

J A N U A R Y 2 0 1 4

N4LNR

News & Views

P. O. Box 3276
Lenoir, NC 28645
<http://lenoir-arc.org>



Save the Date!

Next Meeting

Thursday, 7:00 PM

January 9, 2014

Gamewell Fire Dept
2806 Morganton Blvd SW
Lenoir

LARC Weekly Net

Fridays 9:00 PM

146.625 MHz
Minus PL 94.3
Backup 147.330 MHz
Plus PL 141.3

CARES Net

Sundays 9:00 PM

147.330 MHz
Plus PL 141.3

Serving Amateur Radio in Caldwell County

A Good Time Was Had By All At LARC Eatin' Meetin'

Fellowship was bountiful and laughter endless as LARC members gathered for the annual Eatin' Meetin' at Meedo's on

December 5. The Dirty Santa was a hilarious good time as gifts were opened, stolen, stolen and stolen! None of those present went home hungry or empty handed.

During a brief business meeting, the outgoing and incoming officers were thanked for their commitment to LARC. Updates were given on Tom KA4HKK and Floyd AD4FK, both recovering from surgery.



The next meeting is January 9, mark your calendars and bring a friend!



President's Message

When I meet strangers it's not too long till the question of "What do you do?" is asked. It's interesting to note how we define who a person is by what they do, not with a question of "what do you think or where are your values?" In getting to know people we define them by their interests and activities. For example, if you tell someone how heavily involved you are with your church activities, they may derive (hopefully) that you have some standards of ethical and moral thoughts and actions perhaps compassed with emotional guidance of compassion, etc. If you emphasize the extra amount of hours you

spend writing code in your job, then they may concur that you are a diligent worker or perhaps you are materialistic and are money driven. To each their own conclusions, but regardless, it typically begins with "what do you do?" If you're like me, you list your "paying job" first then you throw in the other things that fill your life. This typically goes into the hobby or extra-curricular activities, including (for example) the fun things such as fishing, hiking, buffalo-riding, whittling, scuba-diving, motorcycles, hang-gliding, underwater-basket-weaving, etc., etc. and the list goes on. Included on that list (especially if you're reading this article) is Amateur Radio. It's amazing how that is the one thing that sparks a 2nd level of questions from the other person more so than the other things on my list. It's one of those activities that are not typically heard in conversations. It intrigues people. You (as I) often have to clarify that "no, it's not CB radio" misconception in a nice and understanding tone and then we expound from there. Then they ask "Why?" And that is where I hope we all give pause and think about "Why" we chose this hobby. That list I started earlier could be over a 1,000 things long of all the choices of activities we could do, yet we give time in our life for Amateur Radio to some degree. Why? I believe we all share the desire to be able to offer some service to our community while blending in the self-rewarding desire of communication. I've written before about communication and how Amateur Radio's focal theme is based on that desire to communicate. But it goes deeper to the point that this also defines "who" we/you/I are. It's a fairly deep thought to realize that our choice to have some level (no matter how small) of involvement with Amateur Radio ranks it more important than many of the other things we could have chosen. Apparently, when you ask yourself "why", your answer is "because I want to communicate". Then that leads to the next question of "ok, communicate what?" And that is where we can branch into any number of areas from the category of emergency services and support; award/contesting kudos; to just the camaraderie of meeting and working with others who share a common interest. So, the next time you are asked "what do you do?" and one of your answers is "Amateur Radio", be ready to follow-up with the answer to their next question of "why?" because that answer will define who you are.

Know someone who is interested in amateur radio? Invite them to come with you to the next LARC meeting. Send their email address to the Newsletter Editor so they can receive the monthly Newsletter. Membership in LARC is not a requirement to receive the Newsletter.



ARRL Centennial QSO Party Kicks Off January 1

As part of the mix of events marking ARRL's 100th anniversary, the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#) gets underway at 0001 UTC on January 1. This is a yearlong operating event, in which participants can accumulate points and win awards, as well as work new stations and make new friends. During 2014 W1AW will be on the air at least twice from *every* US state and from most US territories, and it will be easy to work all states solely by contacting W1AW portable operations. This will be the first ARRL-sponsored operating event for which every member is worth at least one point. **The event is open to all, although only ARRL members and appointees, elected officials, HQ staff, and W1AW are worth points.** Working the ARRL's president, for example, earns 300 points!

To qualify for points, all contacts must be two-way (no cross-band or cross-mode contacts), using CW, phone (FM, SSB, AM, digital voice), digital (any digital mode, such as PSK31, RTTY) on 160, 80, 40, 30, 17, 15, 12, 10, 6, 2 and 1.25 meters, plus 70 centimeters and satellite. Stations [exchange](#) signal report and ARRL abbreviation. Contacts do not have to be contest-style, and providing ARRL organizational information is not required. A centennial database will assign point values to all logs submitted electronically. Those not submitting electronically, however, will need to obtain the QSO information during the contact. Since this is not a contest, participants may make contacts in any fashion they prefer.

The Centennial QSO Party is scored by totaling the values of all eligible contacts. There are no multipliers or bonus points. Logs submitted via Logbook of the World ([LoTW](#)) will be scored automatically.

For full information, visit the [ARRL Centennial QSO Party](#) webpage. [Contact us](#) if you have questions. Read [more](#).



Have pictures of your shack, station, and ham gear or radio adventures?

Send them to the Newsletter Editor! We want to brag on you! Also, we could use more photos of friends and faces from any recent ham radio gathering, meeting, or event.



Ham Tips: Valentine's Day Is Just Around the Corner!

Christmas is over and you're packing away your new wallet, belt or bedroom slippers--another year without a single "ham techie toy" under the tree. While some of us are lucky enough to have a spouse as a licensed amateur operator, others have to give a lot of not too subtle hints. But Valentine's Day is coming and you don't have to settle for a box of chocolates or roses. I've made a short list of low priced items that might just be something you might need or want. *Just leave a copy of this issue of the LARC Newsletter lying around in some conspicuous places!* Hint! Hint!



Comspeakers by West Mountain Radio. If you use a computer in the shack with outboard speakers, you may have RFI in your speakers. These will eliminate it. And they sound pretty good too. \$36.95 at HRO www.hamradio.com



Arrow J-Pole Antenna. \$38.95 at HRO.

MAHA Powerex C-9000 battery charger/conditioner has saved me a bunch of NIMH batteries I thought were junk. HRO has the best price usually on MAHA items. \$49.95



Sanyo Eneloop batteries – the best NIMH rechargeable AA battery. Not cheap but worth the extra money. <http://amazon.com> in different pack quantities.



If you have boxes of old QSL cards, why not scan them and put them on a memory card you can plug into one of those digital picture frames. DX engineering has a kit that includes everything you need. \$89.95 <http://www.dxengineering.com/parts/dxe-qsl-kit>

You won't go wrong with a real temp controlled solder station by **Hakko**. It has enough heat to solder antenna wire and is controllable down to use for circuit board work.

<http://goo.gl/h1wMFO> \$91.33 at Amazon





Why not get an extra HT to keep in the car, for your go kit, or just as a spare? The **Baofeng UV5r** is still extremely affordable. At Amazon \$30.42 - <http://goo.gl/LDXJpn> and don't forget a few accessories while you're at it.



How about a **VHF UHF mobile antenna** you can use almost anywhere. I'm talking about the venerable Mag-mount antenna. These make great portable antennas on a metal pizza pan, temporary mobile antennas for the spouse's vehicle or a rental car, or for when you forget about those low hanging objects and trash your existing mobile antenna. Hard to spend over \$40 on one, with the coax! HRO has a bunch of different ones.

If you haven't gotten the **Signalink USB** for digital modes, both DX Engineering and HRO have them for less than \$100 with cable to your rig.



How about a decent wattmeter? The **Daiwa CN-101** covers HF through 2 meters. \$99.95 at HRO. The **Diamond SX-200** is \$89.95. Both are well made and from quality manufacturers.

Need a simple antenna for one of the HF bands? **LNR Precision** has a bunch of them. These are simple to hang as they are end fed and can be configured to fit most any area. Inverted V, L, Vertical, flat top or any combo. Great for the go kit or use at home. <http://www.lnrprecision.com/endfedz/>



Happy Valentine's and here's hoping you get some sweet ham gear!

Editor's Note: Thanks to Lowell Rieger NY4D for his research on ham gear gift ideas. The items listed are not endorsed by LARC.

The Trading Post -- Equipment & Services

Sale - Trade - Give

FOR SALE – Scott KC4SWL

- Nice looking and good working original Icom IC-706 transceiver (receive does not work on 2mtrs but transmit is fine). Complete with mic and power cord as well as original box and manual. \$450.00
- New, never used 8u 19" Rack ideal for building ARES go box. \$75.00
- SBE 34 HF Transceiver with mic. This is a project radio – meaning, it's not dead but doesn't receive and transmit not checked. \$85.00
- Vintage Lionel J-38 Key on wooden base. \$35.00

If you're interested, 828-758-4735 or bscout@charter.net I will make pictures of any of it.

Renew your LARC membership for 2014

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	



Work Continues on LARC Mobile Command

The “hammers” were hard at work finishing out the communications trailer at the December 14 & 23 workdays. Progress was made on sanding the bondo on the ceiling so that the prime paint coat can be added. Additional hands are always needed so come one out to help on the next workday.

Remembering The "OWs"

The Women of Early Ham Radio

Guest Article by Dr. Donna L. Halper



When we look back on the history of amateur radio, certain names come up immediately: Hiram P. Maxim and Clarence Tuska, the founders of the ARRL; "America's Number 1 Ham", Irving Vermilya (and many CQ readers undoubtedly made contact with W1-ZE during his long and illustrious career); the great inventor Edwin Howard Armstrong; and of course, Guglielmo Marconi himself. But there were some other pioneers who have seldom gotten the credit they deserve-- a small number of women who entered the game at a time when few in society thought they were capable. These women learnt Morse code, built (and sometimes won awards for) their own receivers, and surprised many people who believed radio was a man's hobby. And while most were not inventors, their presence in the family of amateur radio made a positive impact, and inspired other women to follow in their footsteps.

Unfortunately, telling their stories has sometimes been a challenge, as Louisa B. Sando (W5RZJ) found out when she began researching her excellent book "CQ-YL". Although women amateurs absolutely did exist even in the earliest days, they frequently operated stations run by their father or brother or husband, and did not have call letters in their own name. In QST's April 1923 issue, for example, it mentioned that Lillian Hume was an amateur who worked from her brother's station, 9DTI; however, that station was only listed in his name - George Hume. Further, some women who did have a station in their name subsequently got married and moved to a new city, leaving no information about what their new name was. And while I am sure most men were very understanding about their wife's hobby, several of the women I interviewed about those 'good old days' told me that when they married, their husband discouraged them from continuing on with ham radio - supposedly this was not a properly feminine activity for a wife and mother... How times have change!

Like Ms. Sando, I too encountered the problem of not finding the names of women amateurs: I noticed in my research that some of the younger women who grew up in the late 'teens and early 1920s made use of school stations - but the call books of that time did not list the members of school or club stations by name. So, unless a young woman was written about somewhere else, there was no way for me to find out that she was, or how many clubs had women participants. I might never have known that 8ME, a high school station in Beaver PA, was where a certain 15 year old named Rena Jane Frew got her start, nor would I have encountered the name of Bertha Hilton, who worked out of the Chester PA Radio Association station, 3ZO, had they not been mentioned in "Popular Radio" and "Radio Digest" as part of articles about the clubs they belonged to.

This lack of information about women is understandable when you consider that compared to their male counterparts, their numbers were small, and many did not know how to - or perhaps they preferred not to - get publicity for themselves. Also, nearly every ham radio columnist back then was male, as were most of the officers of ham radio clubs; since it was usually a club's officers who sent information and pictures to the media, the vast majority of the amateur news was by and about the men of ham radio. Anyone reading the publications from those days could easily have gotten the impression that ham radio was an exclusively male preserve. But as Paul Harvey would say, now you are going to hear "the rest of the story".

Society's attitude about women has certainly shifted since the days when Marconi barred a highly qualified and experienced marine operator, Mabelle Kelso, from working aboard any of his ships just because she was female. Technology has certainly changed too - how many of you have seen (or heard!) those incredibly noisy spark sets the early hams operated? And then, there are the changes in terminology - back in the late 'teens and early 20s, radio was called "wireless" or "radio-telephone," and broadcasting was often called "sending." Some columnists referred to ham radio as "citizen wireless," and *a female ham of any age was not a YL but an "OW"* (just as a male of any age was called an OM).

That leads me to discuss one of the best-known women pioneers, who was dubbed by the writers "the OW of 1XE." Eunice Randall (later, Eunice Randall Thompson,) and at the age of 19, she was broadcasting on a Boston-area commercial station owned by AMRAD, a company which made receivers and various types of ham equipment. The year was 1920, and she was perhaps the first woman announcer/engineer in radio anywhere - she was certainly the first in New England. Eunice had come to radio by accident, having been raised on a farm and intending to go to art school. But needing extra money, she got a job in AMRAD's factory, where she was introduced to the growing wireless industry. It wasn't long before she was deeply involved with both commercial and amateur radio. To my knowledge, she had no role models for any of this - I have had the privilege of meeting several of her relatives, and as far as they recall, none of the Randalls was a "radio bug".



Yet, Eunice soon learned how to build her own station - which was called ER, and was operated by remote control; her parents' farm did not have electricity, but her brother's mill did. Eunice put up her own antenna (I saw the remnants of it - it was hit by lightning a number of years ago, but a portion of it still stands, 75 years later, on a dirt road, near her childhood home in Mattapoisett, Mass.), and she made a very fortuitous CW contact with a man who became her mentor and life-long friend - Irving Vermilya, a highly respected ham with strong ties to the ARRL. He encouraged her involvement with ham radio, even going so far as to write a very positive article about her in QST. Eunice took courses and worked hard, improved her code skills, and got her first class license, as 1CDP. In the early 1920s, her announcing for IXE (which was re-named WGI in February of 1922) won her fans all over the United States, and her Technical skills (she was a draftsman and an engineer) gradually earned her the respect of her colleagues at AMRAD. She demonstrated AMRAD equipment at ARRL conventions (the only woman to do so), and her voice was used on a *dictaphone* disk that was played at the conventions she could not attend. From 1921 through 1923, Eunice Randall was the Story Lady, reading bedtime stories to the kids; she also sent out code practice and read the police reports. And of course, she was a visible presence at radio shows and ham-fests.

Had AMRAD not run into financial problems that ultimately took WGI off the air in mid-1925, she might have continued on in professional radio, but instead, she ended up working as one of the few women engineers at the New England Power Company, while remaining very actively involved as a ham - her call letters became WIMPP in 1938. For those who collect back issues of CQ, in April of 1948, she was named YL of the Month... Later that year, Eunice married Ken Thompson (W1PS,) also a devoted ham, and after they both had retired, they divided their time between homes in Maine and Florida. But since this is a story about the early years, I will save for another time some of the stories of Eunice's achievements in her later years - during World War II, for example, she was active in the WERS, and some of you may recall those famous foot-sending contests she and Irving Vermilya used to put on at hamfests. To this day, friends and relatives tell me they still miss her.

Another pioneer OW was Edith Rotch, a District One colleague of both Eunice and Irving. Though Edith was a few years older than Eunice, both women were very much ahead of their time. Like Eunice, Edith had never planned to get involved with radio. After graduating from college with highest honors, she distinguished herself in an area that was unusual for women in the early 1900s athletics. She won several trophies in ice skating, and she and Hazel Wightman earned the National Women's Doubles tennis championship in 1909. But it was World War I that helped her to discover radio - the military was training women to be radio operators, thus freeing men for combat. A number of women who wanted to serve their country took this training, and Edith was among them. She too fell in love with radio, and while she never did get into the commercial side, she became a fan of the amateur game. Her proficiency earned her the position of radio inspector for the Signal Corps, and when the war ended, by 1919 she had her ham call letters - 1RO. (Later, she would be 1ZR.)

She was so expert at code that when the first Boston Radio Show took place in 1922, it was she, along with District One Radio Inspector Charles Kolster (1RI,) who judged the code-sending events. Edith was also an examiner for the old Postal Telegraph Company, known for her high-speed sending, and in her spare time, she was a member of the Greater Boston Spark Coil Club. Like Eunice, Edith Rotch was also active in ham radio throughout her entire life. At some future point, I want to tell you more about the many contributions this popular OW made to the hobby she loved, but she certainly proved that neither one's gender nor one's age (she was still involved with amateur radio well into her 80's,) has to be a barrier in ham radio.

In District 3, there was another noteworthy OW, Elizabeth M. Zandonini (3CDQ, later W3CDQ.) "Emzie" was a woman of many talents, including being fluent in Italian, Spanish, French and German (part of her job at the Bureau of Standards was doing scientific translations). Like Edith Rotch, Liz became involved with radio around the time of World War I; with the Public Health Service, she taught radio communication to disabled soldiers in Army hospitals, helping them acquire new skills. The willingness to teach about radio was something she displayed for her entire life. But Liz was more than a teacher. She was an accomplished builder and designer of equipment at a time when women were not expected to know about engineering (I have numerous articles from magazines of the early 1920s where editors explained that a woman just did not have the brain power to figure out such complicated things... one editor suggested that if receivers were more attractive to look at, more women would be interested...)

Like Eunice Randall, Liz wanted to learn as much as she could and she was fascinated by how things worked. She especially enjoyed working CW, and years after most hams had moved exclusively to phone, she stated in her application for membership in the *Old Old Timer's Club*, "I operate only on CW, and in the 40 meter band". Eunice who was Secretary-Treasurer of the OOTC, proving what a small world it is! Liz Zandonini was a life-long resident of Washington, D.C., where she was an active member of the Washington Radio Club, and of course she was proud to be an ARRL member too. An interesting photo of her at her rig appeared in several newspapers in early

February of 1925. The caption, which called her a "remarkable young woman" and "one of the most skilled operators in Washington", described the equipment and noted that she had built it all herself. "Her set consists of two 50-watt bottles in parallel, energized by 1500 volts rectified alternate current is entirely of her own construction, as is also the three tube receiver. She has been heard in England as well as in every part of [the United States]." (A more detailed description of that early rig appeared in an article in the 6 March 1926 issue of "Radio World", and for the fans of older technology, I would be happy to send them a photocopy of that article.)

As with Eunice Randall's illustrious amateur career, it would take many more pages for me to detail all of the achievements "Emzie" accumulated in her long involvement with ham radio - she not only belonged to the OOTC but also was in the YLRL, the QCWA, and what was then called the IRE (Institute of Radio Engineers). Also, during her years with the Radio Section of the Bureau of Standards, she maintained their museum and showed famous visiting scientists what her department was working on. A few of the OWs in New York got together in May of 1922 and started what may be the first organization for women in ham radio. It was called the Women's Radio League, and its founders included several OWs whose names you might know.

Marianne Clayton Brown (2AOA) held a first class commercial license, and like Mabelle Kelso a decade earlier, Marianne trained to be a marine operator and wanted to serve her country. But Navy too had a policy that prohibited women from serving aboard ships, the same policy that the Marconi Company had. Not wanting her training to go to waste, she ended up working at the Marconi factory in Aldene, New Jersey; ironically, her job was testing transmitting equipment for the Navy. Blessed with a sense of humor and the ability to write well, she got several articles published in radio magazines during the early 20s. As for her station, which she of course built herself, it was so impressive that it was named "Station of the Month" by what was then called "Radio Amateur News" in April of 1920 - first prize was \$5, which we may assume was a lot of money back then... She was the first OW to win this award.

Among the other founders of the Women's Radio League was Abby Morrison, a young woman with a talent for writing Understandable style: she clearly had the technical knowledge, but like Marianne Brown, she knew how to get it across to even the novice. Abby contributed articles to such publications as Wireless Age, which referred to her as a "radio expert", and she was also mentioned in "QST" and "Radio News" on several occasions throughout 1922-23. She was president of the Women's Radio League, and she was also an emissary for helping more young women to become knowledgeable about a amateur radio - because of requests for radio courses that would appeal to women, the YWCA in New York began a series of talks, which included instruction on how to make various types of radio equipment. Abby Morrison was one of the women asked to teach these courses.

I mentioned how Marianne Brown was the first OW to win an award for her ham station. The next OW to win first prize had been a telegraph operator as far back as the 1880s, and came to the wireless in the late 19--teens. May L. Smith of Manchester New Hampshire (1BAE) won the award for Station of the Month in September of 1920. And as Edith Rotch could attest, ham radio keeps a person young - SIXTY years later, in the 1980s, May Smith could still be found, now as W1BDN, sometimes working phone and sometimes CW.

Earlier in this article, I mentioned a 15 year old who worked from her high school station. Rena Jane Frew did not abandon amateur radio after high school. Like many women in the 1920s, she became a teacher, whose specialties were science and radio courses. I have also read about Elizabeth Bergner in the Chicago public schools and Rachel Thompson in the Boston Public Schools, both of whom did the same; they often spoke at radio shows about the educational benefits of radio, and each ran the station at the high school where they taught. I have read testimonial letters from several of Rena's students, who were inspired by her to become hams. Rena Jane Frew was named "Miss Radio" at the first annual Radio World's Fair in New York in 1925, a prize given to "the most enthusiastic female radio fan" - she won for the large number of stations with which she had made contact, both in ham radio and as a dx'er, but perhaps she also should have won for the number of young people who developed a love of amateur radio thanks to her.

I could go on - there are so many other deserving OWs from the pioneering days of amateur radio. In "CQ-YL", it mentions that Emma Candler was a ham as early as 1915, working from station 8NH in St. Mary's, Ohio. In the 1919 QST Call Book, she and her husband were still in St. Mary's, operating 8ER. Perhaps some of you made contact with an OW from the early 1920s whose name I haven't mentioned; if so, I want to know about her. It is my commitment that these pioneers of radio should not be forgotten! (By the way, while this article is mainly about the women of the teens and early 1920s, a word of tribute should be given to somebody who got her start in the 30s, whose efforts on behalf of women amateurs made a major impact - the late Ethel Smith, K4LMB, who founded the YLRL in 1939. Before she became ill last year, she and I spoke at great length, and she told me how she was working on updating and expanding the information in CQ-YL. She sent some of her files to me, and I promised I would continue that research. I dedicate this article to her memory.)

Donna is a Boston-based historian and radio consultant. She is the author of many book-length studies devoted to the history of women in American broadcasting and radio and has a prestigious collegiate resume. Please visit her Site devoted to radio history: <http://donnahalper.com/>

Disaster Training Video Library

The [Just in Time Disaster Training Library](#) is advertised as a free Internet-based source for training curriculum for today's emergency responders. A library selection is *Neighborhood Preparedness and Response*. Featured videos include: Building a Neighborhood Disaster Plan; How to Help Your Neighborhood Prepare for an Emergency; Map Your Neighborhood; and Neighborhood Emergency Communications. The resource boasts of over 627 disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery training videos. The library is the most comprehensive, and easy to search, according to the library's promoters: "The purpose of this on-line video library is to provide a single, easy to search source in which individuals, agencies and organizations can access Just In Time Disaster Training videos. The videos found in this library cover disaster related mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery training for a wide variety areas." -- *Chris Floyd, Disaster Resistant Communities Group, Tallahassee, Florida*

New NC QSO Party Award

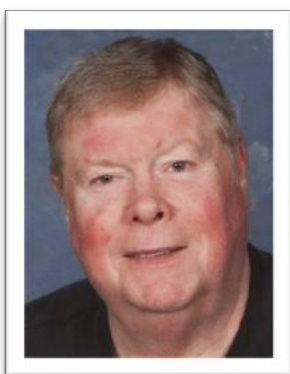
Dwayne Ayers N4MIO, NC ARES Area 10 DEC, has announced a new award as part of the 2014 North Carolina QSO party set for February 23. Go to ncqsoparty.org for contest information.

As one of the NCQP committee members Dwyane was tasked with finding ways to have all 100 counties in NC activated for the event. Being involved in amateur radio emergency communications The EMCOMM CHALLENGE AWARD gives emcomm leaders/groups in all 100 counties in NC the chance to exercise their emergency communications. Details for this award can be found at <http://rars.org/ncqsoparty/index.php?id=rules>

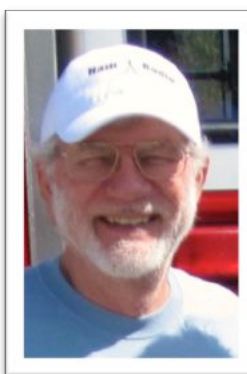
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Your Live LARC Bulletin Board

Did you know that LARC was on Facebook? Anywhere in the world and at any time you can get current news and information for the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club and the area Amateur Radio community. Pass timely information between your radio Facebook peers and take a more active role in the affairs of the Club. Most of all – you don't have to wait for the newsletter to come out before seeing timely news and great photographs. Feel free to log in and post your comments (and LIKE's) today!



Like us on Facebook at Lenoir Amateur Radio Club

Editor for a Final



Several years back a member of my local radio club became a silent key. Months after her passing, I got a call from her daughter saying that she was cleaning out her mother's house and found a note in her "radio shack" that at her death her radio equipment was to given to me to use any way to support the emergency communications of the County where she resided.

After lugging a ton of radio gear to the County EOC and sorting thru what could be used there, then selling several pieces to hams who handled EOC communications, I was left with about half a dozen well-used pieces.

I tested each piece and found all but one were beyond hope. But the transceiver had some possibilities. It was a Kenwood TS-430S and, while very dusty and layered with crud from years of use, it "just needed a little TLC" and a good scrubbing. So before long the case gleamed and I even found where the owner had engraved her name and call sign into the case.

Okay, ready to hook it up for the big test! Well almost—it seemed to make a fluff of dust every time I moved it. When I opened the case, I found it was packed with bird feathers! Yipes, first I vacuumed, then I brushed, I used compressed air but to no avail—the boards were still coated. Another ham suggested I use light oil and a stiff brush to remove the sticky residue. And, finally test time arrived. I plugged in the new cables I had ordered, hooked up my antenna tuner and antenna and that sweetheart hummed like it was new! That unit is still my backup HF machine.

The moral of my story is to NOT keep a bird in your "radio shack"—the electronics are a magnet for feathers and dander. You will learn new ways to express yourself as you clean your gear. Ok, don't look a gift transceiver in the case!

Send comments concerning the LARC NEWSLETTER
to Ro K4HRM hrmaddox@nettally.com
Suggestions for articles are appreciated.