



N4LNR

LOOK
Trailers.com
**LENOIR AMATEUR
RADIO CLUB**

DECEMBER 2018

News & Views

P. O. Box 3276

Lenoir, NC

Serving Amateur Radio

In Caldwell County

Since 1986

Coming Events

Dec 13: Christmas
Eatin' Meetin' & Dirty
Santa, Mayflower
Restaurant, Lenoir

Jan 26-27: Winter Field
Day, Location TBA,
Volunteers Needed

LARC Annual Eatin' Meetin'

December 13 ~ Mayflower Restaurant

Come all ye hams to the annual LARC Eatin' Meetin' to be held at 6:00 pm, Thursday, December 13 at the Mayflower Seafood, 303 Blowing Rock Blvd, Lenoir. No program, no business, just a great meal (Dutch, of course) and fun with Dirty Santa. Members, non-members, friends of members, a little interest in amateur radio – all are invited. Please RSVP to KA4HKK@arrl.net. Bring a \$10 wrapped gift if you wish to play along with a Dirty Santa. See you there!

LARC Elects 2019 Officers

Club officers for 2019 were elected at the November meeting. Tom Land KA4HKK (a Club charter member) was elected President. Josh Edwards N4JDE was elected Vice President. Both Tom and Josh have served in these roles in the past. Incumbents Frank Gordon KN4ACU, Secretary, and Dick Blumenstein K0CAT, Treasurer, were re-elected for a second term.

Come to the Annual Eatin' Meetin' and welcome the 2019 Officers, give them your congratulations or condolences, and give them your support in 2019 to make LARC a great club!

Next LARC Meeting:
Thursday, Jan 10, 7:00 PM
Gamewell Fire Dept.
2806 Morganton Blvd SW
Lenoir

LARC Weekly Net:
Friday, 9:00 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



Disasters don't just happen in warm weather!

Plans are underway for Winter Field Day. It's a great time to get out in winter weather and test your equipment and skills. Volunteers needed. If you wish to participate, contact John AG4ZL ag4zl@att.net

Technician License Class in January

Gary K3OS will conduct a Technician License Class in January at the Foothills Community Workshop. Classes will be held as follows: Intro to Ham Radio & Class: Saturday, Jan 5, 10:30 am. Class #1: Saturday, Jan 12, 9:30 am - 12 noon. Class #2: Saturday, Jan 19, 9:30 am - 12 noon. Class #3: Sunday, Jan 27, 2:00-4:30 pm. Exam: Saturday, Feb 2 10 am. If interested in attending or know someone who is, contact Gary at garysch69@gmail.com.

FEMA Releases 2018 National Preparedness Report

FEMA has released the [2018 National Preparedness Report](#). In its seventh year, this report summarizes the nation's progress toward becoming a more secure and resilient nation. The report highlights lessons learned from previous responses, along with findings from preparedness activities. The events and activities captured in the report allow responders and emergency managers throughout the nation to better understand capabilities, identify shortfalls, and build capacity in preparation for future large-scale and catastrophic incidents.

Upcoming Hamfests: Mark Your Calendar

January 5: Winston-Salem FirstFest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club, Winston-Salem, NC
<http://W4NC.com>

March 8: North Carolina Section Convention/Charlotte Hamfest, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio Society, Concord, NC <http://charlottehamfest.org>

April 20: North Carolina State Convention/Raleigh Hamfest, Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC <http://rarsfest.org>

The Santa Net

For the 13th year, the 3916 Nets (The Rag Chew Crew, The Tailgaters, The Freewheelers) are underway with the **The Santa Net** on 3.916 MHz. Good girls and boys can talk to Santa Claus via amateur radio nightly at 7:30 PM (Central) nightly through Christmas Eve, Dec 24.

Holiday Gift Ideas for the Amateur Radio Operator

See the holiday gift ideas from Michael KB9VBR at <https://youtu.be/JCZoc9C2juY> for some great ideas!



Caldwell ARES/AUXCOMM



Lessons From The Field

Editor's Note: The following report was written by Dave Davis WA4WES, Leon County (FL) ARRL ARES EC, and reprinted here with his permission. I have known and worked emergency events, hurricanes, tornadoes and floods with most of the amateurs mentioned in this report for over 20 years as a ham. They are real heroes in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael, even though they were located over 100 miles from landfall, and I wanted to share their story. There are a lot of lessons to be learned from this incident, most notable is the loss of communications capability by the County EOCs and the State EOC and the commitment of local hams to fill the gap. Often at our local Caldwell ARES events, we talk of this possibility. It can happen here, too. Let's be prepared!

Hurricane Michael crashed ashore near Mexico City Beach with winds approaching category 4, about 130 miles per hour, on the afternoon/evening of October 10. It wreaked utter destruction on the beach town community and for an area about 50 miles wide and over 100 miles inland. Marianna and Chipley, although 70 miles from the coast were destroyed, and as of late November had still not gotten power and Internet service fully restore.

The storm was, in a way predictable, yet uncertain. Over the last twenty years or so, the National Weather Service and its Hurricane Prediction Center have gotten amazingly good at predicting the paths of tropical storms. Indeed, the cones of uncertainty about a storm's path have gotten narrower within five days of landfall. Michael was no exception. By early October, the storm was tracking across the Yucatan Peninsula and heading for Cuba. It was typical of many of the storms that develop in the September/October timeframe. It grew in the Caribbean Sea then moved north or northwestward into the Gulf of Mexico.

Michael initially looked like it was heading to the Mississippi/Alabama area of the Gulf of Mexico, but forecasters steadily moved its projected track eastward until it stalled around the Panama City/Mexico City Beach area. As the storm developed and moved north the cone of uncertainty wobbled east a bit then west, but essentially stayed put with Mexico City Beach in its cross hairs.

And there it remained making landfall just a little west of that town. Had it been a normal storm, it



would have brought winds around 100 mph, but it did not, and here is where the Hurricane Prediction Center's forecasts showed the greatest uncertainties. While it knew where the storm was going, it did not know with the same level of certainty what its strength would be at landfall.

The storm left Cuba as a category 1 hurricane but built as it moved north, and it was predicted to be a Category 3 when it made landfall on the Gulf Coast.

Yet, as it moved north the wind speeds showed no sign of lessening and early warnings suggested it had sustained winds of about 140 mph with gusts much higher.

So, with some disbelief we watched as Michael crashed ashore, as predicted, at the Mexico City Beach area with catastrophic wind speeds in the neighborhood of 140 mph. The destruction it wreaked was historic in its extremes, and memories of what happened to New Orleans during Hurricane Katrina came to mind.

Communications at all levels and all types were destroyed. Cell phone antennas, if not ripped off their towers, were knocked wildly out of alignment with other antennas. Commercial carriers lost phone signals for a large swath of the Big Bend and eastern Panhandle of Florida extending northward well into Georgia. Verizon, which had done outstanding service during Hurricane Irma the year before, somehow dropped the ball with Michael and was widely criticized for its unresponsiveness. In light of the wide swath of utter destruction Michael left, its unpreparedness, however, is understandable.

Significantly, county Emergency Operations Centers largely west of the Apalachicola River suffered tremendously and were surprisingly out of communications with each other and, significantly, with the State Emergency Operations Center here in Tallahassee. Its communications systems were non-functional.

Enter Amateur Radio, and if ever the phrase, “when all else fails, there is amateur radio,” was true it was so in October 2018. For example, the Bay County EOC, which was at ground zero for the storm had no communications at all. No cell phone, nothing. Nothing, that is, until hams showed up and made HF and UHF links to the outside world. Teams from around the state responded to the call for help and traveled to the devastated area to provide HF and VHF/UHF links to the outside world.

As Hurricane Michael barreled north, leaving in its wake a disturbingly wide swath of communications silence, hams shook off the debris from the storm and established the AREA Emergency Net on 3.950 MHz Paul KJ4G and Terry NOTW captained the early communications on that frequency. The SAR Net, the statewide linked system of UHF repeaters, earned its salary in the aftermath of Michael often providing the only link county EOCs had to the outside world and the State EOC. And, except for a troubling generator at the Sumatra site, the system worked flawlessly in the hours, days, and weeks after the storm.

Locally (Tallahassee area), hurricane force was significantly less than the 140 mph catastrophic breezes felt by our fellow hams west of here. Damage to homes, businesses, and antennas were likewise significantly less.

But there was some. Of course, most of us were without power for several days. Chuck AI4AI had none for six days, which was typical of the amount of time most hams had no A/C. Surprisingly his antennas stayed up, and KF4KHJ similarly had none that were downed. Indeed the common experience was that the VHF/UHF antennas generally survived just fine.

Not so for HF antennas. KK4SIH and WA4WES both had 400 foot loop antennas that now lay on the ground or dangled in 10 foot pieces from trees. Stan K4SBZ also suffered major damage. “We lost at least 15 trees on our lot. None hit the house, although two came close.

My antennas were able to withstand the wind, but falling trees took out all three of my OCF dipoles. I managed to get one back up in time for the CQ WW DX Contest October 27-28."

Gerry WA6POZ wins the destruction prize, however. In his words, "I lost my Hi-Tower all band vertical. I also had to replace my Alpha-Delta DX-A 160-80-40 sloper, an insulator broke and in repairing it the wire broke whenever I bent it. The antenna was at least 30+ years old, I bought it in California in the 80's."

Hams also manned radio stations at the EOCs. Clay KN4JKU operated the station at Leon County's Joint Dispatch Center for 12 hours on the day of the storm. Several hams – AI4GF, KC4NVU, WA4WES and KK4SIH – worked at the station at the State Emergency Operations Center in the days after the storm.

The American Red Cross set up its headquarters at the Tallahassee Red Cross Center and Sal K4WYF was instrumental in getting the station there on the air.

In summary, ham radio did well and many agencies were impressed by what we could do. Yet, as always, we could have done better, and over the next months the Big Bend, North Florida, and even Florida ham radio community will be doing some introspection. We will be looking for those "lessons learned" from Michael and begin preparations for Hurricane season 2019.

ARRL Roanoke Division Gets New Leadership

George "Bud" Hippisley W2RU, of Penhook, Virginia, defeated incumbent Director Dr. Jim Boehner N2ZZ, to become the new Director of the ARRL Roanoke Division. Boehner has been Roanoke Division Director since 2015. Hippisley served as ARRL Atlantic Division Vice Director from 1982 until 1985, and more recently as the Eastern Area Chair for the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS™). The co-author of *Practical Antenna Handbook*, Hippisley is a 2010 recipient of the ARRL George Hart Distinguished Service Award.

Incumbent Roanoke Division Vice Director Bill Morine N2COP fended off a challenge from John Humphrey W4IM to remain in his role.

All successful candidates will begin 3-year terms at noon on January 1, 2019.



2019 Member Dues

It's a good time to pay your 2019 LARC member dues – get them paid in time for a 2018 tax deduction. See Dick K0CAT Treasurer to pay or mail a check to the Club post office box.

Caldwell County REACT/CERT—Some things we learned in 2018

Submitted by Shirley Kanode



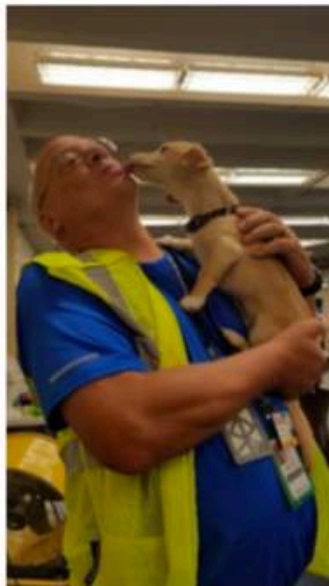
2018 was a transition year for Caldwell County REACT. Last month I shared some of our activities.

Some of the things we learned from our various activities and interactions this year surprised us.

- Seniors classes made more “off-color” jokes and comments than any other group. They also didn’t like having pictures taken of their group.
- One woman at a health fair didn’t want any information about disaster preparedness or what to

do in emergencies ensuring us that there would never be a disaster at her house, and she could just call 911 for an emergency.

- The junior high and high school home-schooled students knew more about disaster-preparedness than any adult classes we have taught.
- The blind/visually-impaired folks of Caldwell Insight were the rowdiest group causing me to get hoarse while trying to talk over them.
- Our REACT men sell more \$5 Charity Day Sale tickets to Belk’s customers than our women members. The female Belk customers coming in the store are much more likely to stop and talk to the men. Hmmm. Ask Dick and Irv about that.
- Our CERT-trained volunteers are more knowledgeable about doing triage than many first-responders.
- Be prepared to fight stinging ants brought into the emergency shelter by evacuees.



A Look Back: 2018

2018 is coming to a close! This year began the 32st year of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club's service to Caldwell County and many events have happened over those 32 years that continue to reinforce the Club's value to the community. The newly elected 2019 officers will meet in early January to plan another exciting and fun filled year.

Now is a good time to look back at the progress the "little Club that Can" has made in 2018.

Officers

The 2018 LARC Officers were: John Crowe AG4ZL President, Tom Land KA4HKK Vice President, Frank Gordon KN4ACU Secretary, and Dick Blumenstein K0CAT Treasurer.

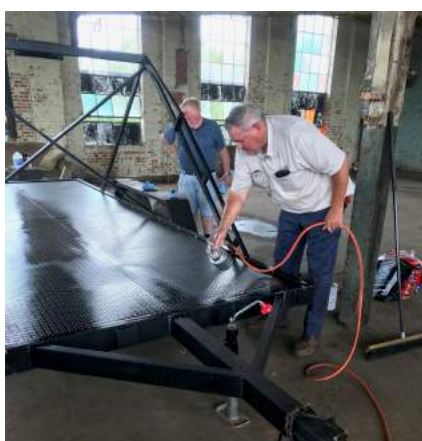


Membership

As we reach the end of 2018, total membership is 30, with six new members joining during the year

Communications

Efforts continued to inform members and others interested in amateur radio via the Club's monthly meetings/programs, N4LNR Website, a revised master Google group Email list, the Newsletter, and Facebook.



Communications & Antenna Trailers. At long last, LARC has located a place to store the communications and antenna trailers undercover. Member Mitch KN4AYD provided space in his building behind the burned-out Old Shuford Mill site at no cost in exchange for assistance in cleaning the space. Access to the building was limited due to the entry door that he agreed to increase and the building will be ready for trailer storage by the end of the year.

In the meantime, the Trailer Committee has continued to renovate the antenna trailer by replacing the floor with a steel plate and having a ladder and steps added for easy access to the antennas.

N4LNR Repeater. James N4NIN and his son, Mark, setup a radio that allows the linking of the Club's N4LNR repeater with the KG4BCC Hibriten Repeater to support emergency communications as well as public service events and nets. After some curious interference, the repeater link now seems to be operating as desired!



Sale of Donations. Gary K3OS and Ro K4HRM took on selling donated vintage radio equipment at the Shelby Hamfest. Their efforts netted the Club over \$2,000.



Catawba Valley Hamfest. LARC co-sponsored the Hamfest held at the Burke County Fairgrounds in Morganton in April. The Hamfest experienced its biggest crowd in years and the exhibit floor and boneyard were busy.



Public Service



Hibriten Hill Run. On a cold, snowy morning in March, 35 runners began their final run up Hibriten Mountain. The Run up Hibriten, which began in 2007, is to move to a new venue later in 2018. LARC has provided communications for the Run for a number of years and turned out in force for this last run up the mountain. Those hams who have worked this race all marvel at the beauty from the top. ICS protocols were used for this event.





NC Gravity Games. LARC participated for the first time in the NC Gravity Games held in Lenoir with a booth on Science Street in April. The NC Gravity Games is a signature event of the North Carolina Science Festival. The main events were a gravity-powered race and STEM extravaganza designed to get students revved up about science, technology, engineering and math. Event sponsors were Google, Appalachian State University, the University of North Carolina, and the City of Lenoir.

The theme of the LARC exhibit was “hands-on experience with amateur radio can develop skills and interests that lead to professional careers and a lifelong hobby.”

The LARC exhibit featured a video of the modes of amateur radio – VHF, UHF, HF, CW, Digital, and SSTV as well as satellite tracking, talking to the International Space Station, balloon chasing, and disaster response. LARC teamed with Catawba Valley Community College Hot Air Balloon Team to track a near-space balloon launched during the Gravity Games--the balloon reached 109,000 feet and came down North of Winston-Salem. Dick K0CAT set up his solar station that powered the LARC exhibit and was a focal point for visitors.



Rotary Cycle to Serve. Cycle To Serve is an annual bicycle ride to promote health and wellness in Caldwell County and all proceeds from the ride are used for the Lenoir Rotary Club’s charitable program. The ride took place on May 12. Riders could choose from three different courses -- the metric century, the 40-mile and 25 mile routes -- all of which begin and end in downtown Lenoir. A total of 186 riders participated. Communications used VHF, DMR and VIPER frequencies dependent on the rough mountain terrain. Net Control provided coordination for all amateur communications as well as Fire and EMS. Sweep vehicles cleared each section of the route verifying that no riders were left behind and releasing Fire and EMS throughout the route.

Net Control also monitored APRS units carried by sweep vehicles to maintain progress reports throughout the route. Providing communications for the Rotary Cycle To Serve is a LARC Club public service project each year, however, it also serves as a Caldwell ARES exercise using FEMA ICS protocols with Net Control operating out of the County EOC.



Emergency Preparedness & Training

License Exams. LARC continued its partnership with the Foothills Community Workshop for amateur radio license classes and VE license exams.



Caldwell ARES®/AUXCOMM. Caldwell ARES®/AUXCOMM continued its weekly Net and held quarterly emergency preparedness programs regular LARC meetings. ARES® EC/AUXCOMM AC Tom KA4HKK began to restructure this group to meet the goals of the Western Branch of ARRL ARES® and NC AUXCOMM. Organizational relationships, recruitment and training will be a major undertaking for 2019.



CARES Activated for Local Emergencies.

May 18 – Edgemont Flooding. ARES/AUXCOMM was activated to assist the Caldwell EOC with emergency communications as Caldwell County moved to evacuate persons affected by the Edgemont Flooding event. Numerous roads were being closed as flooding increased. It would be morning before the extensive damage caused by flooding would be observed. At 2356, Mark K9FWA, who was working the Collettsville School shelter for REACT, notified Net Control that water was approximately 8” above the road leading into the School. Ro K4HRM notified the Emergency Manager and Sheriff patrols stationed in the area were dispatched. Within 3 minutes, the water was 2-1/2’ deep and evacuation of the shelter was ordered and shelter clients were relocated to the Gamewell High School shelter.



September 15 – Hurricane Florence. As the winds and rains of Hurricane Florence pounded coastal Carolina and the path projected to pass over Caldwell County, emergency officials prepared for what was building up to be a catastrophic event. At 0800 9/15, a combined ARES and Skywarn Net was activated and operated continuously until 1100 September 17. The purpose of the Net was to provide information on downed trees, downed power lines, hail, tornadoes or funnel clouds, heavy rainfall, and flooded streets to emergency officials at the Caldwell EOC. Thirty-two local hams checked into the Net. Caldwell County was spared a direct hit by the then Tropical Storm Florence as she slid over the northeastern section of the County. While flooding still remained a problem as the heavy rains drained down from the mountains, damage from downed trees and power lines were moderate.



ARRL ARES®/AUXCOMM Western Branch Fall Meeting.

The meeting was held October 27 at the Library in Lenoir. Greg Hauser W3FIE, NC Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, discussed the State EM's implementation of NIMS/ICS and NC AUXCOMM that provides requirements for



EOC radio volunteers. Tom Brown N4TAB, NC AUXCOMM EC, talked about operational security while radio volunteers are in local EOCs and the use of WinLink for digital communications. ARRL NC Section Manager Karl Bowman W4CHX reviewed the ARES® strategic plan which makes ARES® consistent with NIMS/ICS. Marv Hoffman WA4NC, Area 12 ADEC, reviewed the “go boxes” for NC AUXCOMM use.



REACT(CERT). In January 2018, the Caldwell CERT program was formalized as a chapter of REACT International. Future CERT-trained volunteers will have the option to join the local REACT chapter. There are a number of the CERT trained volunteers in LARC. As LARC and Caldwell ARES®/AUXCOMM transitions to the NIMS model, the disposition of the LARC CERT team will be addressed.

Winter Field Day 2018. LARC setup on the banks of Lake Hickory on a cold, rainy weekend in January to demonstrate they can operate whatever “winter weather conditions” are happening to demonstrate over a 24-hour period their capability to support disasters and emergency situations. While band conditions were lousy, the “catch of the day” was “reeling in” KC4AAA Admundsen-Scott South Pole Antarctica.

ICS protocols were used during this event.



ARRL Field Day 2018. Arriving at 8:00 AM at Redwood Park in Hudson with vehicles loaded with antennas, radio gear, food, etc. We began the setup -- antennas, radio stations, canopies, exhibit booth, generator, and more -- centered around the Club's Communication Trailer. The Club's Antenna Trailer is located to minimize coax runs. At Winter Field Day 2018, the Club experimented with antenna placement to minimize RF interference. The decision to use the placement plan speeded up the antenna building process. The generator and light tower is placed for low noise, yet, bright light all around.

When 2 PM arrived true to Field Day form, some coax cable issues were found. Cables were substituted and all was good. The band conditions were the best seen in recent years. All were open including 6. Sunday, we were operating 10 meters, which was hopping! The "big guns" will have huge scores. It's really nice to operate when conditions are good. A screenshot of 40-meters taken shortly after the contest began shows that band was humming!

The total contact count was 606 (200 CW, 406 phone) with a preliminary score of 1,612 including multiplier and bonus points.

Another great Field Day is in the books! ICS protocols were used for this event.



Monthly Meeting Programs. During 2018, LARC continued its goal of having a presentation at each monthly meeting that will not only inform but will train those interested in amateur radio. Several excellent training presentations were made, including: SkyWarn Spotter Training by Jake Wimberly of the National Weather Service, National Traffic System operation by Clyde Sawyer WC9CW, A Focus on Net Control for ARES®/AUXCOMM by Tom Land KA4HKK, What is REACT presented by REACT President Rosemary Hall, SHARES System for Emergency Communications by Tom Land KA4HKK, Collins Collector Rigs by Dick Blumenstein K0CAT, and Antennas-Fact and Fiction by Gary Schwartz K3OS.



In Summary.

You would never know that from the activities of 2018 that the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club is a small club. Thanks to dedicated and motivated officers and members, the Club has made great strides to increase its community support and to promote amateur radio as a lifelong hobby.

**Become a New Member or Renew
Your LARC membership for 2019**

**Pay your dues in person to the Treasurer or by mail
at the LARC address shown on Page 1**

Full Member \$15/year Family Member \$25/year

Associate Member \$10/year Family Associate \$15/year

Life 10 times/year

What Do You Want In 2019?

With the election of a new slate of officers for 2019 comes the planning for activities and events. In what direction do you want the Club to go in 2019? Start thinking now so you can have your ideas before the officers at the January meeting.

LARC 2018 Officers



John Crowe

President

AG4ZL



Tom Land

Vice President

KA4HKK



Frank Gordon

Secretary

KN4ACU



Dick Blumenstein

Treasurer

KOCAT

It's been a great run, but all things must end some time!

This issue is my last as Editor of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club Newsletter. I have served in this role since October 2013 and, after 5 years and 64 issues, I feel it is time for new eyes and ideas for the Newsletter.

I appreciate the flexibility allowed me by the officers and members in presenting a public window to the Club each month in the Newsletter. We are a small club, but we are like the little engine "I think I can, I think I can."

Thank you, readers, for the feedback, compliments and criticisms.

Ro K4HRM

