



News and Views

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GENERAL

Greetings to all! This will be the first newsletter published under the "resurrection" and reorganization of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club of Lenoir, North Carolina. As such, the monthly newsletter will begin anew with a brand new volume and numbering scheme starting with this, the June 2004 issue of the *News and Views*. The format of this newsletter, furnished in both Microsoft Word (.doc) and Adobe Acrobat (.pdf), is temporary in nature until such time that a suitable newsletter authoring program is settled upon after evaluating several such programs. Some of the information contained herein will be a "repeat" from a prior email that was sent to all members a few days ago...sorry about that, but it was felt that the email version needed to be placed in this present (albeit temporary) format to kick off the new Newsletter. The Newsletter will be emailed to members and any complimentary recipients on or about the 5th day of each month.

HAPPENINGS

On May 25, 2004, several area hams attended a "resurrection/revitalization" meeting of the Lenoir ARC at the Caldwell County Public Library. Altogether, there were 12 people present...with 10 of those 12 "joining/rejoining" the club by the singular act of remitting the club membership dues for 2004.

Present at the meeting: Tom Land, KA4HKK; Scott Livingston, KC4SWL; Rick Tilton, N4WYK; Floyd Key, KF4PJJ; Jerry Gragg, KF4PJL; Jim Rogers, N4EUX; Ruby Rogers, KA4CLI; Bill Barr, KG4GSV; Tom Taylor, KC4QPR; Susan Bradshaw, N4OJN; James Bradshaw, N4NIN; and Gary Suddreth, KD4YTU.

Many subjects were briefly discussed, including the upcoming Bridge-to-Bridge Bike Ride, club involvement in ARES with a deeper commitment to public service, the club repeater status, the club net, and the monthly meeting times/dates to name a few. It appears that we, as members, have our job cut out for us! Hi Hi. In reference to the monthly meeting date, it was voted upon and established that the regularly scheduled meeting would be the second Thursday of each month at the Caldwell County Public Library (as available!).

During the meeting, an election of officers to serve through December 31, 2004, was conducted. The results of that election:

TOM LAND, KA4HKK - PRESIDENT

RICK TILTON, N4WYK - VICE-PRESIDENT (Includes Program Chairman duties)

SUSAN BRADSHAW, N4OJN - SECRETARY-TREASURER

JIM ROGERS, N4EUX - NEWSLETTER EDITOR (Includes newsletter, software, and website duties)

During the meeting, Tom, KA4HKK, volunteered to serve as the Bridge-to-Bridge Bike Ride Committee chairperson. In addition, one committee chairperson (James Bradshaw, N4NIN) was appointed - that being of the Repeater Committee. Shortly, James will be appointing 2 additional Repeater Committee members to assist him in this position. Note: James is the trustee of the club Repeater which signs with N4NIN callsign. The repeater and its site, appears to need some work to get it back up and running and James will be spearheading that project. More on this later...

UPCOMING EVENTS

The next scheduled meeting of the LARC is set for June 8th (Tuesday), 7 PM, at the County Library. Mark your calendars! The meeting time/date as discussed at the meeting (June 10th, Thursday) was not available for reservation at the County Library...hence, the change. The meetings for July and August, however, are set for the 2nd Thursdays for those months..as discussed at the meeting.

PROJECTS

Immediate club projects include: A more graphical newsletter format (as previously mentioned)! A Microsoft Access Application Program (membership database, treasury information, meeting minutes, member photos, etc.) to aid club officers in the performance of their duties is nearing completion! These two projects, for the most part, will fall under the auspices of the Newsletter Editor. Officers Only: To obtain the software application program (on CD-ROM) previously described, please request from the Newsletter Editor.

Field Day! This was mentioned during the meeting, but to date no firm plans have been made to participate in this ARRL-sponsored event.

Intermediate projects: Revive the club repeater and rebuilding of the club repeater building/enclosure! Review and update our existing Constitution and By-Laws!

Long-Range projects: Our very own Website (Gary, KD4YTU, has offered to *host* such a website on his own server)!

(Some of these may be upgraded/downgraded (pushed into different time-oriented slots due to time constraints and/or needs of the club and those that will be involved in the various projects).

RAMBLING 'ROUND

This space will be used for *your contributions* to the monthly Newsletter! It can be for comments/news/notices/events inside or outside the club and/or other items contributed by members that are of general interest to the members. Please email the Newsletter

Editor at (bozo38@charter.net) by the 1st of the month for incorporation into the next scheduled newsletter...usually around the 5th of the month. Contributions are welcome !!!

Gary, KD4YTU, reminds us that we have an official callsign for the club...KF4WOD. In the past, we have used this callsign at Field Day and other club events.

EDITORIAL

Well folks, it appears that the Lenoir ARC has come full circle since its' inception back in April of 1986. Yep...we have been around that long! The meager beginnings at the Taste-Freezer Restaurant on Morganton Blvd (ca. February 1986) as a "social gathering" for Saturday morning breakfast attendees saw us quickly move into a more cohesive group, realizing that the number attending could easily become the core to form the now present LARC.

A committee, at one of the later social gatherings, was appointed to draft a Constitution and a set of ByLaws that, after being modified and later ratified by the group, constituted us as the Lenoir ARC. For the most part, our present Constitution and ByLaws has stood the test of time...as very few changes have been necessary and/or made to them over the past 18 years!

Being a proclaimed *progressive* club from it's earliest beginnings, the Lenoir ARC has dedicated itself to *public service* by embracing bold projects such as a club repeater (callsign N4NIN), support for the yearly Bridge-to-Bridge Bike Ride, Field Day participation, and the total embodiment of the ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service).

But, alas, a very few short years ago, membership began slipping, net participation saw new lows, and eventually not enough members attended the monthly meetings to even garner a quorum to vote on club issues!! This is sad! I suppose that some of this *laissez-faire* attitude by many members was an overall result of the advent of the Internet and to an even greater extent – the cellphone. Personal communications facilitated by these two latter mediums seemed to subjugate ham radio in general, with ham radio becoming less important to many individuals...which ultimately led to an impact on local and area clubs specifically (with unexpected and far-reaching outcomes).

I believe the Lenoir ARC fell victim to just such a set of circumstances, with only 1-3 members showing up for the monthly meetings and the monthly meetings soon ceasing altogether. The only remnants of the club was the weekly calling of the CARES Net on Sunday nights by Gary, KD4YTU (Gary is the current ARES E.C. -Emergency Coordinator for Caldwell County). I'm quite sure that the poor checkin activity to the Net were quite disheartening to Gary...but he persevered and continued the net despite the poor results of net member and club member checkins. Thanks Gary!

But now, with the first meeting designed to revive and reconstitute the *hibernating* Lenoir Amateur Radio Club held on May 25, 2004, with 10 dues-paying members present, we have an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to our club, to our county through a renewed dedication to public service, and to just plain 'ole *comraderie* by club members. In doing so, we can become the legendary *Phoenix*...and rise from our own ashes!

Yes, we have come full-circle...but it is up to *US*, as individuals, to determine what we want to do with our revitalized club in the future. It's usefulness and its' growth rests firmly upon our individual shoulders! What do we want to do with it??

-Ed

SWAPSHOP

Currently, there are no swapshop items listed..but you are invited to list your FOR SALE, FOR SWAP, or FOR FREE items in this section. Simply send an email, no later than the 1st of the month, to the newsletter editor ([bozo38@ charter.net](mailto:bozo38@charter.net)) describing your items and they will be incorporated in the next newsletter due out on or about the 5th of the month. If your item is a FOR SALE item, please indicate your PRICE...along your email address, and/or contact phone number, and with the item' s full description! Thanks.

PHOTOS/PARTING SHOTS

These photos were taken during the initial May 25, 2004 meeting. I am not shown..as I was taking the pictures. Hi. -Ed

