

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 4

N4LNR

# News & Views

P. O. Box 3276  
Lenoir, NC 28645  
<http://n4lnr.org>



*Serving Amateur Radio  
In Caldwell County*

## Save the Date!

**Next LARC Meeting**  
**October 9, 2014**  
**Thursday, 7:00 PM**  
**Gamewell Fire Dept**  
**2806 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**



## Halloween Horrors Fright Night



This Halloween, Foothills Community Workshop will be having Fright Night events. Part of the Old Shuford Mill will be converted into several venues. The event starts off with a hayride, then visits to a Mad Scientist Lab, a haunted graveyard, dark forest (complete with werewolf), asylum, a haunted living room, an electric chair and a live autopsy along with a few "surprises".

The fun is scheduled for Fridays and Saturdays, Oct 24, 25, 31 and Nov 1 from 7PM to 10PM. Admission is \$4. This event is being used as part of a fundraiser for South Caldwell High School Drama Club.

Foothills Community Workshop  
10 Falls Ave., Granite Falls  
<http://foothillscommunityworkshop.org>  
(828) 351-HACK



**Foothills Community Workshop**  
Learn - Teach - Make





## President's Message

Have you heard of the game “6 degrees of Kevin Bacon”? This is something that started nearly 20 years ago but didn't really get a lot of attention until more recent. It's a simple concept.... Within 6 connections you should be able to link any actor from any movie to Kevin Bacon. But since then, it's grown to connect any celebrity (whether actor, politician, criminal, or whatever, as long

as somewhat famous) to Kevin Bacon within 6 leaps. It's pretty bizarre at how often this can be done. What makes it so likely is due to the number of films that Kevin Bacon has been in (whether major or minor roles). There's even a website that helps you make those leaps (<http://oracleofbacon.org/>). For example, I wanted to see how many links it would take to get from someone who surely has no chance of linking (such as Adolf Hitler) to Kevin Bacon. Well, to my surprise, they linked in as little as 3 leaps/degrees (or “Bacon numbers”). Wow.

This fun game is based on the theory that everyone and everything is six or fewer “leaps” away from connecting to everyone in the world. Frigyes Karinthy proposed it in 1929 (thank you Wikipedia). What brings this into my article is that each of these connections has to be, well, connected by some media. With Kevin Bacon, it is mainly actors & movies. With the general public it is through some type of avenue, such as family, phone, work/business, email, shopping, or any number of methods that causes people to interact with people.

I propose an addendum to these 6 degrees... that being, the degrees are even fewer for those who work or have hobbies with anything in the communication field, especially amateur radio. It's a logical theory because the best way to reduce the number of required leaps is to increase the amount of communication, thus the likelihood of making those leaps with a larger pool of “nodes”. It would be awesome to see a true and complete web of everyone and the people they have associated with to see if this theory proves accurate. How many leaps would you be from, say, J. Edgar Hoover? Or perhaps, Dr. Livingston?

I guess the purpose of this article is multifold. First, you have a larger bank of people you've met in your lifetime than you realize. Second, your interest (and more importantly participation) in amateur radio has broadened that web of contacts dramatically. Third, whether you admit it or not, you are an important “node” in the vast world of interconnectivity and communication. So, next time you're talking with someone, just realize you may have more people in common than you both realize. I guess Disney is accurate with the song “it's a small world, after all”.



## 2014 Fire & Life Safety Festival A Grand Success!



Over 3,000 attended the 2014 Fire & Life Safety Festival held September 27 at the Caldwell Community College in Lenoir. It was a beautiful day for the event. Irv W4IWK set up VHF and HF radio stations, where LARC demonstrated Winlink 2000 and sending email over radio. Josh N4JDE, Ted KF4FLY, and Tom KA4HKK passed out brochures, note pads and talked radio to visitors. Several local hams – Clayton K9CLC, Pat Crump, Mike KI4RPM, Joy KI4SLT, Jeff Owens, Marv WA4NC -- dropped by the LARC booth.





## Some Thoughts on Public Service Communications

By Phil Ashler N4IPH



Most of you by now have received your September 2014 issue of QST in the mail or have read the digital version on-line. The cover title is “Amateur Radio and Public Service” and announces an eight-page advertising Insert near the back of the magazine. I turned to page 129 and except for several pages of ARRL “public service” books and other items; it looked to me like the regular advertising we find each month. But in taking a closer look, there appeared to be a number of new items available!

One of the items listed was the *ARRL Public Service Handbook* – a very valuable source of information if you’re involved in public service exercises and events, especially if you are newly licensed. I have an older copy from several years ago but will probably see if there are any major updates before I order the new one. There are also a variety of other items useful to the public service volunteer including “neon” safety vests and hats. If you have ever participated in an exercise or actual event, the brightly colored vests and hats are probably one of the best ways to identify you as a volunteer and watchful “safety official.” If you haven’t taken the time to look over this special section in QST, I think you may find it interesting.



Each month, QST publishes a short review of a few public service events and exercises that have taken place in the previous few months. Occasionally, Rick Palm, K1CE, will review current legislation or some agreements between the ARRL and participating organizations. In the September 2014 QST, Rick discusses M.O.U.’s and their structures. An M.O.U. (Memorandum of Understanding) is a written agreement between organizations, expressing the willingness to work together towards a common

purpose. Some of the organizations that have M.O.U.’s with the ARRL’s Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) as well many other Amateur Radio organizations include FEMA, the National Weather Service, The American Red Cross and the Civil Air Patrol.

Ham radio service organizations such as ARES may also commonly have agreements with state and local government agencies such as the Emergency Operations Center and local law-enforcement to assist when called upon in the event of a communications emergency, perhaps when a natural disaster occurs and their communication systems are overloaded. The ARRL has a listing of current served groups and organizations available on their webpage

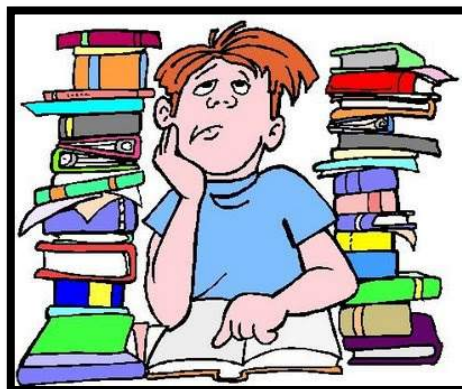
<http://www.arrl.org/served-agencies-and-partners>



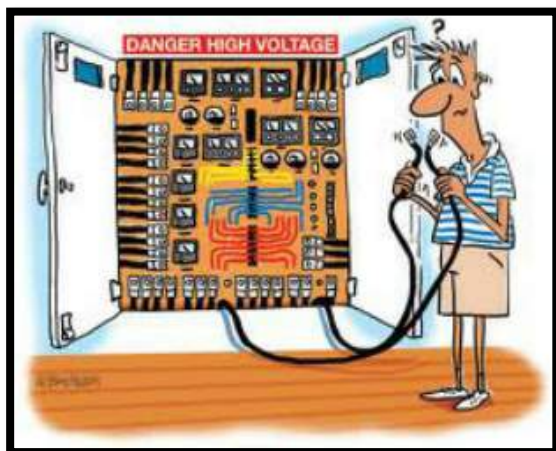
Radio groups such as LARC are also able to assist a number of local groups, organizations and events by providing volunteer communications services. Some of the events LARC participates in include “5k” foot races and even regional bicycling tours where cell-phone coverage is often inadequate in remote areas. Though, most likely not covered by official M.O.U.’s there are often “unwritten” agreements with understood benefits for all parties. Providing communications and a “watchful” eye provides both a safety net to event participants as well as invaluable emergency communications practice and experience to hams.

One of the first questions we need to answer is “How do we prepare to take part in Public Service communications?” My suggestion would be to again check the ARRL’s website for their resources. Since the reorganization of their website a few years ago, some things aren’t as easy to find as before (or I, myself, have a harder time finding them.) Using the ‘search box’ in the upper right corner of the main webpage, I entered the phrase “ARES Training” in the box and found the “Online Course Catalog” which included courses such as: ***Introduction to Emergency Communication (EC-001)***, ***Public Service and Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs (EC-016)***, and ***PR-101 ARRL Public Relations (EC-015)***.

Some of the courses require prerequisites and a modest charge to allow you to take the “online course.” You may also have the opportunity to be assigned to a “mentor” in your area to help guide you through the different sections and answer questions along the way. You can find a full description of the courses and their requirements at <http://www.arrl.org/online-course-catalog>



While you are obtaining the **prerequisites** and starting the training classes, it would be a good idea to become familiar with your own communications equipment. This includes HF frequency privileges available to your license class, VHF/UHF local communications – especially repeater use, and even the various digital modes now available. Do you know how to change, store, and recall repeater frequencies on your VHF / UHF equipment?



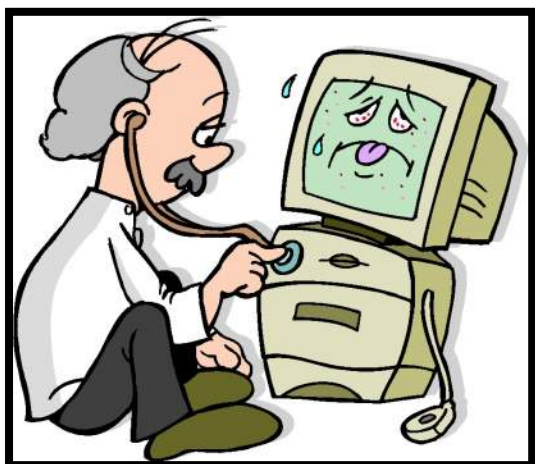
Do you know how to set PL Tones (CTCSS) and repeater offsets? Do you have the necessary power cables and antenna connections to set up a station fairly quickly? If you use Anderson PowerPole® connectors, do you have a junction box and the proper connectors for storage batteries or power supplies? What type of antenna connector does your “handheld” have? Could you easily connect to a different antenna rather than the (often inadequate) stock “rubber duckie” that came with the rig?

For HF, do you have a simple dipole antenna cut for the proper frequencies you might be using? Better yet, do you have one of the more modern “automatic antenna tuners?” How are you going to get that antenna high enough to be safely useable? I found that a small plastic water bottle and some bailing twine will allow me to get a portable dipole up about 30 feet or so, depending on your “pitching arm.” How about co-ax? Do you have a sufficient length to go from the antenna to your rig? Is it in good “electrical” condition?



If you are operating one of the digital modes, does your laptop PC have the proper software and drivers for your particular radio? Is your adapter, modem or TNC that bridge the two configured properly? Is the laptop battery in good condition? If not, do you have method of supplying the necessary power for an extended period of time? And perhaps most critical, do you know how to connect to your rig, operate the software correctly and troubleshoot if problems arise in the field? I know a number of fellow Amateurs that keep a copy of the software and equipment manuals on their computer [or *smart phones*.] You can

download most of the manuals and user guides in PDF



Now that you are satisfied with your equipment, software, antennas and other crucial accessories, what are some of your considerations as far as participation and service in a Public Service event? Do you only want to participate locally or would you willing to travel out of town? If you are single or retired, when the need arises, you may wish to volunteer to go to another city or state to assist organizations such as the American Red Cross or ARES. Please consider that there will most likely be prerequisites for deployment such as training and



prior sign-ups. If you are younger, in school, have a family or are taking care of elderly parents or other relatives, chances are you would not wish to leave town for an extended period of time. You might want to limit your volunteering to weekend activities fairly close to family, home and employment. LARC is always in need of volunteers for many local events (mostly on weekends!)

If there are any modes or frequencies that you don't have privileges to operate, how about studying for a higher-class license. One fact I learned many years ago was, to enjoy the full aspects of Amateur Radio and take part in all of its exciting activities; you need to continually learn new things.

This article is reprinted by permission from the September 2014 issue of *The Printed Circuit*, the newsletter of the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society.



**A FEMA View of Amateur Radio:** See the 2014 ARRL Keynote Convention Speech of FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate KK4INZ at <http://youtu.be/pLOJXvkBbkg>



## Places To Be, People To See...

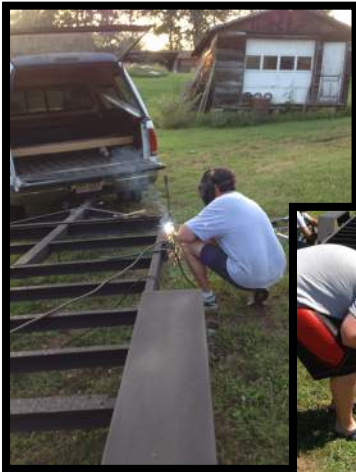
**October 12. Maysville Hamfest**, Maysville Hamfest Association, Maysville, NC, email: [bhighland@nc.rr.com](mailto:bhighland@nc.rr.com)

**October 25. The ARES Western Branch Meeting** will be held October 25, 10:00 AM until 1:30 PM in Morganton. Contact Tom Land KA4HKK [thomasland@msn.com](mailto:thomasland@msn.com) if you want to attend and for directions.

**October 29. Googlefest NC 2014** at the Broyhill Civic Center, Lenoir, 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Session for Emergency Management – how to use online technology to quickly reach people in need and to efficiently run internal operations during crisis. To register, go to <https://sites.google.com/site/ncgoogfest/register>

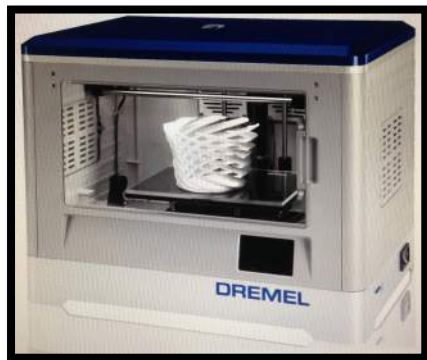
## Antenna Trailer Work Continues

Taking advantage of the warm September evenings, Ted KF4FLY, Tanner KK4SZI and Ro K4HRM brushed, sanded, painted, sanded, painted, and sanded and painted some more. After welding on the corner jacks, the decking was added and the antenna bracket mounted. The antenna has been mounted with temporary braces as the mounting supports are cut and welds completed. Looking good!



**Did You Know?** Communications interoperability is about relationships. Knowing who the players are around you is mission critical! Watch the video [www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVZIK6M8WQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pVZIK6M8WQ) that describes the plan to improve communications by broadening relationships.

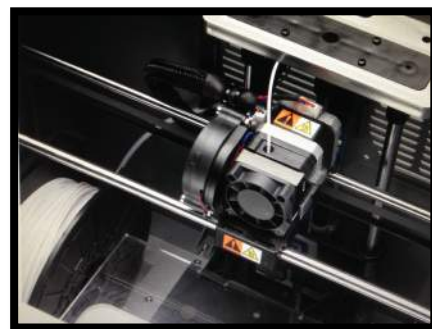




## Want Your Very Own Personal 3D Printer?

Dremel, the company best known for its rotary power tool that's used for everything from routing and sanding to carving and engraving, has announced that it's taking a leap into the 21st century with its first consumer 3D printer – the Dremel 3D Idea Builder. The Idea Builder was designed with both experienced makers and novice users in mind, and will partner with Autodesk to help provide free print-ready 3D models and online design tools. Dremel's "Experts" program will offer product support and mentorship for users, plus print-ready models, templates and other tools from Autodesk will be available on Dremel3D.com.

The printer itself is enclosed, has a color touchscreen and onboard printing software that allows it to run stand-alone or connected to a computer. It is capable of printing at a resolution of 100 microns and uses PLA filament in 10 available colors. The build area is 230 x 150 x 140 mm (9 x 5.9 x 5.5 in). Pre-orders for the 3D Idea Builder can be placed beginning September 18 through Amazon and Home Depot's websites. It will become available at Home Depot stores in the US starting in November for \$999.



## Member Profile: Art Mooney KI4KVY

Art received his Technician license in 2005; although his interest in amateur radio began years earlier after joining Lenoir Rescue and meeting several ham radio operators. Even as life and other happenings intervened over the years, he never gave up on his goal of becoming a licensed amateur. After taking a license class offered at Lenoir Rescue, he earned his ticket.



Art's favorite amateur radio activity is meeting new people both "on the air" and "in person" at ham events. Additionally, he participates in LARC public service activities, including the Bridge to Bridge and ARRL Field Day.

After letting his membership drop for a few years, Art recently returned to his "LARC home." Welcome back, Art!





## From The September Meeting...

**Attendees.** Ted KF4FLY, Tom KA4HKK, Irv W4IWK, Tanner KK4SZI, Michelle KD4YTU, Ro K4HRM, Josh N4JDE, Susan N4OJN, James N4NIN, Shawn KI4ZKP, Will WB4Y.

**Communications Trailer.** Watching to see how glue is holding. Need to set workday to plan out interior and take measurements.

**Antenna Trailer.** Trailer frame cleaned and painted. Watch email for workdays.

**Storing Club Equipment & Materials.** Michelle KD4YTU to get availability and pricing to Ted KF4FLY.

**Repeater Upgrade.** James N4NIN reported some additional work may be needed on the antenna so another tower climb may be necessary. However, an odd noise possibly a nearby repeater sensitivity issue needs to be resolved before proceeding.

**Website/Newsletter.** Tanner KK4SZI to set up email service from website for member and Newsletter distribution.

**Public Service.** Tanner KK4SZI ordered the promotional note pads to be given out at events. Tom KA4HKK asked for volunteers for the Caldwell County Fire & Life Safety Festival set for September 27. He reported that he had no response from offer of communications support for the Peak To Creek Marathon on October 25. Ro K4HRM working on draft a LARC brochure. Will WB4Y suggested that members try to attend meetings of area radio clubs.

**Training.** A CERT Fire/Utility training class will be held October 21.

**Program.** Tom KA4HKK demonstrated the Club's Facebook page.

## Communications Trailer Ready for Next Phase

James N4NIN pulled the communications trailer out into direct sun and let it heat inside to test the staying power of the carpet. Ted KF4FLY, Susan N4OJN and Ro K4HRM checked it out and the carpet seems to be holding to the walls as advertised.

A workday will be scheduled to measure for the workstations and install lights.





## LARC 2014 Officers



**Ted Manuel**  
**President**  
KF4FLY

**Tom Land**  
**Vice President**  
KA4HKK

**Irv Kanode**  
**Secretary**  
W4IWK

**Phil Crump**  
**Treasurer**  
KG4BCC



## Editor For A Final

This issue of the Newsletter is a milestone for me. It is my 13<sup>th</sup> issue of the Newsletter, which means I have made it a whole year as your Newsletter Editor.

My goals were to: 1) give visibility to Club's efforts in supporting the community through its many public service events and disaster preparedness exercises, 2) get to know our members (and non-members) through profiles and articles that demonstrate their interest and expertise in amateur radio, 3) to feature various amateur radio and related technology, and 4) to show teamwork and fellowship by featuring the Club's projects and those who lend their time and skills. Did I meet my goals this year? No! But, I did come close a few times.

Preparing a monthly newsletter is a new skill for me. In my past life, I just told someone else to do it, then sat back and critiqued their work. I hope you will critique my work and give me suggestions of where the Newsletter needs to go in the next year.

Send comments concerning the LARC NEWSLETTER  
to [hrmaddox@nettally.com](mailto:hrmaddox@nettally.com)  
Suggestions and your articles are appreciated.