



# *News & Views*

of the

## *Lenoir Amateur Radio Club*

PO Box 3276, Lenoir, NC 28645 <http://lenoir-arc.org> June 2012

*Serving Amateur Radio in Caldwell County*

### **President's Column**



*Scott - KC4SWL*

Made your summer vacation plans yet? If you're going off somewhere, have you thought about taking along your HF or VHF rig and doing some mobile hamming? That would be an interesting subject for discussion at a later club function. If you're going to do any mobile HF work, let us know and maybe we can set up a sked. Maybe you could write up an article for the newsletter; some pictures of your vacation spot would be a nice addition also.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> has come and gone and with it the Blue Ridge Horseman's Associations endurance ride. Ted has written a good article about the day so all I'll say about it is that I had a great time and I hope they invite us to help in future events. If you participated in it we'll spend a little time at the next meeting to critique the day and discuss what we and they might do to make it flow more smoothly in future events.

Our next event after the June club meeting is of course Field Day. I hope you have already made plans to participate. We would like everyone to get some "on the air" time but if you just want to come and hang out that would be great also. Making a lot of points is good but for me the outing and fellowship (along with the food) is worth the time. Bring a friend with you. This is a great opportunity to check out your radio(s) before you leave on that vacation. Come to the meeting Thursday night for more details.

We need to finish up our ticket sales for the digital scanner. We will draw the winning ticket at field day. Please have your ticket stubs and money ready to turn in to James by that date.

73 and catch all the signals you can, throw out a few yourself too. Scott KC4SWL

## Blue Ridge Horseman Association Endurance Event



*Four Hams outside the Communications Trailer*

On Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the LARC assisted the Blue Ridge Horseman Association with an Endurance Event. Duane Barnett (coordinator) contacted LARC President in request for support due to the inadequacy of other forms of reliable communication available in the remote area and trails. The event would be a 25 mile loop, with some riders doing two loops. The LARC quickly agreed to assist since this provides both community support as well as the opportunity to hone radio skills.

A preliminary scope of area propagation was conducted prior to the event and it was determined that more than one frequency may be required for adequate coverage across all trail stations. Radio stations were established at three areas. Net-Control (utilizing the emergency communication trailer) was anchored at the main campground and manned by Jerry Gragg (AD4JG), Floyd Key (AD4FK), Warren Gruber (WU3Y), and Dorney LePierre (KG4YNM), plus a new HAM whom at writing wasn't identified. James Bradshaw (N4NIN) manned the station utilizing the club repeater frequency. (KC4SWL) and (KF4FLY) manned the Boone Fork station via simplex (146.595).

There were nearly 100 riders who participated in Saturday's event. Veterinarians were located at each check-in station to perform health-checks on the horses to ensure their safety as well as the rider. One of the vets (Mike



*Jerry at the Controls*



Bridges, WB4SCC) is also a charter member of the LARC. Some horses were pulled during the event due to health concerns, but none severe.

Radio communication was a significant factor in assisting the search and providing the status of a lost rider who took a wrong trail near the end of the event, but after an hour, she was found and completed the event.

The BRHA were very appreciative of the LARC and their assistance and I expect the LARC will be utilized again in future BRHA coordinated events.

By Ted Manuel - KF4FLY



*Scott "Supervises" the Activities*



*A Briefing at Net Control*

## Editor's Column



*Michelle - KD4YTU*

Greetings,

The Summer Solstice is almost here but, so far, the weather has been rather pleasant. Even though March and April were warmer than normal, May was somewhat cooler than normal. We have had enough rain that the area is no longer considered to be in drought conditions. Here's hoping that Summer is mild.

For being off, the Summer sure is busy. I helped with Summer registration at WPCC, then worked getting ready for the Open House at the hackerspace. The open house was to observe the finish (more or less) of the model shop and classroom, and the “official” start of the Ham station. We scrounged a slushie machine and a popcorn machine along with the usual burgers and hotdogs. It was a big success with three new members and around 30 visitors. As Rich, the FCW president, said. “Most of the construction is now over. Now the fun begins.” And, the fun has begun. The model railroad is running and is being expanded. The Ham station is up on both VHF and HF though our main HF antenna is still being assembled. We have a 3d printer under construction, and are building a “retro” arcade game. Several small woodworking, machining and electronics projects have been completed. We are planning to have an introduction to Digital Electronics, and a beginning soldering class in the near future. Anyone is welcome to join us at our regular meetings on Saturdays at 3PM or Tuesdays at 7PM.

FCW will be operating a field day station (K4FCW). Several of the visitors were hams and said they would come back for field day. Again there will be food, a field day tradition. Encourage anyone interested in Ham Radio to find a field day station and participate, whether it be the hackerspace in Granite Falls, LARC in Collettsville, or WPARC in Morganton.

Last Friday and Saturday was the Linuxfest in Charlotte. There were lots of workshops and panel discussions on free and open source software. I found it interesting that they had a ham radio talk in frequency and had VE exams as one of the scheduled events.

This coming Saturday is the Makerfaire in Raleigh. This will be the first one for me and I am excited. It is at the state fairgrounds and has exhibits on anything that can be made, from food to alternate energy. I'm just not thrilled with the round trip to Raleigh in one day.

Then comes Field Day, the following Saturday, with the entailing lack of sleep associated with a 24 hr activity. After that, the next major event is the WCARS hamfest in Waynesville in July. Hopefully, I'll be able to fit in some work around here.

Michelle – KD4YTU

**LARC Meeting**  
**Thursday June 14 @ 7PM – Gamewell FD on 18/64**  
**Bring a friend**



# 2012 LARC Officers



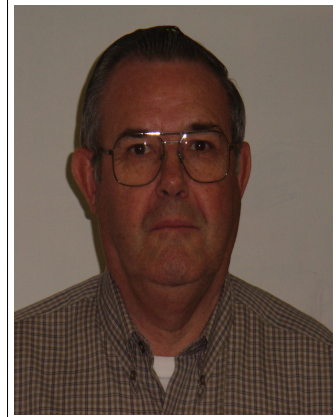
President  
Scott Livingston  
KC4SWL



Vice-President  
Jerry Gragg  
AD4JG



Secretary  
Susan Bradshaw  
N4OJN



Treasurer  
James Bradshaw  
N4NIN



## Events

**Ares Net – Each Sunday @ 8:30 on 147.33**

### Contests

June 16 – HF – Kids Day

June 23-24- HF, 6m+ - Field Day

For more information see

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/#corrall>

### Hamfests

July 28 – WCARS Hamfest – Haywood County

[www.wcars.org](http://www.wcars.org)

Sept. 1-2 Shelby Hamfest – Dallas

[shelbyhamfest.com](http://shelbyhamfest.com)