

DECEMBER 2016

N4LNR

News & Views



P. O. Box 3276
Lenoir, NC 28645
N4LNR.ORG



Serving Amateur Radio
In Caldwell County

Save the Date!

Next LARC Meeting

December 8, 2016

Thursday, 6:00 PM

Captain's Galley
4345 Hickory Blvd
Granite Falls

LARC Weekly Net

Fridays, 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

DMR Net

Tuesdays, 8:00 PM

Lenoir Local

LARC Elects 2017 Officers

The LARC Officers for 2017 were elected at the November meeting pursuant to the Club Constitution. Tanner Greer KK4SZI will serve as Interim President through the January meeting. Incumbents Vice-President Josh Edwards N4JDE, Secretary Tom Land KA4HKK and Treasurer Ro Maddox K4HRM were re-elected by show of hands.

The members thanked the outgoing two-term President Tanner Greer KK4SZI for his service and willingness to serve as Interim President. The 2017 Officers will assume duties at the January meeting.

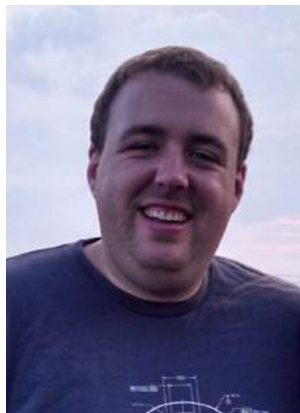
LARC Eatin' Meetin' – December 8

Members, area Clubs, friends and others interested in amateur radio are invited to gather at Captain's Galley Restaurant (4345 Hickory Blvd, Granite Falls) on Thursday, December 8, 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 President and talk radio and have a bit of food and fun. *See you there!*





President's Comments One Last Word

How would you describe your perfect Christmas holiday? Many of you might say that a perfect Christmas would be time spent with friends and family exchanging gifts and building lifelong memories. Although my Christmas will consist of these things, this year I will also be thinking about something that is shortly coming to an end, my time as the president of the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club.

It seems like only yesterday that I was voted in as the next president in the club. For many it may seem like a burden but I was genuinely excited to be a part and I vowed to leave the club better than I found it. I truly believe the club has accomplished so much in the last two years. It has not been the work of any one member but a true team effort that has allowed us to strive for big ideas and accomplish our goals.

We have gone from what seemed like a trailer with bare walls to an almost complete communications trailer with custom cabinets and a nice counter to operate on. We took a trailer that at first glance was just a bare frame and attached flooring, a mast and storage containers to give us an antenna trailer that allows us to lift antennas over 40 feet in the air. Many Saturdays were spent shaping the trailers into what they are today and many more will be spent enjoying the fruits of the clubs labor.

Over the last two years we have participated in many different events in our county and beyond that helped spread interest in the hobby, showed the community our capabilities and helped us keep our radio skills sharp in the event our community needs our help. These are the accomplishments that each club member should think about with pride.

Even though I will miss being president, I am also excited to return to being a member and still helping out in any way that I can. I am excited for a new face to come in with new ideas and a plan for how the next year to two years might go. Whoever that person ends up being, I know they will help improve the club and lead us to setting and completing a new set of goals.

My challenge this month is to take a look inside and really think about what your goals are for the next two years. The goals do not have to be radio related but instead think about what you want to get accomplished in your life. Write them down and stick them in a place that you will see each day and make a concerted effort to work toward your goals every single day. That is the only way that they will ever be accomplished. Have several points in time in mind, maybe every three months, to take a look back and see where you are with your goals. Then strive to keep going another three months and then check back again. You will be surprised how far you will come and how much you will grow.

I want to personally thank the club and all the membership for allowing me to be the president for the last two years. There has been some ups and some downs but overall it has been a fun and challenging experience and being able to work with each of you will be some of my fondest memories in the hobby. I hope each one of you has a great Christmas and I hope that each of you will be able to join us for our dinner meeting this week.

Tanner KK4SZI

Looking Back: Thirty Years Ago ~ December 1986...

This final month of the year is always a great time for reflection – did we meet our personal goals, did we serve those less fortunate, did we support our community. The radio club formed in 1986 closed its year with a look at accomplishments.

The newsletter editor said: “Fellow members, we, as the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club, have had a productive year. Looking back, I note that we established ourselves as a ham club; we have made strides to get a repeater up and going; we have affiliated ourselves with the EOC for emergency work, and we have an antenna installed atop the EMS building. We have become, I feel, a closer-knit group of hams with a common goal. Not bad for a club with less than a year in existence! But we mustn’t rest on our laurels...just think what we can do next year if we all pull together and put our hearts into making our club and hobby the best there is!”

These are powerful words! Most importantly, the editor expressed the collective “we” in looking at past accomplishments and to the club’s future. The club is its members and officers working together to enhance the amateur radio hobby – true in 1986, still true in 2016.

As the formative year of the Club comes to an end, so does this monthly series than attempted to provide a glimpse of 30 years ago when the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club was formed. I hope you enjoyed this look back.

Note: You can read the complete December 1986 Newsletter at <http://n4lnr.org> under the heading Newsletters. Watch the Newsletter archives for posting of all available old issues.

Upcoming Hamfests: Mark Your Calendar

January 14 Winston-Salem FirstFest, Forsyth Amateur Radio Club,
Winston-Salem, NC, http://www.w4nc.com/ws_classic_hamfest_2016.htm

March 10-11 Charlotte Hamfest, Mecklenburg Amateur Radio
Society, Concord, NC, <https://charlottehamfest.org/>

Date TBA Catawba Valley Hamfest, McDowell Amateur Radio
Association, Morganton, NC, <http://cvhamfest.com>

April 15 45th Annual RARSFest/ARRL Roanoke Division Convention,
Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC,
<http://www.rars.org/rarsfest/>

**September 1-3 61st Annual Shelby Hamfest/ARRL North Carolina
State Convention**, Shelby Amateur Radio Club, Shelby, NC,
<http://www.shelbyhamfest.org>



Hurricanes, Floods, Fires – Strain NC Emergency Resources

By Shirley Kanode, CERT



Natural disasters in North Carolina this year would make me think we are living in California! During the worst of Tennessee's fires burning homes, schools, resorts, etc., I thought how awful to be the incident commander in Gatlinburg. It also struck home about how important it is to be prepared to evacuate with little notice. Some people were caught in the mayhem by burning trees falling across the roads. Make sure you have your emergency kits, copies of important documents, and medications ready to go.

During disasters volunteers, such as volunteer firefighters, amateur radio operators, CERT, Red Cross, and REACT pitch in to assist. Two weeks ago, Caldwell County decided to open a drop-off center for donations for those fighting wildfires in Burke and Watauga Counties and other NC locations. By 1:00 PM on the same day the decision was made, the semi-trailer was in place in front of the Health and Human Services Building and staffed with volunteers from CERT and Bethel Colony of Mercy. The drop-off center was open 1:00 to 6:00 for four days. Volunteers included LARC members (Tom Land and Irv Kanode). LARC member Brian Hudson brought a truckload of water and other items from Google.

135 businesses, church groups, schools, and individuals donated about 5,300 boxes, packages, cases and individual items including:

349 bandanas	761 tubes of Chapstick
146 pkgs of beef jerky/Slim Jims	304 boxes of snack food
259 boxes of energy bars	788 pairs of socks
238 bottles of eye drops	53 cans of Vienna Sausages
145 containers of foot powder	421 cases of water
154 cases of Gatorade	110 wool caps
210 pairs of gloves	1 jar mayonnaise
418 hand lotions	1 microwave popcorn
485 pkgs of hand or body wipes	

Our volunteers worked hard and appreciated the generosity of our community. Now you will know why you may not have been able to buy Chapstick or socks in the last couple of weeks. We all had a chuckle about the person who stopped by with several grocery bags of items that obviously forgot to remove the mayonnaise and popcorn they bought for their own use. They found a home in the REACT mobile kitchen of Burke County.

As members of CERT, we are ready to help however we can when our community needs us. We were happy to serve the firefighters who were working hard to keep the fires from devastating Caldwell County.



Get On The Air: The Adventures of Dick & Ro

By Ro Maddox K4HRM & Dick Blumenstein K0CAT

When we last checked in with Dick, he had received the permit from Caldwell County to erect his antenna support structure. However, Dick is also in the middle of a major renovation to his home and space for working in the yard is limited. Thus, the digging of the 5x5x8 ft. hole for the concrete base had to be postponed until the renovation is completed. In the meantime, Dick has been constructing his “shack desk” that he had designed to hold all his equipment. It is now complete and ready to begin adding the equipment. The desk has a beautiful “hand rubbed” finish, including oiling and sanding the top 10 times.

Dick has also been modifying the exterior entrance box that he had built for his Florida “shack” to accommodate his proposed antennas. The hole in the entrance box aligns with the hole he drilled through the home exterior wall last month.



Next Steps: Dick will position all equipment on the shack desk, build grounding system, make coax cables for connecting equipment, and connect all equipment into grounding system.

When we last saw Ro, she had gotten the jpole 2-meter antenna **ON THE AIR** and had mounted the vertical antenna. She has completed the tie-in of the antenna to the grounding system and has begun the tedious task of calibrating the 6 traps for the 80-10 meter vertical.

Additionally, she is also adding 12 and 17-meter traps and researching adding 160 meters (may put on dipole rather than vertical due to trade-off loss of 80-meters on vertical).

Next Steps: Complete calibrating traps, connect HF equipment, and get **ON THE AIR**. Mount dipole, connect to grounding system, and get **ON THE AIR**.



To be continued...

A Look Back: 2016

2016 is coming to a close! We began the year by celebrating the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club's 30 years of service to the community. Each month of 1986, we looked back as a small group of "hams" began to form a Club that still serves Caldwell County. Many events have happened over these 30 years and the 2017 officers are planning exciting and fun activities for the coming year. It's a good time to look back at the progress the "little Club that Can" has made this past year.

Officers, Membership, Communications

Officers. The 2016 LARC Officers were: Tanner Greer KK4SZI President, Josh Edwards N4JDE Vice President, Tom Land KA4HKK Secretary, and Ro Maddox K4HRM Treasurer.

Membership. As we reach the end of 2016, total membership is 30, with five new members joining during 2016.

Communications. Efforts continued to inform members and others interested in amateur via the Club's Website, a master Email list, the Newsletter, two Google groups, and Facebook.

Projects

Communications & Antenna Trailers. The trailer has been a multiyear Club project to create a mobile communications center.

Work continued during 2016 to complete the electrical, station power and grounding.

The Club operated both the Communications Trailer and the Antenna Trailer at Field Day 2016.



Public Service

Annual Hibriten Hill Run for the Children. The temperature was still below freezing and the winds were gusting 22-27 mph when the first runners headed up the mountain at 9:01 am in the annual Hibriten Hill Run on Saturday, April 9. But hardy hams, Josh N4JED and Tom KA4HKK were at Net Control, Dick K0CAT at the Entrance, Irv W4IWK at Aid One halfway up, and Tanner KK4SZI at the top. The Club provides communications support for the charity event that includes 3.6 miles with 1,000 feet elevation gain up Hibriten Mountain. In addition to being a Club activity, radio communications followed the ICS protocols for an ARES practice. The hams used Lenoir Local DMR (digital voice) for the entire event and all reports were that this mode worked flawlessly. Clearing the mountain did not go as planned when the alarm on Irv's vehicle decided to go off, making a lot of racket and immobilizing his engine. With a little help from Josh and Tanner he was towed off the mountain.



Catawba Valley Hamfest. LARC co-sponsored the Hamfest in Morganton on April 16. A good crowd turned out and lots of buying and selling ensued. Tom KA4HKK, Scott KC4SWL, Ro K4HRM and Jeff KM4DOR took turns at the Club booth. A lot of old friends dropped by and Scott sold a number of items he had brought for those who just had to have.



Time to renew your LARC membership

Mail your check to the Club address or
see Ro K4HRM to pay your dues

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. Net Control for the event operated from the Caldwell EOC using VHF, VIPER and DMR. Communications was provided at the Aid Stations, in sweep vehicles, and with the road marshals. 138 riders participated in the event. LARC demonstrated APRS capability by having hams beaconing their APRS positions.



A big screen TV was set up at the Start/Finish line which allowed visitors to watch the progress of riders and learn about amateur radio.

Fire & Life Safety Festival. It was a hot, humid Saturday but LARC members, Tanner KK4SZI, Tom KA4HKK, Irv W4IWK, Mark K9FWA and James N4NIN demonstrated amateur radio at the annual Foothills Fire & Life Safety Festival on June 4. The Club communications trailer was used to show the visitors how amateur radio can respond anywhere in Caldwell County as needed.



Field Day 2016. 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! The Club operated from the Communications Trailer and from a Caldwell County Emergency Shelter.



Emergency Preparedness & Training

ARRL Caldwell ARES. Caldwell ARES continued quarterly meetings where supporting Caldwell County EOC, the goals of the Western Branch of ARRL ARES and AUXCOMM.

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



LARC CERT. In July 16 participants completed the Basic CERT course in Caldwell County. Included were LARC members Richard Blumenstein K0CAT, Brian Hudson KM4KIS, Robert Benfield KM4UAC, and Rick Kroger. Assisting with the course was LARC member Mark Barrera K9FWA. In September, CERT organized a "Club" and set monthly meetings to keep members up-to-date and prepared for response.



LARC Mini-Field Day. LARC had a "practice" outing on Sept 24 at Redwood Park, Hudson, to test its capability to set up in an emergency situation. Hams fine-tuned the electrical system and tested antenna setups as well as enjoyed a social event.



Caldwell County Disaster Drill. LARC Caldwell ARES participated in the Happy Valley Hazardous Material Transportation Incident Full Scale Exercise on October 28, sponsored by the Caldwell County Emergency Management. The purpose of the exercise was to provide the County's emergency response community the opportunity to evaluate their crisis response plans during a major incident, involving the transportation of hazardous materials. The exercise scenario involved the crash of a loaded propane truck near an elementary school, requiring evacuation of the school and dealing with victims of the accident and school explosion. The exercise involved persons working in 2 fire departments, law enforcement, EMS, 2 hospitals, the elementary school, emergency management, amateur radio, and CERT.

LARC Caldwell ARES was tasked with providing emergency communications for the event with operators located at both ends of the closed county road, incident command, emergency management, and the local hospital. Additionally, ARES was tasked with maintaining the ICS Form 214 for all communications for the event (Amateur and VIPER).



Training. A goal for 2016 was to have a presentation at each monthly meeting that will not only inform but will train those interested in amateur radio. Training presentations included: APRS technology, applications for Arduino and Raspberry PI in amateur radio, mobile broadband communications in the Mitchell County, building HF antennas, expanding DMR, power in the shack, and CERT.



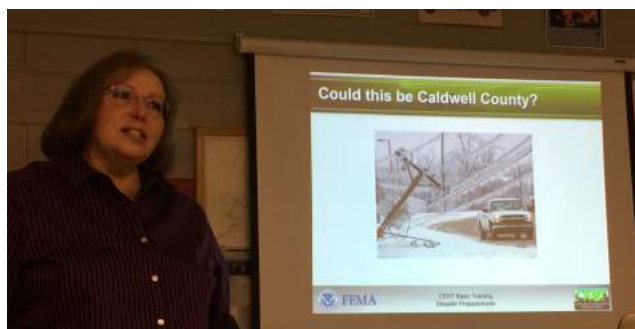
In Summary.

You would never know that from the ambitious activities of 2016 that the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club is a small club. Thanks to good leadership and motivated members, the Club had made great strides to increase its community support and to promote amateur radio as a lifelong hobby.

Time to renew your LARC membership

Mail your check to the Club address or
see Ro K4HRM to pay your dues

From The November Meeting...



Attendees. Tanner KK4SZI, Tom KA4HKK, Ro K4HRM, Michelle KD4YTU, Susan N4OJN, James N4NIN, Bob KM4UAC, Rick, Brian KM4KIS, Dick K0CAT, Irv W4IWK, Shirley Kanode CERT.

Communications Trailer. Scheduled workday on repeater grounding and site cleanup for 12/3 8:30 am

EOC Antenna. Phil KG4BCC will discuss placement with Ken Teague.

Officer Election. 2017 Officer were elected by vote. Josh N4JDE Vice-President, Tom KA4HKK Secretary, and Ro K4HRM Treasurer. The Club is still seeking a president. Josh N4JDE was to move to this position, however, he had to decline due to a family health issue.

Holiday Meeting: The December 8 meeting will be at Captain's Galley, Granite Falls, at 6:00 PM and to include a \$10 Dirty Santa gift exchange.

LARC Incoming 2017 Officers



President



Josh Edwards
Vice President
N4JDE



Tom Land
Secretary
KA4HKK



Ro Maddox
Treasurer
K4HRM

Send comments concerning the LARC NEWSLETTER
to Ro K4HRM hrmaddox@nettally.com

Suggestions and your articles are appreciated.

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