



# SHORT SKIP

Volume 64 Issue 4

April 2016

## From the Oval Office

by Marv, WV9O, LCARC President

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## REPEATERS

Freq	Location
147.000	Merrillville
147.240	St. John
442.075	Merrillville

All Lake County ARC Repeaters are open to all amateurs. All repeaters must have a PL of 131.8 set in order to access.



Spring is hear ant time to work on antennas! Thanks to Tim N9CA for another Great program. With the three great programs the last thee months on several types of wire antenna the club is upto date on how they work. So get the wires up and get on the air and have fun The program for April is Tom, W8FIB taling about the latest DXpeditions.

### Amateur Radio License Classes

The classes will start Thursday March 24th and will be held from 6:30pm to 8:00pm and will last 4-5 weeks. Classes held at the Merrillville Lake County Library 1919 W. 81st Ave. Merrillville Indiana. The course will be taught from ARRL "Ham Radio a License Manual" book #0222. The Manual cost is \$30 and is available from: <http://ARRL.org>. Q&A Manual #0178 is optional. Order the book before the class.

### The club is having three-club event for 2016.

- Indiana QSO Party May 7&\* 2016 Objective: For Amateurs worldwide to contact as many stations in Indiana as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter Amateur bands.
- IPOTA {Indiana Parks on the Air} club picnic September 10, 2016 o .....  
 Indiana Parks on the Air (INPOTA) is an awards program for radio amateurs and short-wave listeners that encourage portable operation in Indiana State Parks..
- 2016 ARRL Field Day is June 25-26 . Objective, To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations

It looks like a busy night and another great meeting for April, "Be there or be square"! From the Oval Office, 73 Marv WV9O

Reminder, If you have not paid your dues now is the time. If you already have paid for 2016, Thank you. Send them to the PO Box or to my home address below.

**Full member \$20, Family \$25, Associate-Non Ham- \$10**

LCARC, PO Box 90, Crown Point, IN 46308-0090

James W. Harney Sr., KF9EX  
 2600 W. 61st Place, Merrillville, IN 46410, (Home) 219-980-1798  
 (Cell) 219-671-1814  
[jwharney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jwharney@sbcglobal.net)



Yehh - I'm paid up my dues are paid for another year.  
 Are yours?

# Minutes LCARC

March 11, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM

Introductions were made with 16 members and 1 visitor for a total of 17.

Minutes from last meeting were read and accepted as read.

Repeaters are OK, will be making a change on announcements for club net to say the 1st and 3rd Thursday each month.

No Red Cross reports.

DX reports Good propagation on 40 meters. Heard Is. and S. Sandwich Is. coming up with Coco Keeling Is. on the air right now. The Sunspot cycle is on the downside now.

Net report has 16 check-ins in February and 14 check-ins on March 4. Next net is on March 17.

Sky warn has a meeting March 12 which cards to get new members will be passed out and also cards for classes to get Amateur radio license. The class to teach people to get the Technician License will start March 24, 2016 will run for 5 weeks has 5 people now signed up and hope to get more to attend.

Change to club policy is New hams, Upgrade license, and first time members to get 1 year free membership. The change added first time members to get 1 year free membership.

8:02 took a break and started program on loop antennas by N9CA Tim.

Raffle for J-pole was won by Cliff WA8ZAZ

50/50 drawing was won by Paul KD9FWU

Meeting adjourned at 9:04PM

**FOR SALE!**

- MLA 2500 Dentron Linear Amp
  - Dentron 160-10 Transmatch
  - Yaesu SSB Transceiver FT-100EE
  - Yaesu 2- meter
  - Heathkit SB634
  - Heathkit AC Power Supply
  - Curtis Deluxe Keyer Model EK420A
  - CW Key
  - Speaker
  - Wilson WR-1000 directional antenna
  - Turner Plus 3 Microphone
- If interested please contact  
Lynn Jacobs, WB9SCS  
7125 E 157 th Street  
Hobart, IN 46341

# Bicentennial Indiana QSO Party

By Jim Rinehart, K9RU

The Bicentennial Indiana QSO Party is Saturday, May 7th, 11AM to 11PM EDT. This is a 12 hour operating event with the objective of activating all 92 Indiana counties and getting as many Indiana hams on the air as possible during the QSO Party on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter amateur bands, CW and Phone.

The goal for hams operating from Indiana is to work all 92 counties and as many hams in Indiana and worldwide as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter amateur bands.

For hams operating outside Indiana, you will want to work as many Indiana hams and counties as possible.

As part of the Indiana Bicentennial Celebration, the HDXCC will offer a special certificate for working the following 15 counties: Clark, Dearborn, Franklin, Gibson, Harrison, Jackson, Knox, Orange, Perry, Posey, Switzerland, Warrick, Washington and Wayne, representing the 15 counties that made up Indiana on December 11, 1816 when Indiana was admitted to the union. See rules for detail on receiving the certificate.

INQP allows a number of operating categories including: QRP, low and high power single operator, all-out club efforts, multi-operator high power and multi-multi (multi operator and multi transmitters) operation. Also included are mobile units and rovers moving from county to county and portable setups similar to Field Day. Plaques are awarded for best in Indiana, out of state efforts, and best individual county efforts!

The Indiana exchange is RS(T) plus the county. For all other states, it is RS(T) plus state. For Canada RS(T) plus province or territory and all others it is RS(T) plus DX.

Digital logs are preferred for INQP entry submissions. Handwritten logs are accepted, but they have to be manually entered, so please use logging software if at all possible. The Cabrillo log format is preferred for log submission.

The INQP overlaps with a few other QSO parties and contests: the 7QP, NEQP, and the Italian ARI Contest. So, during the INQP many other stations seek contacts from Indiana to fill their logs. The more Indiana stations on the air that day, the more action for everyone!

Typically 80, 40 and 20 meters are the most common bands used during the INQP, with 40 meters being the best band to work Indiana stations. Check 80/75 meters after dark for activity.

See the HDXCC web site for detailed information on the INQP rules, entry categories, logging software links and operating information for the INQP: <http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/index.html>

The Indiana QSO Party is sponsored by the Hoosier DX and Contest Club (HDXCC)

## April - May Programs

The APRIL program will be Tom Ruckles W8FIB. Tom will present information on current DX Expeditions like Heard Island, Norfolk Island, Palestine, Spratly Islands, Samoa, Bahrain, Iran, Mayotte Island, Juan de Nova, etc.

In MAY a representative from NIPSCO will present a program on Utility line noise - sources of - remedies - elimination of - who to contact - etc.

# What Would Wayne (Green) Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Wayne Green was a crackpot...but he was a great one.

For those of you who aren't as old as I am, Wayne Green, W2NSD, was not only the publisher of 73 Magazine, but also the founder of Byte and other PC magazines in the early days of personal computing. In 73, he would write these long, rambling editorials. Often, he would take the ARRL to task, criticizing what he thought to be some lunk-headed policy or another.

Just as often, he'd be encouraging hams to take up some new technology. He was, for example, one of the guys driving hams to set up repeater systems.

He would often exhort hams to get started in their own technology-related business. I remember one column where he urged hams to get involved in the home-security business. And, of course, when personal computers became popular, he wrote that hams should think about getting into that business. His reasoning was that our knowledge of electronics would stand us in good stead in those businesses.

Today, I think that he would be telling us to get more involved in with technologies like the Internet of Things, WiFi, or whatever other wireless technology is coming down the pike. "Wireless" is the key word here. These networking technologies are based on good, old radio, and who better to push these technologies forward than guys like us who understand radio.

This point was brought home to me last week as I was interviewing an executive of a wireless company for an article that I'm writing. He said to me that many of the companies he works with are taking a software-centric view to their wireless products. They simply use the reference designs provided by the wireless chip makers and expect those designs to work flawlessly in their products.

While they often do, he gave me an example where simply using the reference design was a colossal failure. In one case, he said, the company mounted the board inside a metal enclosure. Since the antenna was part of the printed-circuit board, the enclosure acted like a shield, and of course, the device had little or no range.

He went on to say that he thought that there was a real shortage of experienced RF guys in the wireless industry. Does that sound like an opportunity to you? It does to me. So, I'm going to make like Wayne Green here and exhort all you guys to get out there and take advantage of it.

This is not only a business opportunity, but a way for amateur radio operators to fulfill a couple of the "purposes" of amateur radio, as set forth in Part 97.1 of the amateur radio regulations. Part 97.1(b) says that one of the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service is "Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." According to Part 97.1(d), another purpose of the Amateur Radio Service is "Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts."

Let's do it!

When he's not ruminating on the latest wireless technologies, KB6NU likes to make use of some vintage wireless technologies by working CW on the HF bands. He's also a prolific blogger ([www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com)) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides ([www.kb6nu.com/study-guides](http://www.kb6nu.com/study-guides)). If you have a comment or a question, email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## Everything You Wanted to Know About Utility Poles

[A Field Guide to the North American Utility Pole](#)

## Ham Radio, the First Social Network

from Kimkomando Online



The 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake registered 6.9 on the Richter scale, interrupted the World Series, killed 60 and injured thousands. But in that chaos, there was an unsung group of heroes. In this Komando.com Report, we take

you inside the life of ham radio operators.

Click on this link <https://youtu.be/155NyYNzFN4> and be taken to the YouTube Video.



"A ham - pod?"

# Retirement and Ham Radio

Mike, AD5A -- original page <http://www.amateurradio.com/retirement-and-ham-radio/>

Last Monday, January 4th, 2016 marked my last official day as an employee. I am now retired. I made the decision a year ago, so I've had some time to get ready for the transition. I had a very demanding job and life was a very tight schedule. Now I get to decide when I get up in the morning.

Basically my last day in the office was mid-December, so I've had a nice taste of freedom from employment already. My schedule, or lack thereof, is starting to gel although I'm sure I will go through numerous "phases", I think the pattern is set. So below are a few things that I've already experienced on how retirement will effect my ham radio pursuits.

- I've had time actually read the owner's manual for my radios.
- I've learned to set-up and use the frequency/band memory functions available on the K3
- I now understand more of the menu options for the radio
- I can now operate my HT.
- I'm reading books about antennas
- Contacts can actually last longer than 10 seconds
- I love CW and have found that rag-chewing is a very enjoyable aspect of ham radio. I have met some very interesting people and I've started to make a lot of new friends since I've taken time to just call CQ and not append DX to it
- I joined the local 2 meter weak signal group and I actually check in to their weekly net.. When I'm home I monitor 144.200 on SSB/CW. VHF/UHF can provide a lot of excitement for a DX minded ham. The DX isn't as far, but it's just as satisfying.
- Cleaned out my shack
- I've acquired a lot of new equipment over the years, but I haven't gotten rid of much. There are many avenues to sell gear, EBay, QRZ.com, eHam, etc.... Now that I'm retired I will have a more modest ham radio budget and getting rid of the old stuff provides a little cash for even more toys.
- Build the kits I've purchased
- I haven't finished this yet, but I've started
- Consider more expeditions
- I love SOTA and can now plan extended SOTA activation trips with no time lines.
- I've activated 10+ IOTA islands and can now consider planning more trips.

What I have come to learn is that Monday is just as good a day as Saturday and weekend crowds are to be avoided. There are no crowds on Tuesdays.

I'm sure I'll write more as I get settled into this new lifestyle.

Mike Crownover, AD5A, is a regular contributor to *AmateurRadio.com* and writes from Texas, USA. Contact him at [ad5a@gvtc.com](mailto:ad5a@gvtc.com)

## Defiant XYL Says She'll Work 75m Upper Sideband

by WBØRUR on the scene



By WBØRUR, on the scene

SCHENECTADY, UTAH – In an unprecedented operating decision, Wyandott County amateur radio operator Angelina McFarland says she will begin working 75 meter phone

exclusively on upper sideband next month.

“It’s something I’ve been thinking about for a long time,” says the 62-year-old grandmother of five. From her log cabin in the Wasatch Mountains, McFarland says it’s time to take action and “be the change I want to see in the world.”

“In the 60’s, I was burning my bra on Main Street, marching on Washington and joining my friends in other forms of civil disobedience. This seems like a logical extension,” she says,

arranging her flowing rainbow colored robes.

**“It’s something I’ve been thinking about for a long time,”**

Brown rice cooks on the stove as the sound of a sitar recording echos through the two room cabin, which is hewn from locally harvested logs.

She pushes back the “love

beads” which separate her living room from the entrance to her ham shack to display her gear for reporters.

“A few months ago, I fought the expansion of a big box store in downtown Pagosa Springs... and I won!” she exclaims. “Now I need a new cause. And The Man has been holding back 75 meter upper sideband for too long.”

# Lake County Amateur Radio Club Membership Application



Please complete this form and return (address below) with your dues. Make all checks payable to LAKE COUNTY ARC. You may also return this application at one of our club meetings, held the 2nd Friday of each month at the Lake Co Dept of Homeland Security Office, 2900 W 93rd Ave, Crown Point, IN.

**Lake County ARC -- PO Box 90 -- Crown Point, IN 46308-0090**

Name	Call	License Class	ARRL Member
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Street Address			
<input type="text"/>			
City	State	Zip code	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
E-mail address	Phone number		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		

**Family Members covered by membership** (living with you)

DUES ENCLOSED (please choose)

- Full (\$20)
  Family (\$25)
  Associate -- Non Ham (\$10)

Name	Call	E-mail address	License Class
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Name	Call	E-mail address	License Class
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

Membership forms can be downloaded from our web site at [www.w9lj.org](http://www.w9lj.org). If you download the file from the web you can use your computer to fill in the blanks (makes our secretary happy) and then print the form with your information filled in.

## Thursday Night Net Resumes!

The Lake County Amateur Radio Club has restarted the Thursday night net.

The net will be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. The net will begin at 7:30 PM on the club's 2 meter repeater, 147.000 MHZ, +, PL of 131.8. The net control operator will be Dan, KD9ARD. As you plan for your upcoming week, mark Thursday, Feb 18, 7:30 PM on your calendar. Hope to hear you Thursday. Joe K9JJK