January, 2021

LARC NEWS & VIEWS

N4LNR

Lenoir Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Events

Jan. LARC Meeting
Thu. Jan. 14, 7:00 pm
Webex Online Meeting
Show & Tell: What did you get for Christmas?

Contest University
Sat. Jan. 23 11am-3pm
Propagation Summit Webinar
https://
www.contestuniversity.com

Winter Field Day
Sat.-Sun. Jan. 30 - 31
https://www.winterfieldday.com/

Next LARC Meeting
Thu. Feb. 11, 7:00 pm
Webex Online Meeting

Beginning of LARC

Happy New Year Everyone! *Here's to a new year and a new decade, and may the future be brighter! Our last newsletter featured a reflection of how the year 2020 have been for the club. Now let us take a look at how the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club got started.*

A Bit of LARC History … How It All Began

By: Ro Maddox (K4HRM)

Several individuals, including *James Bradshaw (later N4NIN)* and his son, *Mark Bradshaw (later KJ4WY)*, were interested in getting ham tickets. *Gary Hartley K4HTV* attempted to get a class started at Caldwell Community College on at least two occasions and several students showed up for classes that ultimately did not form due to insufficient student interest.

Finally, in the fall of 1985, another effort to form a class was made by *Jim Rogers N4EUX SK*. The class was held even though only 8 students enrolled. The college did not pay Jim to teach since not enough students enrolled. Jim taught code and *Jerry Hedspeth N4BDI* handled Radio Theory. All 8 students got their licenses and later obtained their General from a class also taught by Jim and Jerry.

Jim organized a breakfast club that consisted mostly of his students, their relatives who were amateur operators, and any other local interested amateurs. The first meeting of the breakfast club was February 1, 1986 at the Burger King of Lenoir.

At the breakfast club meetings held March 1, 1986 at Tastee Freez in Lenoir, the group in attendance discussed forming a local amateur radio club. It was decided to have a special meeting March 17, 1986 for the purpose of organizing an amateur radio club. The first officers of the newly formed Lenoir Amateur Radio Club were: President *Jim Rogers N4EUX*, Vice President *Duane Ayers N4AVU*, Secretary-Treasurer *Susan Bradshaw KB4SFY* (at that time), Newsletter Editor *Jim Rogers N4EUX* and Assistant Newsletter Editor *Charlie Eaker KB4SGO* (at that time).

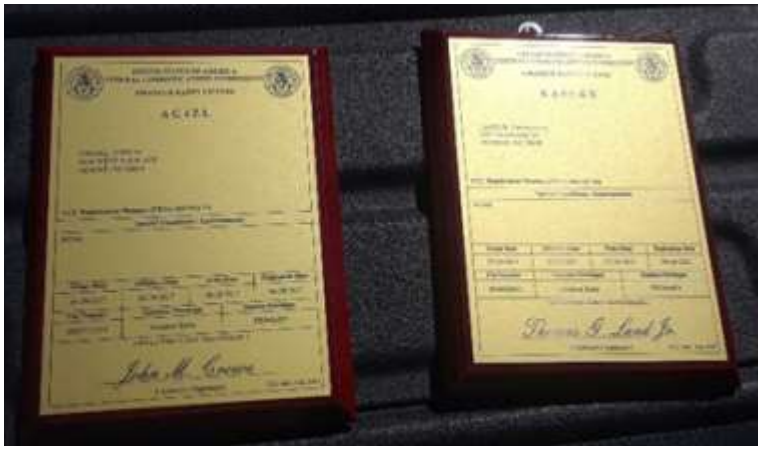
The Club continued to meet at Blackwelder Hospital for several months. . The breakfast club continued as a social gathering separate from the radio club. The breakfast club ended in August 1986 due to lack of attendance.

Back in the early days of the LARC members would occasionally go to Morganton to attend a meeting of the Western Piedmont Radio Club, and Western Piedmont members in turn would come to Lenoir and attend LARC meetings. The ham bands were very busy, and members interacted a lot with people outside the local area. At times, the Mt. Mitchell repeater (145.190) was so busy that it was almost impossible to find it not in use.

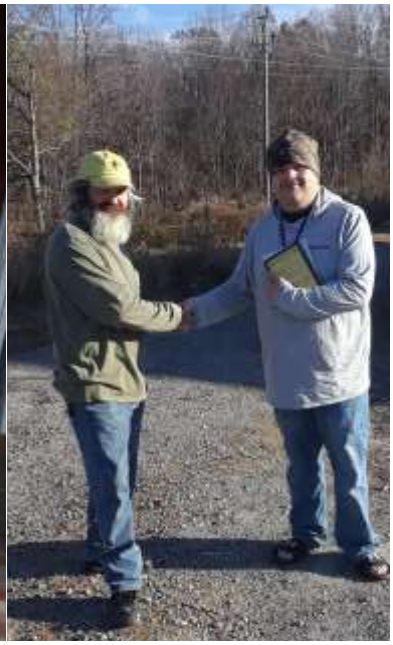
The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club members officially adopted the Club Constitution and By-Laws on August 13, 1986, and the rest is history.

Plaques

You may have seen these before.



They were in a couple of our past newsletters. What are they for?



These were plaques given to *Tom KA4HKK* and *John AG4ZL* in appreciation for their service as club officers. Both Tom and John previously served as club president.

The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club would like to recognize them and thank them for volunteering their time and service to the club. We know that it's not easy being club officers who hold a position of leadership. And the sentiment goes to all who serve the club in one position or another. The club would not be a club without its members and we appreciate each and every one. You make the club what it is.

LARC appreciates all the friends, family, and visitors as well. Thank you for your time and interest. You are always welcome for a visit. We are unable to meet in person as of now, but we can send you an online meeting invitation if you wish to join us in our monthly meetings.

Winter Field Day 2021

Each year on the last weekend of January, Amateur Radio operators participate in the event called Winter Field Day (WDF). Disasters are unpredictable and can strike when you least expect them. That's why emergency communications in the winter is just as important as any other time of the year. Winter Field Day give operators an opportunity to perform and practice their communication skills in a winter environment.

This year's WFD will be Jan. 30th-31st. The rules for WFD 2021 have not change from 2020 except for the Covid-19 Rules which applies ONLY to group/club scores. Here is what the Winter Field Day Association website states about the Covid-19 Rules:

These changes apply ONLY to groups who, due to the Pandemic, won't/can't be congregating to compete this year.

If your group wishes, you may have a "group/club" score tallied by having individual members fill in the "CLUB:" line in their Cabrillo log file. Individual members would send in a log under their own call sign (operating under their own privileges) with the name or call sign of the group noted on the "CLUB:" line.

If a simple call sign is used in the "CLUB" line, it cannot be one used in the contest or on another member's entry log (it'll confuse the scoring software).

If your group uses a club name, be sure to advise everyone in your group to use the exact same unique name. Choose wisely Grasshopper! There are dozens of clubs with the same abbreviation (as in ***LARC****, PARC, etc.), but it's unlikely there's more than one Livonia ARC, or Lincoln ARC.*

Club scores will be the aggregate of the individual members' scores regardless of how they operated, and will be posted as distinct "Club/Group" scores once tallied. Your individual members' logs and scores will be tallied and posted as well (each under their own call), the same as any other entrant.

It might be a good idea to have someone in your club/group collect members' logs and check them to ensure the logs are correct before sending them in. It'll save us time and your aggravation. "Club/Group" scores will likely be the last to be posted as we can't be sure all the individual logs are in until the actual log deadline.

Lenoir Amateur Radio Club will have the communication trailer set up at last year's WFD site. Or you may participate from home. We will follow social distancing rules for those who wish to operate in the communication trailer. The number of operators there at one time will be limited according to available space.

For more information on WFD rules go to: *https://www.winterfieldday.com/* and click on the "Rules" link.

Or go to this direct address for the 7-page pdf:

https://a2a53e2b-2285-4083-9cff-c99fe5ba1658.filesusr.com/ugd/1c7085_2445ed4b22f74e048fe9bd41c8dba103.pdf

FCC Considers Increasing VECs

The FCC wants your comments on whether the current 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) are sufficient to facilitate Volunteer Examiners (VEs) in administering amateur radio examinations. The Commission considers adding five more VECs. Here are the discussion points:

- Are the existing 14 VECs sufficient to coordinate the efforts of Volunteer Examiners in preparing and administering examinations for amateur radio operator licenses, or are additional VECs needed?
- What needs are currently being met, and which needs, if any, are not?
- If the FCC were to allow additional VECs, how many more would be needed to satisfy existing Amateur Radio Service license examination needs? (The FCC indicated that it will likely cap the number of additional VECs at five.)
- Given that VECs use a collaborative process to create examination question pools and volunteer examination administration protocols, would additional VECs enhance or hinder this process?
- How would increasing the number of VECs address the unmet needs, if any, of the amateur radio community, and what obstacles or complications could result from increasing the number of VECs?

Interested parties may file short comments on WT Docket No. 21-2 via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing Service (Express) at *https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express*.

Visit the FCC's "How to Comment on FCC Proceedings" page *https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/how-comment* for information on filing extended comments.

ARRL VEC is the largest of the 14 VECs in the US. More information may be found on the ARRL website *http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-invites-comments-on-expanding-the-number-of-volunteer-examiner-coordinators*.

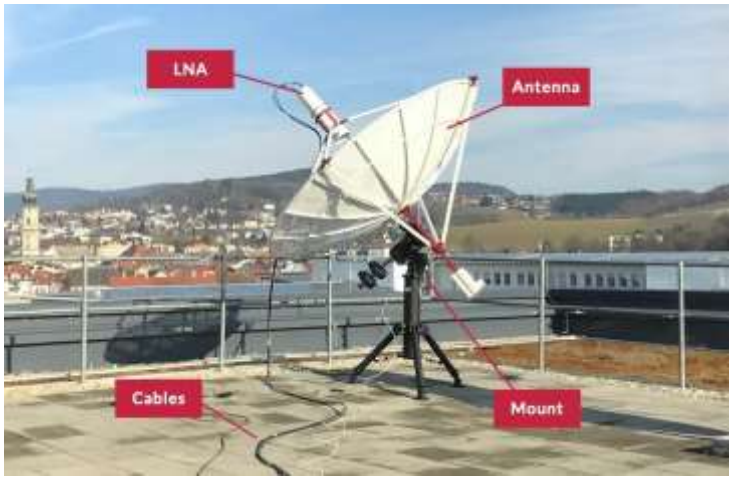
FM Signal From Jupiter’s moon

The spacecraft Juno sent to study Jupiter detected an FM radio signal from one of the planet’s moons. Juno was traveling across Jupiter's polar region at a speed of 111,847 mph where magnetic field lines can connect with the moon Ganymede. The signal lasted five seconds.

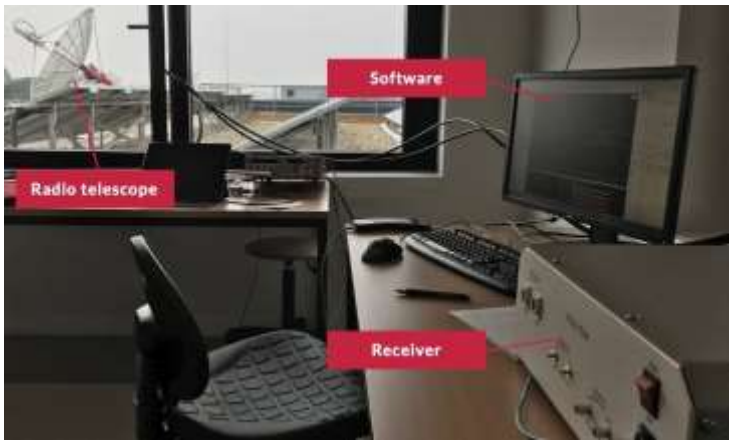
No, it was not from aliens. It was likely caused by electrons oscillating at a lower rate than their spin, amplifying radio waves rapidly. The process is known as cyclotron maser instability (CMI). The electrons that generate the radio signal can also cause auroras in the far-ultraviolet spectrum, a phenomenon also observed by the camera on Juno.

This find is a first-time detection from the moon Ganymede. But we had known about “decametric radio emission” since Jupiter’s radio emissions were discovered in 1955. Decametric radio waves have frequencies between 10 and 40 MHz, but never above 40 MHz.

A member of the Salt Lake Astronomical society once built an amateur radio telescope that could detect the electromagnetic radiation from Jupiter. A radio telescope is a device consisting of a radio receiver and an antenna that is used to detect radio-frequency radiation between wavelengths of about 10 meters (30 MHz) and 1 mm (300 GHz) coming from space. Radio astronomy is the use of a radio to tune into the universe. So, if you’re ever tired of talking to people on your radio, you can start listening to the stars.



A compact radio telescope for amateur radio astronomy: the antenna installed on the equatorial mount.



The control room where the receiver is connected to the external radio telescope, sends recorded data to the computer with the Radio Universe PRO software.

Jewell Cowick N4NJD SK

Jewel Elaine Cowick N4NJD, a founding member of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club, became a Silent Key on January 1, 2021. She was married to *Mike Cowick N4FAX* for 47 years.

Jewell was born in Caldwell County. She graduated from Gamewell-Collettsville High School and Appalachian State Teachers College in Boone, NC with a Bachelor of Elementary Education. Jewell taught 5th grade at Gamewell Elementary School for 34 years until 2007 when she retired.

Jewel acquired her Novice, Technician and General licenses in late 1985. It is rumored that she got a new fur coat for Christmas as a reward from hubby, Mike. Her first call sign was KB4PSW, which changed to N4NJD upon advancing to General. According to *James Bradshaw N4NIN*, who met Jewell in license class, she quickly was given the handle "No Jelly Doughnuts" when she received the new call sign. Jewel and Mike immediately entered the "digital world", acquiring a C-64 computer and make a homebrew CW interface with their Kenwood – quite a step up for hams in 1986!

The "Breakfast Club", the predecessor to Lenoir Amateur Radio Club, held its first meeting on February 1, 1986, and Jewel was among the 7 hams attending. At the next meeting of the "Breakfast Club", it was unanimously agreed that they would begin to organize an "amateur radio club." Jewel agreed to "chair" the committee to write the Constitution and By-Laws that would be the foundation for the new amateur radio club. The proposed Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by those present at the July 1986 meeting and the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club was officially borne. Thanks, Jewel for creating a great foundation for the future.

Those who knew Jewel commented about her love for her work, her students, and her always pleasant manner. Tom Land, the current Club Past President, said he remember Jewel for her constant smile, her laugh, and how she really listened when you talked.

The world needs more people like Jewel N4NJD who leave things a little better than they found them. The LARC family extends sincere wishes to Mike N4FAX in his time of great loss. RIP, N4NJD SK.

The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club will take a moment to remember Jewell during our monthly online meeting Thursday Jan. 14th.

Frequencies

146.625- 94.8
Club Repeater (N4LNR)

147.330+ 141.3
Hibriten Mountain Repeater
(KG4BCC)

145.535
Simplex

29.6
Simplex FM

28.374
Simplex USB

Nets

LARC Weekly Net
Tuesday, 7:00 PM
146.625 Minus PL 94.8
Alt. 147.330 Plus PL 141.3

Caldwell ARES Net
Sunday, 9:00 PM
147.330 Plus PL 141.3

DMR Digital Net
Tuesday, 8:00 PM
Lenoir Local DMR

Lenoir Amateur Radio Club, Inc

P O Box 3276

Lenoir, NC 28645

N4LNR.org

Serving Amateur Radio In Caldwell County Since 1986

Become a member or renew your membership

Pay your dues in person to the Treasurer or by mail

Full Member $15/year

Family Member $25/year

Ask about our Life Time memberships

Send comments concerning the LARC NEWSLETTER to

newsletter@n4lnr.com

Suggestions and your articles are appreciated. Tell us about yourself so we can feature you in our newsletter.

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