

D E C E M B E R 2 0 1 3

N4LNR

News & Views

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



Save the Date!

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

LARC Elects 2014 Officers

The LARC Officers for 2014 were elected by written ballot at the November meeting pursuant to the Club's Constitution. Ted Manual KL4FLY was elected to a second term as President. Tom Land KA4HKK was elected to serve a full-term as Vice-President. Irv Kanode W4IWK was elected as Secretary and Phil Crump KG4BCC was elected as Treasurer.

The members thanked the outgoing Secretary and Treasurer, Michelle Suddreth KD4YTU and Warren Gruber WU3Y, for their service to the Club.

LARC Eatin' Meetin' – December 5

Members are invited to gather at Meedo's Italian Restaurant (211 Arrowood St SE Lenoir) on Thursday, December 5, at 6:00 PM, for the LARC Annual Eatin' Meetin'. There will be a brief meeting and Dirty Santa. Bring a wrapped \$10 gift to participate in the Dirty Santa. Come say "Thank You" to the outgoing officers and offer condolences to the incoming ones. *See you there!*



President's Message

Fall season has quickly approached with the anticipated and expected change in weather conditions. Fortunately our weather hasn't been as severe as other parts of the world, especially with what has recently happened in the Philippines. They are experiencing a disaster that would be difficult to fully prepare for, even with advanced notice.

One of the hats I get to wear in my "day job" is on the topic of Disaster Recovery from an IT perspective. It never fails that in discussions of DR some patterns emerge. Specifically, I see these silly concepts: 1)

"Tell me what type of disaster we'll have and I'll tell you how we'll be prepared. 2) Tell me when the disaster will occur and I'll let you know our plan of recovery; 3) Tell me the severity of the forthcoming disaster and I'll let you know how we'll react". I wish I had a crystal ball that I could sit on the table during those meetings to emphasize how unrealistic it is to think we can fully anticipate the details of a disaster before they happen. The best we can do are 2 things: 1) Prevent/minimize disasters as much as possible and 2) stay flexible in our plans no matter the disaster. The DR topic industry is paved with hundreds of books, countless consultants, and every insurance company available. It's big business. In fact, the price tag becomes so large to build the perfect "Band-Aid" that some companies choose not to prepare a DR plan. The nature of their business is such that recovery is fairly simple, the industry is low-tech, or the cost would be so substantial they would just shut the doors.

I'm grateful that my DR "hat" is only about business continuity and data recovery, not so much humanitarian factors. My heart goes out not just to those who have lost life, but those who will lose life in the coming days for lack of basic care or staple needs. It makes us sitting here over 8,000 miles away feel somewhat hopeless, but even at this distance there are things we can do. Spiritually, we can pray, financially we can support relief efforts through various entities, and technically, we can support global relief entities such as GEM (Global Emergency communications). I won't give the false sense that I knew about this organization prior to just a few days ago, so I encourage you to discover it for yourself. More importantly, become active in localized emergency entities such as ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) and CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) so if/when a regional or local disaster hits home, you'll not just be prepared, but you'll be able to assist those who weren't prepared. Be Proactive, not just reactive when a disaster hits.

For me, the HAIYAN typhoon hits a little closer to home because I have an older brother currently in the Philippines. Thankfully, he is safe and unharmed but the conditions of life there are difficult. Hopefully, he'll be able to return home within the next couple of weeks.

Following the article on *APRS: A Fun Tool in the Box* (November 2013 Newsletter), Michelle KD4YTU shared an article on a low cost way to use APRS on HF for long distance tracking. For more information, go to: <http://hackaday.com/2013/11/14/long-distance-high-frequency-aprs-tracking-using-the-freetrak63/>

County Hunting

Guest Column By Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ



Many of us covet the DXCC award but find it out of our reach. We continue to hack away at it and hope to achieve it one day. But in the meantime, there is an award that is more attainable: the USA-CA (USA-Counties Award), sponsored by CQ Magazine. It is awarded to amateurs who have made contacts with other hams in a minimum number of counties in the US. Hams who seek this award are called “County Hunters.” And becoming one yourself is easier than you think!

What is County Hunting?

There are many aspects within Amateur Radio and County Hunting is just one of them. The goal of County Hunting is to make two-way contacts with stations in as many US counties as possible. There are a total of 3077 award-officiated counties in the US with up to at least 3141 total and contacting all of them is the ultimate goal. The basic certificate is available for working 500 counties in any of the 50 states, with SSB, CW, or any combination of modes. Award upgrades in the form of seals are available in increments of 500 counties with certain numbers of states required, until the goal of all counties is reached. A special honors plaque can be awarded upon completion the whole program at 3077 counties!

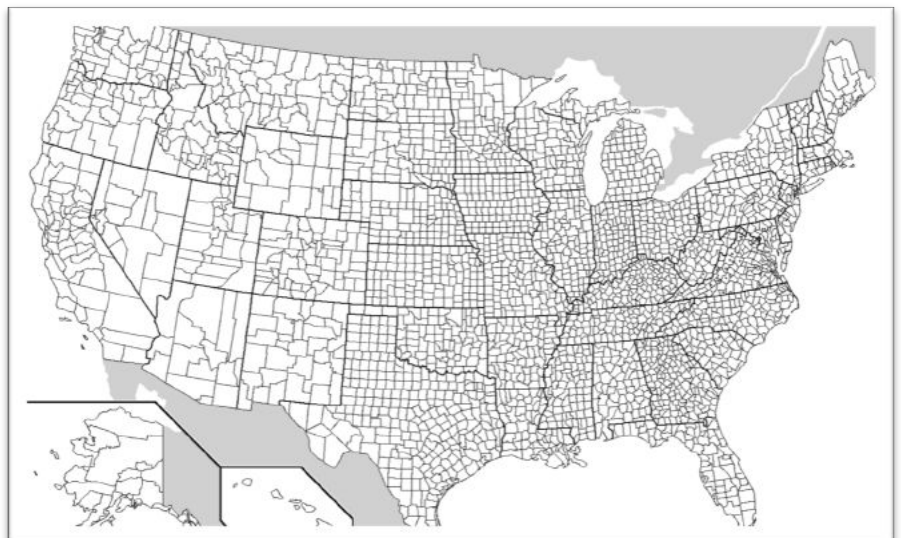
You would think that working all 3077 counties would be a difficult task, but as of this writing, just over 1230 amateurs have worked all 3077 US counties since the first award was presented in 1965. There are actually several hams that have accomplished this feat multiple times. KZ2P has done it 14 times. Three others have done it 10 times.

How Do You Hunt Counties?

There are a number of ways to hunt for counties: the easiest way is to just stumble on them – contacting stations in other counties across the nation in the regular process of having QSOs can rack them up in no time. Start off by perusing your old QSL card collection. There are a few other more lucrative ways to collect counties--the easiest being state QSO parties. There's practically a new state or two available each weekend and a goal of these parties is to make available their counties for the taking. Another more determined route is to actively seek them via "County Hunter" groups.

State QSO Parties

The primary objective of state QSO parties is to contact as many stations in the target state as possible. Most states have a contest that involves working all of the counties within the state. Because the contest exchange usually contains the county, this is an excellent way to boost your county count for the USA-CA award. You might also win a state's award along the way. As mentioned, there's a state QSO party (or more) going on most weekends of the year. Check <http://qsoparty.eqth.net/> or other contest calendars for the latest schedules.



By the way, the next North Carolina QSO Party is February 23, 2014 from 10:00 am until 8:00 pm. The object is for Amateurs outside of the state to make contact with as many NC stations as possible. NC stations, of course, may work everyone, supplying their county. The exchange is signal report (R/S) and the county. There are a large number of interesting awards given for this contest. For complete details and rules go to <http://rars.org/ncqsoparty>.

Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club

A third way to collect counties is to actively seek them through "County Hunter" groups. The most active group is MARAC, the Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club, an organization of independent county hunters (<http://www.marac.org/>). They operate the Mobile Emergency and County Hunters Net, which, under normal conditions, only run mobiles for the purpose of members collecting counties. They have also devised a confirmation called the Mobile Reply Card, MRC for short that will hold up to 10 contacts for each station, making QSLing much cheaper and easier. MARAC also offers a set of awards themselves and have an interesting video on their website. MARAC also offers an 'app' for tracking the USA-CA Award as well as the many of their other offered awards.



You Have Probably Already Started! ...No Really – Just look at your wall!

Many of us who've been around for a while would qualify for the first level (500 counties) just by sifting through our QSL cards collection or working through our electronic logbooks, filling in the counties from QRZ.com. If you already have your 500 counties, then just go to <http://www.countyhunter.com/cq.htm> and begin the process. If you use eQSL, simply go to the Awards page and at the bottom click on the "Go to CQ Awards Interface" button. Then choose the USA-CA Award. It's that easy! Because there is a state QSO party almost every weekend, county hunting can add new challenges and fun to your weekends.

Who will be the first in LARC to get the USA-CA?

Stan Zawrotny K4SBZ received his license first in 1958, and after lapses caused by military and work; he re-upped in 2007, passing the Technician, General and Extra in one sitting. He operates on all bands SSB and digital and enjoys rag chew, DX and contests. He is active with public relations, emergency communications and is an ARRL VE.



The Bone Yard -- 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.

Work Continues on LARC Mobile Command

The “hammers” were hard at work finishing out the communications trailer at the November 23 workday. Progress was made on smoothing and priming the ceiling and work began on the front cabinets. Looks like the supervisors were hard at work!



Ham Tips

How do you receive this unit? A phrase heard often over radio frequencies. The response may vary from exact read of an S meter to a general “loud and clear.” But if you are giving somebody a signal report while you are talking on a repeater, the signal you see on your S meter is not how strong the other station is, but it's the signal strength of the repeater. The station you're talking to may be extremely weak, but your S meter is indicating full scale. The only report you can give is the amount of “quieting” (strength) into the repeater.

Lenoir Amateur Radio Club

Club Roster - November 2013

Note: Please be respectful of the privacy of contact information provided

Name	Call	Email
Aldridge, Joy	KI4SLT	ki4slt@charter.net
Aldridge, Mike	KI4RPM	ki4rpm@charter.net
Bowman, Jesse		jesse-bowman6391@hotmail.com
Bradshaw, James	N4NIN	n4nin@earthlink.net
Bradshaw, Mark	KJ4WY	kj4wyk4wy@charter.net
Bradshaw, Susan	N4OJN	n4nin@earthlink.net
Brookshire, Dorothy	N4XAF	
Brookshire, Sr, Jack	AA4FT	aa4ft@att.net
Bruner, David	KI4KWT	bubbaofnc@aol.com
Bruner, Elaine	KI4QYA	mawbruner@aol.com
Crump, Clayton	KE4VJH	k34vjh@charter.net
Crump, Pat	KE4LWD	dudcrum@yahoo.com
Crump, Phil	KG4BCC	philcrump@gmail.com
Gragg, Jerry	AD4JG	graggjltj@charter.net
Greer, Tanner	KK4SZI	tannergreer@bellsouth.net
Gruber, Warren	WU3Y	wkgruber@msn.com
Kanode, Irv	W4IWK	kanode@mindspring.com
King, William	WB4Y	eq-wb4y@charter.net
Land, Tom	KA4HKK	thomasland@msn.com
Livingston, Scott	KC4SWL	bscout@charter.net
Maddox, Roberta	K4HRM	hrmaddox@nettally.com
Manuel, Ted	KF4FLY	tmanuel@alexlee.com
McDaniel Buck	N4PGW	buck@n4pgw.org
McDaniel, Cat	WB4CAT	elmfw@wb4cat.org
Picazo Greg		chelitopicazo@yahoo.com
Picazo Linda		linda_diana1@yahoo.com
Rogers, Ruby	KA4CLI	patchup36@charter.net
Stoots, Tony		tonystoots@charter.net
Suddreth, Michelle	KD4YTU	kd4ytu@arrrl.net

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

You don't have to be a member of ARRL to have access to the *The ARRL Letter* that is a weekly direct email to members only. Just log on to www.QRZ.com. *The ARRL Letter* is made available at this website for all persons interested in amateur radio.

Last Meeting

- November meeting was well attended. Mike Aldridge KI4RPM, Joy Aldridge KI4SIT and Tanner Greer KK4SZI became new members. Tom Withem WA9FHM and Paul Castillo were guests.
- Minutes of the October meeting and the Treasurer's Report were accepted.
- November 23 was set as a workday on the communications trailer.
- Tom KA4HKK reported Field Day 2013 results were in the December issue of *QST* and the Club came in 238 of the 340 entries in Class 2A.
- Officers for 2014 elected and minor changes to the Club's Constitution and By-Laws ratified.
- Next meeting will be at Meedo's and the President will advise the date later. Dirty Santa with a wrapped \$10 gift for those who wish to participate.
- Discussed technology, such as using a Drop box (Cubby) for giving member access to non-public LARC information. Ted KL4FLY talked about recent crypto virus problems.
- Caldwell County Emergency Services has moved to the HHS building on Morganton Blvd. Tour of the facility to be arranged for a future meeting.
- Participating in CARES and CERT discussed and Irv asked those interested in staying informed to give him email addresses.
- James N4NIN advised South Eastern Repeater Assn. (SERA) seems to be experiencing problems and he will continue his efforts to make the required LARC annual report.
- Program was a DXpedition video to a South Pacific island—well received on a cold night!

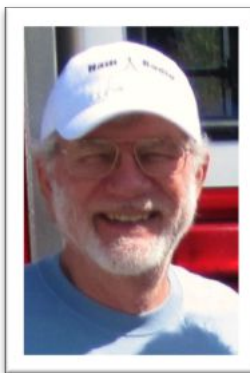
LARC 2014 Officers



Ted Manuel
President
KF4FLY



Tom Land
Vice President
KA4HKK



Irv Kanode
Secretary
W4IWK



Phil Crump
Treasurer
KG4BCC

NC ARRL ARES: Fall SET

The NC FALL SIMULATED EMERGENCY TESTS (SET) EXERCISE is underway. The first SET was held Saturday, November 30th, and a second exercise will be held on Saturday, December 14th. In addition to phone on 3923 KHz, the North Carolina ARES frequency, digital modes will be used extensively. Winlink will remain the primary mode for store-and-forward traffic as it has in the past, but peer-to-peer modes will be introduced using Olivia and MT63, digital modes that many other ARES and AUXCOMM units are using. For those who want to try these two modes, download FLDIGI software available free at <http://www.w1hkj.com/download.html> and learn how to operate it at <http://www.w1hkj.com/beginners.html>. Further updates on the SET is available on the Tar Heel Emergency Net (THEN) nightly at 7:30 PM local on 3923 KHz, and especially on Monday evenings which is ARES night on THEN. The section website at www.ncarrl.org will also have frequent SET updates.

Editor for a Final



My wish for the New Year as your Newsletter Editor is to feature a member's (and non-member's) amateur radio experience that will help us get to know each other a little better and to learn just a little bit more about our fellow "hams" radio interests. My goal is to ask each one of you to share with me a couple paragraphs about yourself and your radio hobby. Now this "hobby" experience can be wide ranging. Recall that in the November Newsletter, James N4NIN was featured with his "first radio." Experiences such as my first radio, my first contact, my go-to radio gear, my best/worst radio experience, why I am in amateur radio, my favorite radio activity/interests, why did I buy that! and the list goes on.

I am asking each of you to "NOT Just Say NO" when I ask you to share a story with me. You only have to give me the basic facts either in person, by phone or email and I will write the article (photos desired).

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

