

Ham Radio...

News & Views



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MERRY CHRISTMAS !

DECEMBER 1987

The Stark Incident

You remember the incident when the French Exocet missile plunged into the side of the U.S.S. Stark recently...when the ship nor the commander made not even the slightest move to execute evasive action? Well, they think they have discovered the reason. Seems the programmer that set up the computer-controlled defense system classified an incoming missile as being either "friendly" or "hostile". Wonder what made him think that a missile classified as "friendly" would behave any differently than one termed "hostile"???

Best Customer

And then there is the story of the bank that decided to honor its best customer, the one making the most transactions in a year. Turns out the "best" customer was one of its own employees who, though use of the computer, diverted a few cents here and there from customer transactions into his own account to the tune of \$70,000. Not bad for pocket change!

New Club Officers

The votes are in and the tallying is done. We now have a brand new set of officers to lead Lenoir Amateur Radio Club for the year of 1988. With the last absentee ballot received that constituted a quorum to elect new officers, the following results were obtained:

President: Mike Cowick, N4FAX
Vice-Pres: Duane Ayers, N4AVU
Sec-Treas: Jean Ayers, N4OJL
News Editor: Jim Rogers, N4EUX

Let's all lend our support to these new officers who will assume their club positions and duties beginning Jan 1, 1988.

Season's Greetings

Ah, it's that time again. Time for our hearts to turn to other things beside the daily grind and routine. Time for remembering friends and being with family. Time for gift-giving and great meals and time to pause as we look back over the past year and prepare for the new one. It is our hope that you and your family will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! May all your stockings be filled with nice shiny new ham equipment on Christmas Day!

Best of 73, Jim, Ruby & Family

The President's Corner

Although Lenoir Amateur Radio Club is still a fledgling organization, we are a somewhat larger club than last year and more adept in areas of ham radio that are important to us as individuals as well as those to the club. Some important basic needs of our organization have still not been met, but these things will come with time and growth. I have enjoyed being a part of LARC and, though we may be lacking some of the capabilities of older and larger clubs, the fellowship available within our group is excellent. I am looking forward to next year with LARC under the leadership of the officers who have now been elected due to arrival of a sufficient number of absentee ballots.

Due to some job responsibilities, I will not be in Lenoir until late on our December meeting date. Though I cannot be with you for the meeting, I wish everyone well and hope that you have an enjoyable meeting as well as a happy, safe, and joyous holiday season. I also hope that Santa brings you at least some of the ham-related goodies you've wished for.

James, N4NIN
President

RAMBLIN 'ROUND:

Our meetings seem to get better and bigger. Last month's meeting was well attended and it seemed as if we got a lot accomplished and got in a lot of fellowship to boot. Your support in turning out for last month's meeting, especially, was appreciated to help elect officers for the coming year. Please keep it up gang...it's the only way our club will strengthen and g--r--o--w !!

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While we are looking forward to our new club officers to take their positions starting Jan 1st, leave us not forget to thank those that have served well this past year. It is only through accepting your nominations and shouldering responsibilities that has got us where we are today. Each years' officers and club members carry the club one step further to becoming what a well-run club should be - one that works well in harmony with a specific goal in mind and all the while enjoying one another's company in a spirit of serving not only ourselves, but the public as well. Your part is appreciated...THANKS GANG!

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Any of you out there self-styled reporters?? I sure am in need of someone to pass info to me for inclusion in the monthly newsletters. For one thing, when I get tied up with homework and assignments, I must defer and then I don't get much time to monitor the repeater frequency or chat much on the phone. Then when it comes time to do the newsletter, I am in a jam and the net result is a not-to-newsy newsletter. So if you hear a juicy tidbit of information, whether you think I already know it or not, please let me know! This will give more substance to the newsletter, your newsletter, and keep it from getting stale. Thanks!

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We had a pretty good turnout on the net last Wednesday night. We even had a stranger or two to check in. Word is getting around! And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Tom, KA4HKK, for volunteering his time and expertise in spearheading this function. Tom...you're doing a great job! And thanks once again to the repeater owners, Bud, KN4K; Gary, K4HTV; and Duane, N4AVU, for allowing us to use the repeater in this fashion. In fact, thanks for the routine use of the repeater too!!

HAPPENINGS/TIDBITS:

The Greensboro Hamfest was particularly productive for two of our newly licensed Novices and for one who has had his license for quite some time. Upgrading to Technician are:

Al Huffman, KB4DXL
Chris Huffman, KC4BSF
Alex Holden, KC4BSD

Al has been around and on the bands for several years, enjoying the Novice frequencies and with the new band allocations for Novices, 220 Mhz FM. But I think he was spurred on to upgrade by his XYL (he didn't want her to outrank him! Hi Hi). At any rate, the Huffmans have both been on 147.33 since Greensboro and it is good to hear them on with their brand new handie talkie (ICOM). Alex also has a new handie talkie (ICOM also I believe), but I have yet to hear him on the repeater (he must be gathering up speed!). Alex is itching to get his General however, since he wants to sally forth maritime mobile on his sea-going sailboat. So listen for a weak signal from him on the HF bands soon.

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We are pleased to have Alex, KC4BSD (Interim), join the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club last month. We are on the grow. I haven't counted recently, but I believe our total membership, including all family memberships, is close to 34 or 35. This number represents approximately 18 to 20 different households. Not bad for a new club such as ours. But the best gets better...as we grow, so do the activities and the social functions. Which in turn begets new members and prospects for licenses. I don't believe our meeting room could hold all our members, should all come to a meeting at one time...but it sure would be fun to find out! How about it you guys and gals that haven't been to a meeting recently - come show us your face and renew acquaintances. Hi.

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I didn't get to go to the Greensboro Fest, first one I have missed in years. It is important to me 'cause it is usually the last one of the year and the next one I attend is usually Charlotte in March. That in itself is a long time between, but when I miss the Greensboro job, then it is really long. I start having withdrawal symptoms... So if I start acting strange (stranger than usual, that is), have pity on me. Hi.

NOTICES/COMING EVENTS:

It, somehow, got turned around that we would be meeting on December 2nd and, hence, the drawing for our fund-raising project was placed on the same day and the tickets so prepared.

But in fact, the next meeting is DECEMBER 1st (Tuesday) and the drawing will be held at that time (but the winner won't be notified until the next day, Dec 2nd). I don't think this inconvenienced anyone, but there was a little confusion at the last meeting over it.

Incidentally, the December meeting (DEC 1st, Tuesday) is an 'Eatin' Meetin'', as has been our custom the last 2 - 3 years. So the meeting will be at WESTERN SIZZLIN STEAK HOUSE at 7 PM. We will eat first, and then hold the meeting and the drawing afterwards. So please be on time, or you may be eating by yourself. Hi.

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The next major hamfest within 125 miles of Lenoir for the months of December and January are:

December.....None

January.....None

(Elkin in February will be next hamfest close to us)

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With the influx of some recent new members, and with the new year fast approaching, it might be noted here that Club membership dues are due and payable on or after January 1, 1988 for the coming year. Dues are \$15.00 for family membership, \$10.00 for individual membership, or \$5.00 for associate membership (includes all priveledges of family or individual type membership with the exception of voting priveledges or holding club officer positions). Of course, as part of your dues, you get the newsletter each month (postage alone represents about \$2.42 per year per household at present postal rates, which are soon to increase to .25 for first class).

Also, please remember to take care of your dues between Jan 1st and March 31st since, with the latest amendment to the By-Laws, the time has been cut from six month in arrears to three months before being dropped from membership. But don't worry if you forget it - you will be reminded a couple of more times before that happens. Hi.

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 * REMINDERS: NEXT LARC NET - WED., DEC 30TH @ 9:30 PM *
 * NEXT MEETING - TUE., DEC 1ST @ 7:00 PM *
 * (Western Sizzlin !)
 *
 * DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR TICKET STUBS FOR THE *
 * DRAWING !!!! IF YOU CAN'T COME TO THE MEETING- *
 * DRAWING, SEND THEM BY SOMEONE...WE MUST HAVE THEM *
 * TO ALLOW YOUR DONORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DRAWING! *
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FACT FORUM:

"The tyrannosaur approached the practical limits for bipedality. The full length of its body, from snout to tail tip, was probably fifty feet. Its four-foot-long head was carried some nineteen feet above the ground. its thighs were enormous, but its forelegs were tiny, not much longer than a man's, and far too short to be of any use. The couldn't even reach the mouth."

(Reprinted from ISAAC ASIMOV'S BOOK OF FACTS. New York: Bell Publishing Company, 1979. p. 136).

The monthly recipe section will not be printed this month, due to my not having had time to try any new recipes since last month. This is another area that member input would be much appreciated, that is, if you want to continue the recipe section. I don't know, since I haven't had any comments on it one way or the other.

Shortly after the first of the year, I plan to include in one of the newsletters a questionnaire on the various headings and content of the newsletter. It will be your chance to comment whether you would like to see a particular section dropped, expanded, changed, added, or what-have-you. Watch for it and please respond - it will be a great help to give you a better newsletter. Thanks.

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S

A N D A

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R !!

