

J U L Y 2 0 1 5

N4LNR

News & Views

P. O. Box 3276
Lenoir, NC
28645



*Serving Amateur Radio
In Caldwell County*



Save the Date!

Next LARC Meeting
July 9, 2015

Thursday, 7:00 PM

2806 Gamewell Fire Dept
Morganton Blvd SW,
Lenoir

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

Emergency Antennas At July 9 Meeting!

During Field Day 2015, LARC operated on seven (7) different emergency antennas! At the July 9 meeting, John Crowe N4LBX will discuss emergency antennas--quick and easy builds, what works and what doesn't. Come with your questions ready.



Additionally, Tom KA4HKK will do a follow-up on Field Day 2015 and get us thinking about next year. A critical project for the Club is to locate undercover storage for the Communications and Antenna Trailers. If you know of any possible location, let Tanner or Ted know. Also, we are looking for a volunteer to shepherd getting the Club repeater work completed.

See you on July 9. Bring a friend.





President's Message

"A Mode for anybody"

At the time of this writing field day is fast upon me. I have spent all week trying to make sure I have everything I need for the big day. The basement is littered with the remnants of leftover antenna wire and coax. Last years Field Day was a great success. We made contact with almost every section of the US and I thought came away with a respectable score.

This year we have ramped it up a little including another rig and some ways to get bonus points. By the time you read this, field day will be over for this year and we will eagerly wait to see our point total.

As with every field day there is an opportunity for bonus points in many different fashions. This year we will be giving educational classes a few times during the 24-hour period. I volunteered to teach one of these classes on the topic of PSK31 and I have been doing research all week on the history of the mode and the specifics in a technical sense.

As to not duplicate the class for those attending field day I will keep this short. PSK31 stands for Phase Shift Keying Baud 31. It is used by ham radio operators for radio-to-radio chat over the airwaves. An English amateur named Peter Martinez invented it not too long ago. Many do not know that the speed of 31 baud was settled on because that was the average typing speed of radio operators. Psk31 is a very interesting mode and it allows you to reach out with subpar antennas and locations. You do not need too much power; in fact I have contacted Australia with only 30 watts. Another neat feature about PSK31 is that it has a very narrow bandwidth. On one calling frequency you may have up to 20-30 conversations going on at the same time. In case you have really fast fingers, there are at least two faster versions of PSK, PSK63 and PSK128. These take up much more bandwidth but allow you to communicate much more quickly.

Now this is the point in my column that you may be asking yourself, "So what is the point of this rambling?" In my research about this specific mode I started thinking about all the different modes that there are in the hobby. FM, AM, SSB, PSK31, RTTY, CW, JT65, Hell, Olivia, DMR, and the list goes on. There are many different options for even the seasoned ham to try out something new. Some of these modes are very old and some are very new. The neat thing about us amateurs is that we never stay stagnant. We are always developing something new and also at the same time refining the modes that we have already developed. In the next month, I challenge you to try out a new mode! You may find something that you really enjoy and you will be able to add another facet to your repertoire.

7 3 Tanner KK4SZI



Field Day 2015



Dawn was slowly approaching, when Ted KF4FLY arrived at Redwood Park in Hudson with the Club's Communication trailer. Shortly thereafter, Tanner KK4SZI arrived with the Antenna trailer in tow. This event was the first opportunity for both Club members and the public to see the trailers that the "hammers" had been working on for months.



Caldwell County Emergency Services rolled in with the climate-controlled emergency shelter and emergency generator and lighting. CERT members (Kenneth Teague, Trina Teague, Dave Thomas, Elizabeth Thomas, Curt Hiller, Maria Hiller, Irv Kanode, Shirley Kanode) quickly deployed to assemble the shelter and completed the task within 30 minutes! This event was the first time that the public had an opportunity to see the emergency shelter. Those who worked in the shelter said there was very little movement or noise when the storm hit in the early afternoon.





Then came the antennas! A total of seven were raised, as the hams showed off there ingenuity in emergency antennas. Only one oooppps happened when the storm hit shortly after 2:00 pm and laid Tom KA4HKK's on the ground.



With the antennas up, the work turned to station building and testing to be sure that when 2:00 PM arrived all were “on the air.”



When the gong sounded, operations began. In the Shelter were Warren WU3Y and Phil KG4BCC at digital, Tom KA4HKK and Mike at CW, and Marty KM4IOU and Blair KM4DOQ on Voice at GOTA.

In the Communications Trailer were Tanner KK4SZI on Digital & Voice (also using solar power) and Shawn KI4ZKP logging; John N4LBX on Voice with Josh N4JDW logging.



A big part of Field Day is to educate and promote amateur radio. Tanner KK4SZI taught a class on how to operate the Club's new pneumatic mast, Tom KA4HKK set up an information table with brochures about amateur radio, and Irv W4IWK and Art KI4KVY served as greeters talking with visitors and showing them the various operations. This year, we had Paul Robinette KD4OZI, the ARRL ARES NC Western Branch ASEC, and Jim Boehner N2ZZ, the Director of the ARRL Roanoke Division, stop by our Field Day. Also, an official from our served agencies and a City of Lenoir Council member joined us for a tour. Over 40 visitors came by to see what the Field Day encampment was all about.



Darkness fell over the Field Day 2015 site. Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse! The operators were nestled in their stations, in hopes that those elusive states would come calling.



Dawn broke on a crisp Sunday morning and checking the Shelter and the Communications Trailer found operators still hard at making those contacts. Art KI4KVY arrived with biscuits. Everyone took a break to watch Tanner KK4SZI fly his drone over Redwood Park.





The hams stayed with it right up to the magic hour of 2:00 pm, Sunday. By the end of Field Day 2015, the Club had made 948 contacts (236 on CW, 262 on Digital, and 450 on Voice) and logged 47 states as well as Hungary, Austria, the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands, and most of the provinces in Canada.

A job well done.

Time to take down the Shelter, unload the Communications Trailer, lower all of those antennas, tear down all those stations, make sure no trash is left behind at Redwood Park, load everything into vehicles, and begin to think about Field Day 2016.



We had an awesome Field Day 2015



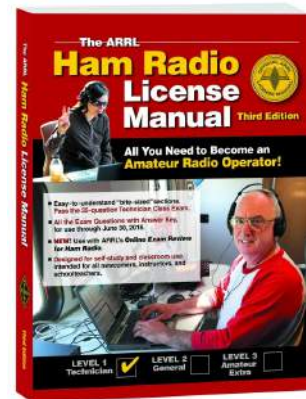
Technician License Class In August

Foothills Community Workshop will offer an Amateur Radio Technician level license class on three consecutive Saturdays, August 8, 15, and 22 from Noon until 2pm. With some additional on-line exercises, this class is intended to help prepare for the entry level Technician level Amateur Radio Exam.

Topics include:

- Rules and regulations
- Station setup and operation
- Operating procedures
- Basic electronic terms, components and calculations
- Electromagnetic waves, bands, and modes
- Propagation and antennas
- Safety

This class is free and open to the public.



A license exam session is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 29 at Noon and is available to anyone wishing to obtain a Technician License or upgrade to General or Extra. The testing fee is \$10.

Go to www.foothillscommunityworkshop.org for directions or contact Michelle KD4YTU at 828-754-5002 or michellesuddreth@bellsouth.net for additional information.

The current Technician License Manual and test question pool is applicable until June 30, 2018.



Did You Know? Ham Radio Q & A answers your basic questions. Episode 2: Selecting Coax Cable is an interesting discussion. Go to <https://youtu.be/FOtbpdh0D-E> for the video.



NC Mountain State Fair Asheville NC September 11-20

The NC Mountain State Fair will be held September 11-20, 2015, at the Western North Carolina Agricultural Center, 1301 Fanning Bridge Rd., Fletcher, NC (across from the Asheville Airport, I-26 Exit 40). Last year, the Fair attracted 191,000 visitors. The Fair celebrates the people, agriculture, art and tradition that make the region great.

The Road Show Amateur Radio Club joined by Cleveland County Amateur Radio Service, Haywood County ARC, Blue Ridge ARC, and other individuals will host a visitor's booth and special event station N4F. This is possibly the largest public ham radio demonstration in the Southeast. Some of the past demonstrations include: D-Star, Echolink, IRPL, APRS, WinLink, MARS, ARES, high-altitude balloon tracking, a live HF digital station, MESH networks, a live working bench repairing rigs and building kits, videos on history and contributions of ham radio, and a 2-meter GOTA station.



The Road Show Amateur Radio Club is inviting all hams to come and be a part of the experience, either as a visitor or as a volunteer to work in the visitor's booth or the special events station. They are also seeking Club sponsors to work a day at the Fair, since 10 days straight puts a heavy burden on a small group of people. For additional information, see the September QST for an article on the Fair or check out HamRadioNow.tv, episode 171. If you wish to volunteer as an individual or club, contact Bill N4OOC@arrl.net.



W4DXCC Convention 2015 Pigeon Forge TN September 25-26

The W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention located in Pigeon Forge, TN is September 25th and 26th. This is the 11th year and it will be another great event. Convention registration is \$30.

The presentation schedule is full and packed with presentations. Manufacturers are located in the lobby right outside of the conference hall allowing easy access to all the gear. Come and have a one on one conversation with the manufacturers and twist the knobs.

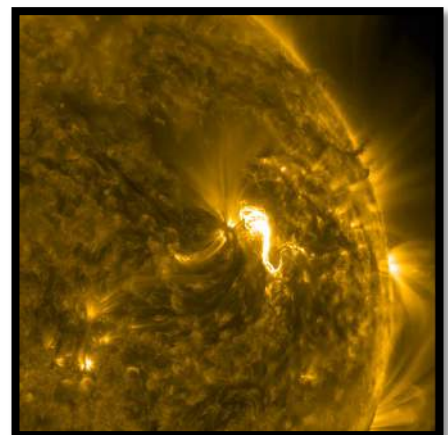
This year for the first time there is a *Ham Radio Bootcamp* on Friday before the convention. The *Ham Radio Bootcamp* is an all day session that will help the new amateur learn how to build a station, build antennas, make QSOs and log them and after lunch learn how to DX -- how to contest and learn some tricks for DXing. This is the Elmer you never had to help you get started right. This session is sure to be of use to every Ham and it's free.

The Convention will conduct Amateur FCC License testing. It's a great time to upgrade or get your spouse or friends licensed.

Pigeon Forge is a wonderful place for the family. Bring the family and they can enjoy the local attractions while you enjoy the convention.

Ham Bites

The Sun unleashed no less than five solar flares the five days leading up to Field Day 2015. Many of these were associated with coronal mass ejections, most of which impacted the Earth and generated beautiful auroral displays as well as wrecking havoc on radio frequencies. Another series of flares began on July 4 and are expected to end in a day or two reaching Earth by mid-week.



From The April Meeting

Attendees. Tanner KK4SZI, Tom KA4HKK, Josh N4JDE, Phillip KG4BCC, Susan N4OJN, James N4NIN, Ro K4HRM, Blair KM4DOQ, Shawn KI4ZKP, and guests Phillip Jenkins N4HF, Bob Delamarter KB3MPR, Kim Delamarter KB3NGU, and Robbie Delamarter KB3PEB.

Repeater. Seeking volunteer to take the lead on getting the work finished on the Club repeater. Phil KG4BCC reported that Hibriten repeater is getting a facelift with a new machine on order.

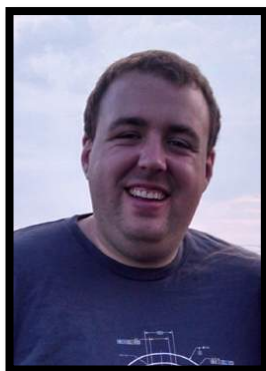
Trailers – Communication & Antenna. Both trailers are at a point that can be used at Field Day. The wrap will be put on the Communications trailer the following week. The storage boxes and antenna mount have been installed on the Antenna trailer. Tom KA4HKK showed a 2-minute video of the pneumatic mast operation on the Antenna trailer.

Public Relations. Phillip Jenkins N4HF from the Road Show Amateur Radio Club discussed the Special Event Station N4F at the NC Mountain State Fair, Asheville NC set for September 11-20m 2015. The Fair attracted 191,000 visitors in 2014. Four area clubs man a booth and the special event station during the 10-day event. Phillip N4HF asked LARC to consider joining as a sponsor and working a 3-9 PM weekday evening of the Fair. He also invited individuals to help if the Club did not. This item has been placed on the July club agenda for discussion.

Field Day 2015. Tom KA4HKK discussed planning underway and assignments. Volunteers to operate stations are needed, see Tom.

Program. A video on the planning, setup and operation of “The Last Big Field Day”, a 51A class station in 2004, was shown.

LARC 2015 Officers



Tanner Greer
President
KK4SZI



Tom Land
Vice President
KA4HKK



Josh Edwards
Secretary
N4JDE



Phil Crump
Treasurer
KG4BCC

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

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