

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 3

N4LNR

News & Views

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



Upcoming

2013 Fire and Safety
Festival – October 5 –
10:00 - 3:00 – Hudson
Caldwell Community
College & Technical
Institute.

**Next LARC Meeting –
October 10 – 7:00 pm
Gamewell Fire Dept.**

LARC Weekly Net
Fridays 9:00 PM LARC
Repeater 146.625 MHz
Minus PL 94.3 Backup
Repeater 147.330 MHz
Plus PL 141.3

Caldwell Amateur Radio
Emergency Services Net
(CARES) Sundays 9:00
PM Hibriten Repeater
147.330 MHz PL 141.3

Serving Amateur Radio in Caldwell County

Summary of Last Meeting

Tom KA4HKK elected Club Vice President, to serve the remaining term of Buck N4PGW, who resigned prior to the last Club meeting.

A work session on the Club Communications Trailer was set for Saturday, September 21, 8 – 12.

Tom KA4HKK asked for volunteers to assist with the Fire and Safety Festival to be held October 5.

Ted KF4FLY, Phil KG4BCC and Ro K4HRM appointed to conduct a review of the Club's *Constitution and Bylaws* and bring recommended changes to the October 10 meeting.

James N4NIN completed repairs to the Club repeater, replacing the breaker box and breakers that had fallen victim to lightening.

Tom KA4HKK reviewed assignments for The Bridge Incredible Challenge Bike Ride on September 15.



President's Message

The interest in Amateur Radio is often blended with other interests due to its ability to merge technology. I think that is why there are so many diversified people in the “hobby” of amateur radio. I’m going to put on my CSI hat (reference the television show) and make some personal observations.

More often than not those who have their amateur radio ticket are familiar with personal computers and will probably have a cell phone and most likely it will be of a smartphone variety. They will probably have more than one email account to separate their work from their personal interests. They probably contact more people via an electronic method than they meet physically on a given day. Just from my own experience, I must get/send a hundred emails a day (most work related) but actually have an eyeball QSO with someone far less on that same given day.

Amateur radio has progressed far beyond the ditty-bop of Morse code and has successfully exploited these advancing technologies. As a motorcycle rider, I know that the culture and persona of “The Biker” has changed over time and so has the persona of the HAM operator. Sure, there are a few die-hard “old timers” who still (to quote a gentleman I met about 20 years ago when I first got my ticket) that feel the “allowance of no-code licenses is the death of ham radio”. Well, fortunately, his words did not prove true. I’m glad that the ARRL and others lobbied for the allowance of no-code licensing because it helped to revitalize interest in Ham radio during a crucial time of technological advances. That change didn’t stop Morse code and it is still very active, but it allowed blending of interests, thus expansion of the hobby. It was not a new concept. For example, when light bulbs began replacing candles, it didn’t eliminate candles, but it expanded the ability to light areas that were previously dark (vacuum of space, underwater, volatile areas, etc.).

Ham radio continues that same pursuit to “light areas that were previously dark”. When you squeeze a mic, or tap a key, or send a packet, you broadcast more than just an electronic signal, you communicate, and that is how darkness is illuminated.



LARC Mobile Command

The Lenoir Amateur Radio Club purchased a new, tandem axle, enclosed trailer approximately three years ago to use for emergency communications, public service, and club activities. The trailer is 16' x 6.5' with a 6' ceiling, manufactured by LOOK. The trailer has an entrance door on the right side looking forward and two swinging "barn" doors in the rear. It will also be used to promote the Club in the community when exterior identification is completed. The trailer is titled to the Lenoir Amateur Radio Club and has a multi-year license plate.

Before the trailer can be used as intended, it has to be customized. The first task was to get the trailer insulated with closed cell foam insulation. The trailer's original plywood wall panels was removed from the interior and furring strips were installed so 2 1/2" of closed cell foam could be sprayed into the walls and ceiling by a company in Love Valley, NC.

This summer a 13,500 Btu roof air conditioner, a thru-the-wall electrical connection, and electrical wiring to power the lights, a baseboard heater, the air conditioner, radio equipment and computers were installed. Smoothing the surface of the blown-in insulation proved a yeoman's task; but once accomplished, the plywood wall panels were reinstalled and progress was made on the structure for cabinets and tables. Sections of the roof sealed to prevent water intrusion.

While considerable progress has been made, there is still a lot of work to be completed on the trailer including: Installing the plywood on ceilings and remaining wall surfaces, framing for cabinets, building and installing cabinet faces and doors, installing wall and floor coverings, building and installing a work table, installing more electrical wiring, installing a spare wheel & tire, installing lighting fixtures and a baseboard heater, installing 12 volt batteries, as well as building and mounting antenna masts and radio equipment. Additionally, an electrical generator will need to be purchased. The target launch of the Club's communications trailer is Field Day 2014.

"Good progress is being made on trailer, but there is still several hours of work to be completed over the next few months. James NANIN has been generous in providing a great work location and we really appreciate those Club members who are helping with the work," said Ted Manuel, LARC President. Members who have been on work crews include: Ted KF4FLY, Tom KE4HKK, Clayton K9CLC, Scott KC4SWL, Susan N4OJN, James N4NIN, Jerry AD4JG, Irv W4IWK, and Warren WU3Y.

LARC Supports 25th Bridge Incredible Challenge Bike Ride

Amateur Radio operators manned critical communications posts along the Bridge/Valley 100 mile bike route to ensure the safety of the participants during the event held on September 15, 2013. In all, 16 hams manned 11 Aid Stations, the Start and Finish Lines, Route Sweeps, and Net Control positions. Approximately 375 bicyclists

During the 12-hour event, hams assisted in sweeping the course for riders needing assistance and transporting riders and bikes as needed. The first rider crossed the finish line in 4:43:47 and the final rider crossed the finish line in 10:21:04.

"Not only does this event provide a means to test our emergency communication preparedness, it also provides a great service to our community. Providing communications for the riders helps to keep them safe but also helps us in the long run to insure we are ready when called upon in an emergency," said Tom Land, KA4HKK, who coordinated the radio support.



Those radio operators participating were: Ro K4HRM, Clayton K9CLC, Tom KA4HKK, Scott KC4SWL, James N4NIN, Susan N4OJN, Irv W4IWK, Phil WG4BCC, Ted KF4FLY, Todd AL0I, Bruce W1TNX, Tanner K4SZI, Bud KN4K, Stan KK4PHX, Mark N4YWW, Tim KE4KFV. Pat KE4IWD, Art KI4KWV. An APRS station was also set up at Net Control and digital messaging was used from the Finish Line where voice signals were difficult to receive. Gene Norman with Atkins Communications provided the communications van.

In 2014, the Bridge Challenge will move to the first Saturday in June.

In The News

09/11/2013 | Two Ham-Astronauts Return to Earth from Space Station.

09/17/2013 | Three amateur radio CubeSats (aka PhoneSats) are now in orbit downlinking on 437.425 MHz. Go to www.phonesat.org for more information.

09/18/2013 A spate of natural disasters brought ARRL response--Colorado Storms and Flooding, Morgan CA Incident Fire, Hurricane Watch Net for Hurricane Ingrid, Rim Fire at Yosemite.

09/19/2013 | FCC dismissed a petition to amend Part 97 Amateur Service rules to permit the encryption of certain amateur communications during emergency operations or related training exercises.

Resources

www.JustInTimeDisasterTraining.org Find over 400 disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery videos in the *Just In Time Disaster Training Video Library*. This FREE on-line library provides a single, easy to search, up-to-date source for disaster training.

LARC Officers

Ted Manuel
President
KF4FLY

Tom Land
Vice President
KA4HKK

Michelle Suddreth
Secretary
KD4YTU

Warren Gruber
Treasurer
WU3Y

Nominations of Officers for the coming year will be made at the October 10 meeting and the election of the 2014 Officers held at the November 14 meeting.

Editor for a Final

By Ro K4HRM

At the last Club meeting, I commented to Ted KF4FLY that I had just purchased a BaoFeng dual band radio for \$31. He laughed and picked up his handheld and it was a BaoFeng that he too had just purchased. I told him that I had opened the box, charged the battery and turned on the unit and started to scan the frequencies on simplex and the Morganton repeater blew me out of my chair using the little rubber ducky antenna. Since I live near Bethlehem, this reception is great!

I learned of the BaoFeng HT when a ham friend recently wrote a review on it for his Club's Newsletter. He was a doubter but had purchased one after reading a favorable *eHam* review and was pleasantly surprised with its performance. So I said "what the heck" and ordered one.

The unit I purchased is the BaoFeng UV-5 from Amazon.com for \$31.79 and free shipping. The unit came with a charging cradle and earphones/microphone and I added an upgraded antenna for \$8 and a programming cable for \$6.

Programming the memory, particularly repeaters, was not very intuitive. Ted had experienced the same problem and had used CHIRP software instead of the BaoFeng software and offered to share his program spreadsheet with me. A few days later, I had installed CHIRP and Ted's program spreadsheet and was driving around the area – Hickory, Lenior, Taylorsville – checking out the BaoFeng's performance.



I have had the BaoFeng for about 3 weeks now and do I recommend this handheld? An unqualified yes! But forget the manual that comes with it. Get the BaoFeng UV-5 manual from The (Chinese) Radio Documentation Project <http://radiodoc.github.com> or just ask Ted for his program spreadsheet. For the price, it's a winner!

Comments concerning the Newsletter should be sent to Ro K4HRM at hmraddox@nettally.com
Suggestions for articles will be appreciated.