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N4LNR

News & Views

P. O. Box 3276
Lenoir, NC 28645
<http://N4LNR.ORG>



*Serving Amateur Radio
In Caldwell County*

Save the Date!

Next LARC Meeting
December 9, 2014
Tuesday, 6:00 PM
Captain's Galley Seafood
4345 Hickory Blvd
Granite Falls

LARC Weekly Net
Thursdays 9:00 PM
146.625 MHz Minus PL 94.8
Alt 147.330 MHz Plus PL 141.3

Caldwell ARES Net
Sundays 9:00 PM
147.330 MHz Plus PL 141.3

LARC Elects 2015 Officers

The LARC Officers for 2015 were elected by written ballot at the November meeting pursuant to the Club's Constitution. Tanner Greer KK4SZI was elected President. Tom Land KA4HKK was re-elected Vice-President. Josh Edwards N4JDE was elected Secretary and Phil Crump KG4BCC was re-elected Treasurer.

The members thanked the outgoing two-term President Ted Manuel KF4FLY and Secretary Irv Kanode W4IWK for their service to the Club.

LARC Eatin' Meetin' – December 9

Members, area Clubs, friends and others interested in amateur radio are invited to gather at Captain's Galley Seafood (4345 Hickory Blvd, Granite Falls) on Tuesday, December 9, at 6:00 PM, for the LARC Annual Eatin' Meetin'.

There will be a brief meeting followed by a Dirty Santa gift exchange. Bring a wrapped \$10 gift if you wish to participate in the Dirty Santa. Come say "Thank You" to the outgoing officers and offer condolences to the incoming ones. Attendance RSVP appreciated to ted.manuel@alexlee.com *See you there!*





A Final Message 2013-2014 President

After November's election results, we hear the term "Lame Duck" being mentioned. It's a funny phrase, but we understand it to mean the time a replaced politician's has in office until the newly elected politician takes over. It's during Lame Duck sessions that outgoing politicians are more at ease to make "bridge burning" decisions, especially if they don't intend of continuing their political career in the future. Thus, I find myself in that same Lame Duck time period, but perhaps we should call it the "Lame Pig" in honor of HAM radio?

I'm winding down my 2nd term as Club President and look forward our new officers taking effect with the New Year. I don't have anyone to pardon from past crimes, nor any controversial legislation I wish to pass, so I figure these last few weeks will pass uneventful and quietly. I suppose it's a time of reflection.

In the past two years, I've seen the Club become more dynamic and energetic. We've been active (whether individually or as a whole) in Club projects, training, contesting, public communication support, and public promotional events. Our Club image has been polished and professionally presented through our revamped webpage, the addition of a Facebook presence as well as the awesome monthly newsletter. There is a phrase that begins with "It takes a village..." and that is certainly true for a Club to make progress. Each member adds value, and I don't mean in paying their yearly dues, but in participating and applying their unique and individual knowledge. I love to have conversations with members who have an interest or idea they'd like to see develop and grow within the Club. Sure, some may be not as excited, but we should encourage and feed this excitement. Who knows, what started as something not so stellar may actually surprise you and become an interest? Through member's conversations I've been introduced to things like DMR, Raspberry Pi, RTL-SDR, ISS tracking, and other acronyms you'll just have to look up for yourself. In each case, amateur radio has become more interesting than I first thought it would be.

As my Final, I'd like to thank the 2014 Officers for their work. I'd also like to thank each member who has contributed their time, labor, and knowledge to the benefit of the Club. Our community is better on behalf of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club. I look forward to working with each of you (both members and new officers, and others in the local amateur radio community) in 2015. It's going to be an awesome year!

7 3 Ted KF4FLY



Did You Know? *Global 24* is a new shortwave station broadcasting 24 hours per day on 9395 kHz. For additional information and broadcast schedule, go to <http://global24radio.com>

2014 Lenoir Downtown Christmas Festival



Holiday music coupled with the aroma of spice, pumpkin, and cinnamon, greeted visitors as they strolled through Downtown Lenoir for the Lenoir Christmas Festival on Saturday, November 22. Santa, assisted by Conrad Crowdad and many talented singers and dancers, helped make the Christmas season feel official. The temperature was 21 degrees when Tom KA4HKK arrived to begin setting up the LARC booth and it never got out of the 40s. Everyone was bundled for wintertime.

The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club booth featured several facets of amateur radio -- demonstrating VHF and HF analog, SSTV, CW, Software Defined Radio, and ARRL Radiograms. Ted KL4FLY, Tom KA4HKK, Josh N4JDE and Ro K4HRM welcomed

Festival visitors to stop in and spend some time inquiring about Amateur Radio and our "Best Guest Award" goes to a VERY intelligent 6 year-old named Kenneth. He had seen our canopy set-up at the Fire and Life Safety Festival a couple of month's prior where he picked up some literature, apparently absorbed all that information and on this 2nd visit had precise questions for follow up. He even put 'ole Tom KA4HKK to the test by asking him to provide him the formula required for antenna design. Santa dropped by and used the HF radio to talk to the elves at the North Pole and remind them to pack special gifts for the folks of Caldwell County. We had a good day and look forward to doing it again next year!

Looking Back: 2014 in Review!

As I write this article, 2014 is coming to a close and the newly elected 2015 officers are busy brainstorming Club activities for the coming year. Now is a good time to look back to our founding purpose and review how we, as a Club, did in 2014.

The LARC organizers laid out a path in 1986 as the touchstone for the Club. Simply stated, the objectives set out in the Constitution are “to promote the interests of amateur radio and provide public service communications in Caldwell County, North Carolina during public events, emergencies and times of disaster.” Have we stayed true to these objectives in 2014 or did we stray from the path?

Officers, Membership, Communications

Officers. LARC elected a slate of wise men to shepherd the Club through 2014. Ted Manuel KF4FLY returned as President for a second term. Tom Land KA4HKK was elected to a full term as Vice President. Irv Kanode W4IWK was elected Secretary and Phil Crump KG4BCC Treasurer. The transition was smooth thanks to the help of outgoing Secretary Michelle Suddreth KD4YTU and Treasurer Warren Gruber WU3Y.

Membership. While total membership remains low, six new members joined during 2014—Josh N4JDE, Gene N1VE, Shawn KI4ZKP, Blair KM4DOQ, and Jeet KK4CCA.

Email. A master email list was developed to improve information distribution to members and other persons interested in amateur radio and is now managed through the Club website.

Newsletter. The Club Newsletter was revamped and expanded to provide information about members, activities, and projects as well as amateur radio interest articles.

Website. N4LNR.ORG became the new Club website with timely information about LARC and amateur radio.

Facebook. Anywhere in the world and at any time you can get current news and information for LARC and the area amateur radio community thanks to the creation of a Club Facebook page.



Club Projects



Communications Trailer. The communications trailer has been an ongoing Club project to convert a box trailer into a mobile communications center. The project began 2014 with sanding the bondo on the ceiling followed by priming and painting the ceiling. Work has continued to rebuild the back entry doors and to carpet the interior walls.



Antenna Trailer. The Club received a donation of a 42' pneumatic antenna for use with the communications trailer. After evaluating how it could best be safely transported and used, the Club secured a donated 8x16 trailer that would be renovated to secure the operating tower. The antenna trailer is nearing completion and will handle multiple antennas.



Repeater Upgrade. The Club repeater was initially installed in the late 80s with several enhancements made over the years. Tests had determined that the signal had deteriorated probably due to water intrusion into the connectors. The Club undertook to upgrade the repeater with a new antenna, cables and connectors. A tower climber was located and the work was completed mid-summer. Additional work is required to install an antenna mast and to locate recurring noise in the repeater. Plans are underway to complete this phase of the work in the spring.



Repeater Sitework. Every few years it is necessary to do a complete clearing of the Repeater site. Chain saws, weed eaters, and bees zipping thru debris as the LARC crew cleared the repeater site in preparation for the Repeater upgrade.



Public Service Events



Catawba Valley Hamfest. The Club was a co-sponsor of the Catawba Valley Hamfest held in April at the Morganton Fairgrounds. In addition to raffling off a Baofeng radio, the Club donated an ARRL gift certificate as an event door prize.

3rd Annual Hibriten Hill Run for the Children. The Club provided communications support for the charity event in early April. The run is 3.6 miles with 1,000 feet elevation gain up Hibriten Mountain. In addition to being a Club activity, this event served as a practice for the Caldwell ARES members and ICS protocols were used.



Rotary Cycle to Serve Challenge. In May, LARC provided communications for this bicycle race that gave participants their choice of 25 miles, 40 miles or 62.25 miles, entirely within Caldwell County. This ride allowed the Club to test both the 147.330 and 146.625 repeaters from the County EOC to almost all areas of the County.



NC Blackberry Festival. In Caldwell County, blackberries are a part of every day live! The annual Festival brings thousands of visitors to Downtown Lenoir and LARC sponsored a booth featuring amateur radio. In addition to educational materials, the Club operated VHF and HF stations as well as DMR.



2014 Fire & Life Safety Festival. September found LARC hosting a booth at the annual Fire & Life Safety Festival held at Caldwell County Community College. The Club demonstrated an operating radio station to visitors to the booth.



2014 Lenoir Downtown Christmas Festival.

Celebrating the start of the holiday season in Downtown Lenoir, LARC welcomed visitors to the Club booth. Santa even had a try at contacting the North Pole, as demonstrations of VHF, HF, digital and SDR were offered.

Emergency Preparedness & Training

ARRL ARES. Caldwell ARES began holding regular quarterly meetings following the monthly LARC meetings. Meeting topics covered goals of the Western Branch of ARRL ARES, development of the Caldwell ARES emergency action plan, AUXCOM,

License Exams. LARC partnered with the Foothills Community Workshop for amateur radio license classes and VE license exams. FCW held quarterly classes and exams during 2014.



CERT. Caldwell County Emergency Management kicked off its 2014 CERT Training with FEMA IS-200.B: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents. Followed by classes on CPR, Food Preparation for the Masses (including feeding 80-100 people the dinner meal), First Aid Training, Disaster Triage, and Utility Shut-Off and Fire Extinguisher. Attending for the LARC CERT Team were Irv W4IWK, Tom KA4HKK, Ro K4HRM, Gene K1AVE and Tanner KK4SZI.



NC Emergency Management Statewide Hurricane Exercise. Hurricane Tiawana took aim at the GA-FL coast pushing tropical force winds and heavy rain into the Carolinas. This scenario in April, activated the Caldwell ARES group to support Caldwell County Emergency Management testing communications capability on HF, VHF and Winlink/Winmor from the County EOC. A great learning experience at the new EOC.

HELP Disaster Mobilization Exercise. In April, HELP, a non-profit disaster management group based in Houston TX held an exercise to test their ability to mobilize resources, transport those resources to a disaster, and be operational within a benchmark time. Caldwell ARES provided communications support as part of the exercise to test emergency communications to manage and track volunteers working on projects within the disaster area.



Field Day 2014. The biggest weekend of the year for amateur radio found LARC operating from Redwood Park in Hudson. Antenna farming, Station building, CQ N4LNR, Food, and Friends!



Tour of Caldwell County EOC & 911 Center. LARC members got the opportunity to tour the new County EOC and the 911 Dispatch Center in August.



Googlefest 2014. Google hosted an event that featured the latest equipment and software available to be used in emergency management. LARC became a non-profit partner with Google and immediately the Club had access to all the Google array of products as well as many free/additional perks, such as access to \$10,000 worth of AdWord search attention and additional free storage in the "cloud."



Western Branch ARES/AUXCOM Fall Meeting. LARC participated in the Western Branch meeting held Morganton in October. In addition to reviewing the goals of ARES/AUXCOM in NC, those in attendance received training on the operation and use of the VIPER radios presented by trainers from the NC State Highway Patrol.



You would never know that from the ambitious undertaking of 2014 that the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club is a small club. Thanks to good leadership and motivated members, the Club had made great strides in 2014 to increase its community support and to promote amateur radio as a lifelong hobby. I think the founding members of LARC would be proud to see the dedication of its members to continue the Club's original objectives.

Note: *The Editor For A Final column will not appear in this issue; however, in its stead are my thoughts as I completed the look back at 2014 and having just had a long conversation with the newly elected president of one of the amateur radio clubs that I belonged to in Florida.*

A Club is not ONE person. It takes all its members to succeed. I was reminded of this fact this year when the Club in Florida that I belonged to experienced the sudden death of the Club President who had held that position for almost 20 years. I had experienced the ire of the Club when, at the second meeting I attended, I tried to get "term limits" put in the Club Constitution as a means to broaden member involvement. They revered the long-time president and would not consider my suggestion. I was a "newbie" to amateur radio! What did I know? The Club's membership exceeded 60 members with about 30 being considered "active," meaning they participated in most emergency exercises and public service events. The "active" members seemed to disappear and the "officers" struggled to figure out the ongoing activities of the Club. The Club supported 5 area repeaters and soon they were going down. The Club had ongoing agreements to provide communications for community activities that they could no longer fulfill. The Vice President struggled to keep the Club afloat while admitting he was totally unaware of the ongoing work the long-time president had been doing to support the Club. Misfortune continued with the death of 5 of the "active" members within a short few months. Several members of the "core" just lost the heart to help get the Club back on its feet. Even in the darkest times, the sun does come up the next morning. This past month, new officers were elected and the Club is working to regain its feet. It has been a hard struggle but the changes that the new leadership is implementing will make it a stronger, more inclusive Club as it moves forward.

LARC limits its President terms to no more than 2 contiguous terms. This limiting spreads the knowledge base for the Club and doesn't "overwork" any one individual with what sometimes seems like thankless tasks. But officers are no more a Club than ONE person. It still takes all the members working together to succeed.

Ever think about why you should be a member of LARC? I can name at least 10 almost without thinking. Public service, Networking, Promoting Awareness, Assistance, Volunteer, Brotherhood, Enrichment, Exposure, Growth, Social.

Club participation is the best way to plug into the amateur radio hobby and to make a positive impact on the greater community. LARC can help you form relationships with peers who share the broad spectrum of radio interests, give you an opportunity to become a leader or contribute as a team member, raise awareness of the importance of amateur radio in the community, and make a lasting impact during emergencies.

Club participation can provide a creative outlet to share what you have learned in the hobby or to learn from others who have “been there, done that.” Sticking with LARC for multiple years can provide a rewarding experience as you watch the Club and its members grow, and help shape the organization with your individual vision. Membership in LARC is NOT a requirement to attend meetings, programs, and events. If you are not a “joiner,” you are still welcome to participate in every way (except you can’t vote on Club matters).

Your involvement with LARC is what you make of it. While personal fulfillment is the principle aim, engaging in the amateur radio hobby can lead to you acquiring substantial skill, knowledge, and experience. Being a part of LARC is a natural stage for sharing this skill, knowledge, and experience by participating in programs and events that focus on the various aspects of amateur radio. Are you doing your part? Get involved with LARC, you will be surprised how much you can contribute and learn while enjoying your hobby!

December is YOTA Month

The whole month of December several countries will become active with Youngsters On The Air (YOTA) activity planned from stations using the YOTA suffix for their callsign. The idea for this is to break the ice for some youngsters and take the microphone in the hand. As seen over the years the YOTA group is growing fast and every week more youngsters are asking to participate. Let us all make YOTA popular in our hobby and let us all help to put youngsters on the HAM radio train!

Several December YOTA Month Awards are available starting with working as few as ten YOTA stations.

Some of the callsigns your might find will be 5L2YOTA, 9A0YOTA, 9A14YOTA, A43YOTA, A82YOTA, DX0YOTA, EA8URE/YOTA, EI0YOTA, ES0YOTA, G14YOTA, GD14YOTA, GI14YOTA, GM14YOTA, GW14YOTA, HF0YOTA, II2YOTA, II9YOTA, J62YOTA, LX4YOTA, LY5YOTA, OD5RI/YOTA, OE3YOTA, OE14YOTA, OH2YOTA, OM9YOTA, OM14YOTA, ON4YOTA, PA6YOTA, PD6YOTA, S514YOTA, SH9YOTA, SU8YOTA, TU5YOTA, YO0YOTA and ZS9YOTA. Complete details can be found at <http://www.ham-yota.com>

New Propagation Tool

See up-to-the-minute band conditions at <http://www.bandconditions.com>

The purpose of this experimental website is to provide 24/7/365 actual (real time) band condition information for contesters interested in increasing their scores. It will also benefit other radio amateurs to determine band conditions for nets and casual contacts. This band condition information is not based on software modeling or satellite-based readings. It is based on a new ionospheric sounding method called “HF Ionospheric Interferometry” which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA. Go to www.bandconditions.com the next time you’re hunting for DX and try it out for yourself.



From The November Meeting...

Attendees. Ted KF4FLY, Tom KA4HKK, Irv W4IWK, Tanner KK4SZI, Michelle KD4YTU, Josh N4JDE, Susan N4OJN, James N4NIN, Jeet KK4CCA, Phil KG4BCC, Scott KC4SWL, Ro K4HRM, Will W4BY

Communications Trailer. Need to get back to work on this trailer

Antenna Trailer. Ready for antennas, cables, and storage boxes.

Repeater Upgrade. Looking for tower climber, checking with area clubs.

Public Service. Tom KA4HKK reported that plan at the Lenoir Downtown Christmas Festival Nov 22 is to do some ARRL Traffic Holiday greetings, operate digital HF and show ham radio videos.

Training. VE exams on Nov 22 at Foothills Community Workshop.

Election of 2015 Officers. Members elected by written ballot President Tanner Greer, Vice President Tom Land, Secretary Josh Edwards, Treasurer Phil Crump.

Holiday Meeting: Members voted to have the December meeting at Captain's Galley, Granite Falls including a \$10 Dirty Santa gift exchange.

Future Meeting. Discussed having informational presentations prior to business meetings next year with some hands-on demonstrations.



FCW Holds Christmas Open House

The Foothills Community Workshop will hold its Christmas Open House on Friday, Dec 5 from 5-9 PM and Saturday, Dec 6, from 10AM to 6PM. While FCW welcomes visitors any time, the Open Houses are semi-annual events where the members make a special effort to show off the Workshops various areas to visitors. This year, the railroad will be operating, sample projects will be on display, the electronics and K4FCW ham radio station will have activities, and there will be demonstrations of the CNC routers, 3D printer, and laser cutter.

Highlights include food, tours, demonstrations, games, activities, visit the newly acquired additional work area, and active projects.

Several items designed and built at FCW will be on sale and there will be special deals for new members. This event is free and open to the public. Call (828) 351-HACK for more information.



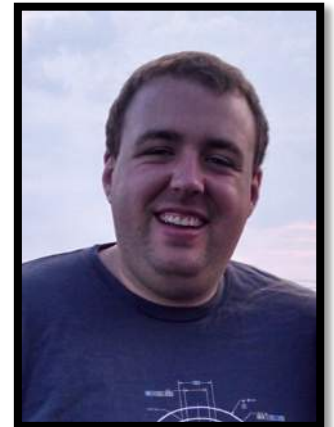
2014 Officers Pass The Gavel At December Meeting!



Ted
Manuel
President
KF4FLY



Tanner
Greer
President
KK4SZI



Tom Land
**Vice
President**
KA4HKK



Irv
Kanode
Secretary
W4IWK



Josh
Edwards
Secretary
N4JDE



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KG4BCC



Send comments concerning the LARC NEWSLETTER
to hrmaddox@nettally.com
Suggestions and your articles are appreciated.