

NOVEMBER 2015

N4LNR

# News & Views

P. O. Box 3276  
Lenoir, NC  
28645



*Serving Amateur Radio  
In Caldwell County*

## Save the Date!

### Next LARC Meeting

November 12, 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



## 2016 Officer Elections November Meeting

Election of 2016 Officers is on the agenda for the November meeting of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club. Nominees are: Tanner Greer KK4SZI for President. Josh Edwards N4JDE for Vice President. We are still seeking candidates for Secretary and Treasurer – let Tanner KK4SZI know if you will accept either position prior to the meeting. The program will be on modes of digital communications.



This meeting is our last regular meeting of 2015. The December meeting will be a holiday gathering at a local restaurant (to be determined).

Come join us and help us break this year's attendance record of 20! See you there.





## President's Message

### Installing My Mobile Rig

Almost all hams install some sort of rig in their vehicles. Most of these are the mobile type. They offer many advantages over the HT such as greater reach, better antennas and also not needing to charge batteries. Since I have not been HAM for too long I have only had the pleasure to install a radio in one vehicle. I had a blast doing it and it served me well for the last two years. Earlier this year however I purchased a new truck and so the radio had to come out of the Tahoe and needed to be installed in the truck.

It has taken me many months to get a mobile rig back in the vehicle. Whether it is from my busy schedule or just laziness, I have just in the last few weeks started working on the install. After surveying what kind of parts I needed, I got on Amazon and placed an order. In my last vehicle, I used a fuse tap to get power for my radios but decided this time to instead run a power cable from the battery. After going online and figuring out the voltage loss over the distance of wire I needed, I decided that 8AWG would be heavy enough for my needs. One tip in case you are installing a new rig is that you can usually find a very good deal on Amazon or other online retailers for "car audio" amplifier kits that include a length of wire and ground wire. This seems to be a little cheaper than just trying to go to Lowe's and buy the wire by the foot. After getting the needed supplies delivered I began my install. I popped open the hood on the Tundra and started routing the power cable from the battery location down to the frame and back to the head of the extended cab.

I was worried that I would have a hard time getting into the cab of the truck but luckily Toyota has two rubber plugs on either side of the extended cab for running wires so I pulled a rubber plug out and made a just large enough hole for the 8 AWG wire and pulled it through. Zip ties to the frame secured the wire. I pulled the wire from under the carpet, ran it under the plastic inside body panels around the back of the cab to the location that I wanted the radio. Power was complete!

The antenna I knew would be the tougher of the parts. I did not want to drill into the cab or put a fender bracket on the truck so I started to research options for putting the antenna in the bed. There are several options I found for trucks. The Toyota trucks have rails in the bed for attaching tie downs and cargo so I decided to fabricate a mount using a right angle bracket and a piece of aluminum. From there I ran the coax through a plastic plug in the bed and in through a rubber plug in the bottom of the cab.

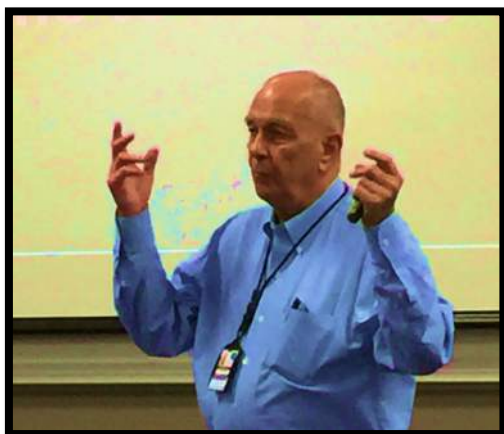
The radio was mounted under the rear seats, so running a remote wire to the head was going to be a necessity. I ran the remote wire under the door trim and up to the console. I saw a cup holder head mount from Lido at Dayton this year so I used that to install the head in the front cup holder. All in all it turned out pretty good and I am happy with the install. After tuning the antenna a bit, we got a good match and I am back on the air when driving.

I really had a blast installing the radio. I really enjoy the challenge of making a radio fit where it was not designed to go. I am excited to be back on the air to talk to those folks in the morning. See you at the meeting in two weeks!



## NC ARRL ARES Western Branch Meeting

The Fall Meeting of the NC ARRL ARES Western Branch was held October 31 in Morganton at the Western Piedmont Community College. Paul Robinette KD4OZI, ADEC Western Branch, welcomed a good group. Tom Brown N4TAB, NC SEC, NC AUXCOMM, reviewed current events in AUXCOMM, emphasizing operational security and relationships. He noted that currently 708 radio operators are in the database. Brown commented that in assignments to disaster incidents that “you are not just a ham” and that many will find themselves on various assignments and working on frequencies outside the amateur bands.



Karl Bowman W4CHX, NC SM, discussed regulatory issues and recognized several NC amateurs that had received awards during this past year for their outstanding work. He said that implementing issues of the memorandum of agreement between ARRL and DHS/FEMA is being developed to insure smooth coordination among agencies for disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.



Tom KA4HKK, Scott KC4SWL, Michelle KD4YTU and Ro K4HRM attended the meeting representing LARC ARES.

Marv Hoffman WA4NC provided an overview of the DMR (digital mobile radio) system implementation in NC. Frank Pleshe N4ERS NC COML discussed the use of COML (communication leaders) in AUXCOMM assignments, focusing on teamwork, professionalism, and understanding how communications supports the needs of the served agency.

Pleshe spoke of the changing mindset from “ham” and “amateur” to “qualified radio professionals” on emergency communications assignments.







## CERT & LARC Victims in County Emergency Exercise

CERT volunteers participated along with area fire departments, Caldwell County Emergency Management, two hospitals, the Caldwell County school district, NC State Police, and others on October 10, in a disaster exercise -- a school bus full of students overturning after colliding with a propane truck. The drill gave the County officials the opportunity to assess the organization, skills, and readiness of emergency services providers, school and hospital personnel during a disaster. The drill helped identify training opportunities and improvements in coordination and communication.



Irv Kanode W4IWK (CERT & LARC member) played a grandfather who came upon the scene and realized his granddaughter was on the bus. He got in the way of the rescue personnel looking for her, and then suffered a heart attack. He was the first victim to be transported to the hospital.

Emergency officials used tools to cut around the back door of the buss and rescued 24 students who were supposed to be trapped inside. They pulled one passenger out after another, placing some on stretchers and rushing them to triage.



South Caldwell High School student volunteers waited in the rain at a triage station before they were taken to the two area hospitals.



As the ambulance transporting Irv W4IWK approached hospital, they couldn't make contact via VIPER. They called in their arrival by cell phone. Apparently, the hospital could hear the call but their reply wasn't heard. Another ambulance with a real patient had the same problem, although the ambulances could hear each other. It appeared the hospital VIPER system was overloaded.

CERT members Rosemary Hall, Michaela Hall, and Mark Barrera, were responsible for the trauma moulage (make-up) to make the victims appear injured for more realistic assessment and treatment by the first responders. CERT member Curt Hiller played the role of the severely injured bus driver, and Maria Hiller took photos throughout the exercise. Mark received on the job training and "gave" one student major burns over his upper torso, and assisted with others.



One hospital had a table and a staff of six setup outdoors under an emergency arrival canopy to check-in victims from the drill. Curt thanked the hospital staff for their decision not to send him immediately into surgery!



\* \* \* \*

Caldwell County Emergency Management held its 2015 Fall CERT Basic Training Class this past week. This 8-part series, spread over 5 days, provided new CERT volunteers information on hazards that may impact Caldwell County and provides basic disaster response skills in fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist themselves, their families, and others in their neighborhood or workplace following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. Caldwell CERT has posted a great video titled "CERT in Action" on their website at [www.caldwellcountycert.com](http://www.caldwellcountycert.com)

## It's Not Fun Anymore

By Stan Zawrotny K4SBZ

How many hams have you met that have the same interests today as when they started out? For instance, some of you will remember that I was once the TARS newsletter editor before I turned it over to our current editor, who has made it such a success. I was involved in emcomm for a while and held a North Florida section level position. I have been active in all of the bicycle races and have chaired the Tallahassee Marathon before turning it over to someone new this past year. I was



even TARS president for a year! My interests have ranged from operating on repeaters and with D-Star a few years ago to PSK31 to RTTY to DX and contesting, while dabbling with a variety of other things along the way. My interest in (and enjoyment of) all these activities ebbs and flows over time. But I haven't gotten bored because I've kept moving!

Unfortunately, too many hams start out with an interest in one area and never explore all of the many other exciting corners of our hobby. Many hams never go beyond the occasional use of their HTs. There are many hams that I have met over the years and that I have helped receive their licenses that I know still live here in town, but I don't see them at club meetings, Field Days or on the air. Will they renew their licenses at the end of their ten years? Probably not. They have just lost interest. Could this sad result be avoided by the enthusiastic guidance of an "Elmer?"

On the other hand, sometimes we lose someone due to "burnout." They focus so intently on the competitive chase of contesting or DXing or whatever that eventually it wears them down and they quit. For them, it wasn't fun anymore. This happens in all sorts of activities, of course; at work, in one's church or other social groups, our volunteer groups, and even within groups of friends. What was once a rewarding or relaxing activity now holds one captive until escape is the only recourse. This is particularly sad in ham radio because the hobby has so many different facets. If one wearies of building equipment, countless operating events exist. Even just a slight change can be enough. If you are burning out on DXing or contesting then try working QRP for a different perspective on it.



Or maybe you just need a short break. If running a club or emcomm team is getting old, take a little time off. What would happen if you took a break? Would the world come to an end? I once read, "If you think you're indispensable, put your hand in a bucket of water then pull it out. If there's a hole left behind where your hand was, then you're indispensable." I tried it. I'm not. And while you are "on vacation" from the old, what better time to try something new, even if it just for a short time? Maybe you will like it.



## When was the last time you tried something new?

Ham radio is a huge world with many exciting things that many of us haven't even heard of. [Here's a sample of a few aspects you might look into: DXing, Contesting, Sweepstakes, QRP (low power), QRO (Legal-Limit), Electronics, Kit Building, Homebrewing and Modding, New Digital Modes including the increasing use of Software Defined Radios, Microprocessors and Microcomputers, Original Digital Modes including CW, RTTY, Hellscriber, SSTV, FSK, Packet, PSK31 and etc... Satellites, Earth-Moon-Earth, and JT65 are challenging, there's Foxhunting and EmComm preparation, and you can try Trail Operating or Remote Operating (using an Apple Watch) ...the list goes on and on!] Don't be bored. Don't burn out. Try something different. Expand your horizons. Have fun!

**Stan Zawrotny K4SBZ** K4SBZ.Stan@Gmail.com

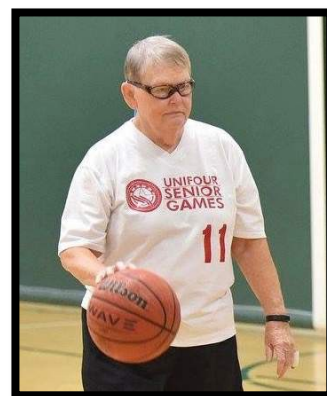
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Newsletter of the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society.



**Did You Know?** A great way to brush up on your skills in writing and transmitting an ARRL Radiogram is to send Christmas greetings to your "ham" friends. After writing your message, join one of the daily Traffic Nets and send your radiogram. Remember, during times of disaster, the National Traffic System is a reliable structure for rapid movement of messages. Don't wait until a disaster to learn to write and send messages. Participating in NTS is excellent training for amateur operators in handling written traffic and using directed nets."

**A Personal Point of Privilege:** Recently, Karl Bowman W4CHX NC SM commented to me that he had difficulty finding my name and callsign in the LARC Newsletter. Of course, he was referring to his need to give credit to LARC for something he published in his NC Section Newsletter. I told him I tried to rarely include my name or photo in the Newsletter.

However, I am taking a "point of privilege" to tell you how proud I am of the senior women with whom I play basketball. A couple weeks ago, our team (the Red Foxes) took 6 teams to the NC Senior Games State Finals Basketball Tournament at East Carolina University in Greenville NC. We returned with 2 gold (the first in our history), 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. We were referred to as dominating "senior women's basketball" in NC. So proud of these women – ages 50 to 80 – for their hard work! Get up and move – fitness, friends and fun!



## Weapons, Safety and Personal Responsibility

Statement of ARRL's Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, released March 31, 2014, supersedes any prior communication on the subject:



"Anyone seeking permission to carry weapons during an ARES deployment is to be advised that the ARRL cannot give such permission. Neither does the ARRL prohibit legal weapons, but the ARRL accepts no responsibility or liability for injury or damages to anyone as the result of possession of a weapon by an ARES volunteer. The responsibility or liability for injury or damages to anyone as a result of an individual's possession of a weapon remains with the individual. ARES volunteers must obey all federal, state, and local laws while on deployment. When supporting a served agency, ARES volunteers must also adhere to the policies of the served agency. The ARRL does not expect volunteers to participate in a dangerous activity or to place themselves in what they perceive to be a dangerous or unsafe environment. Volunteers should avoid or cease participating in any ARRL activity or deployment under circumstances which make them uncomfortable."



## FCW Hosts Holiday Open House

Foothills Community Workshop will host an Open House on Friday, December 11, 5-10PM and Saturday, December 12, 10AM-6PM. Visitors are welcome anytime, however, members make a special effort to highlight their activities at the Open House.

Come and take a tour of the facility, see demonstrations of some very unique pieces of equipment, participate in crafting a few items, enjoy the food, meet the members and get a special deal on membership.

The model railroad, CNC routers, 3D printer, amateur radio station K4FCW, robots, and laser cutter will be operating. The new Science and Stagecraft areas will be open.

FCW is a 501(c)(3) Hacker space/Maker space located in Granite Falls, and includes a Machine Shop, Woodworking Shop, Electronics Shop, Ham Radio Station, Stagecraft Shop, Science Lab, Classroom, Kitchen, Library, Vintage Computer Museum, 3D printer and Laser cutter to allow persons to learn skills and build projects.

Directions and contact information can be found at the website:  
<http://foothillscommunityworkshop.org>

Fun for the whole family – it's free and open to the public.





## From The October Meeting

**Attendees.** Tanner KK4SZI, Josh N4JDE, Phillip KG4BCC, Ro K4HRM, Scott KC4SWL, Shawn KI4ZKP, David K3DW, James N4NIN, Susan N4OJN, Ken Fair N9PWB and wife Rita, Gene K1AVE and wife Carol, Bob Benfield (guest), Rick Koger (guest)

**Constitution/Bylaws Review.** Tanner KK4SZI named Josh N4JDE and Ro K4HRM to perform review.

**Officers for 2016.** Nominations received Tanner KK4SZI President, Josh N4JDE Vice-President. Candidates for Secretary and Treasurer are pending.

**Repeater.** Work on repeater performed on September 11. Workday set for Oct 24.

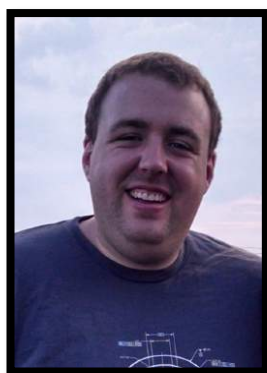
**Trailers – Communication & Antenna.** Workday set for Nov. 7 for wiring in communications trailer. Ro K4HRM volunteered to assemble a list of suggested equipment for the trailer to be circulated for additions and discussion at a future meeting. She also volunteered to draft proposal for storage of trailers at Sheriff's compound.

**ARES.** The NC ARRL ARES Western Branch Fall Meeting is scheduled for 9-12:30 on October 30 in Morganton. Those attending should contact Tom KA4HKK.

**Program.** Gene Rozea K1AVE presented the program on chasing RFI and how to build the tools needed to find it.



## 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 Ro Maddox K4HRM [hrmaddox@nettally.com](mailto:hrmaddox@nettally.com)**

**Suggestions and your articles are appreciated.**

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