
K4SBZStan@Gmail.com

**2015 FOOTHILLS
FIRE & LIFE
SAFETY EXPO**



HIGHLIGHTS

- FIRE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES
- ANTIQUE FIRE TRUCK SHOW
- FIREFIGHTER COMPETITIONS
- HEALTH AGESSESMENTS
- FIRES, MEDICINE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT DEMOS
- MOBILE HOSPITAL DISPLAY
- AIR MEDICAL HELICOPTER
- POWER AND LIGHTS
- BOUNCE HOUSES
- MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
- GREAT FOOD & FUN
- FREE ADMISSION & PARKING!

JOIN YOUR LOCAL EMERGENCY SERVICES PERSONNEL FOR THE 2015 FOOTHILLS FIRE & LIFE SAFETY EXPO. THE AREA NEIGHBORHOOD FESTIVAL WILL INCLUDE FIRE PREVENTION & LIFE SAFETY INFORMATION, FREE GIVEAWAYS, MUSIC, FOOD, BOUNCE HOUSES, VENDORS AND MORE! DON'T MISS OUT ON A FAMILY-ORIENTED EVENT THAT'S SURE TO IMPRESS AND EDUCATE. THIS IS SURE TO BE THE MOST UNIQUE EVENT IN THE REGION, DON'T MISS OUT ON BEING A PART OF IT, IT MAY JUST SAVE YOUR LIFE!

OCTOBER 3RD
10AM-3PM
**CALDWELL
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE
&
TECHNICAL
INSTITUTE**

FIND US ON FACEBOOK AND THE WORLDWIDE WEB AT
WWW.CALDWELLNCFIRE.COM

CCFR ASSOCIATION
BECOME 'FULLY INVOLVED' IN FIRE PREVENTION

2855 HICKORY BLVD.
HUDSON, NC 28638
(828)757-1162

CANCELLED
Volunteers needed when rescheduled

From The September Meeting

Attendees. Tanner KK4SZI, Tom KA4HKK, Josh N4JDE, Ro K4HRM, Scott KC4SWL, John N4LBX, Michelle KD4YTU, Shawn KI4ZKP, Ted KF4FLY, David K3DW, Curt Hiller (guest)

Constitution/Bylaws Review. Tanner KK4SZI to name a committee to perform review.

Officers for 2016. Nominations will be received from the floor at the October meeting.

LARC Net. Tom KA4HKK asked for a volunteer to take over calling the LARC Net each Thursday at 9:00 PM. John N4LBX volunteered.

Repeater. Work on repeater set for September 11. James N4NIN and Ro K4HRM will be ground support. Vincent Popowitch KG4WDX will do the tower climb.

Trailers – Communication & Antenna. Tanner KK4SZI asked members to consider possibility of purchasing a parcel of land and building a storage building for the trailers as well as other Club items. Further discussion at future meetings. Workday set for 9/26 for wiring in communications trailer. Ro K4HRM volunteered to assemble a list of suggested equipment for the trailer to be circulated for additions and discussion at a future meeting.

Public Service. Volunteers needed for the following events: 1) LARC Day (September 19, 2-10 PM) at the Road Show Amateur Radio Club Special Event Station N4F and Booth at the NC Mountain State Fair, Asheville NC. 2) Foothills Fire & Life Safety Festival on October 3 at CVCC. Michelle KD4YTU suggested the Club should enter the Communications Trailer in the Charlotte Maker Fair on October 10. She also reported that Foothills Community Workshop is planning upgrade sessions for General and Extra License in October.

CERT. Tom KA4HKK reported that the NC Western Regional CERT meeting is in Lenoir on September 12, 12-5 at the HHSs Bldg. on Morganton Blvd. Attendance is encouraged.

ARES. Tom KA4HKK reported that the NC ARRL ARES Western Branch Fall Meeting is scheduled for 9-12:30 on October 30 in Morganton.

Program. Video on how to assemble Anderson PowerPoles.

UHF Digital Net on Tuesday Nights

Marv Hoffman WA4NC announced the UHF Digital Net, originally on Saturday night, is held each Tuesday night at 8:00 p.m. on the linked Boone- Sugar-Lenoir-Spruce Pine DMR digital repeaters on the Local Talkgroup. The purpose of the net is:

- a. Passing along information to the group concerning ARES/AUXCOMM
- b. Gathering information about the coverage of the linked repeaters.
- c. Providing an opportunity for digital users to become acquainted with each other over the air.
- d. Exchanging information about amateur radio.

Net control protocol is used. All hams with DMR capabilities are invited to participate in the net. Participation on the first Tuesday Net was: Foothills ARC 1, Lenoir ARC 3, Mayland ARC 10 and Watauga ARC 9. Spread the word!

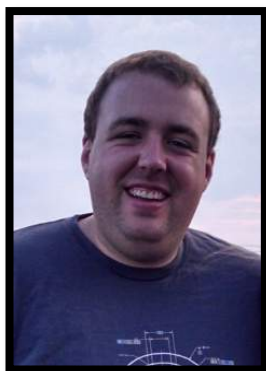
Nominations for 2016 Officers at October Meeting

Article III Officers of the LARC Constitution states that the officers of the Club are: President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These officers are elected for 12-month terms, and can serve no more than two consecutive terms in the elected position. Of the current officers, the Vice President and the Treasurer will be completing their second consecutive term.

Article IV Election/Removal of Officers provides that the officer elections shall be at the regular November meeting, with at least five full members voting. Nominations can be from the floor or by a nominating committee appointed by the President. At the September meeting, the President indicated that nominations would be from the floor at the October meeting.

Please consider whom you want to serve as officers for 2016 and come to the October meeting to make nominations! LARC is only as strong an organization as its officers and members, so get active and participate in the Club's future!

LARC 2015 Officers



Tanner Greer
President
KK4SZI



Tom Land
Vice President
KA4HKK



Josh Edwards
Secretary
N4JDE



Phil Crump
Treasurer
KG4BCC

**Send comments concerning the LARC NEWSLETTER
to hrmaddox@nettally.com**

Suggestions and your articles are appreciated.

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