



SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue 8

August 2015

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.



Well folks its August and school is getting ready to start, summer vacations are coming to an end. Time to think about getting back on the air as fall approaches! The bands have not been that great as of lately but they will start to settle down as fall comes.

The next club special event is coming Indiana Parks on the Air (IPO-TA) at the Indiana Dunes State Park at the Tremont Shelter on September 12th. This will be the club picnic also so bring the family and make it a great day enjoying one of the premier state parks of Indiana!

For our August meeting, Brent Walls, N9BA is going to come up from Indianapolis and speak to us. While he is involved with Hoosier DMR, he is also the ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator and is going to speak to us about ARES. Come out and meet Brent and ask questions, he will generate some enthusiasm for Emcomm in our area.

The second part of our program will be programming your CS-700/MD-380 DMR HT by Mark K9MQ. Mark supplies the code plugs for the CS700, MD-380 for the Hoosier DMR Facebook page. They are generic code plus, come and learn how to modify them for your own use with your favorite analog repeaters and simplex frequency!

Looks like another busy meeting see you there! -- 73 Marv WV9O

Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September ARRL Web Page

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In deciding earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of

both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

“Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category,” the FCC said in its Report and Order, which appeared on July 21 in The Federal Register. “Once [it’s] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments.”

The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise collect from such regulatory fees “will be proportionally assessed on other wireless fee categories.” Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly \$340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015.

Minutes

July 10, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM

- Minutes from June read and accepted with corrections.
- Treasury's report read and accepted as read.
- 46 members
- Repeater lightening arrestors installed and checked 147.000 repeater for operation
- Field day report Bob and his son put the antennas in the air. 85 contacts were made with several club members being able to work HF for the first time on field day.
- RACES has SKYWARN and Carter has started a new SKYWARN net with 146.685 PL 131.8 in Valparaiso Indiana which is showing a better showing.
- ARRL Section Manager has sent out forms for nominations for ARRL Indiana Section Amateur of the Year.
- Also discussion about giving out a coupon or certificate for new Hams after passing the exam. The VE's would be able to pass out these to new Hams that live in Lake County.
- Discussion about DMR UHF repeater and converting out UHF repeater to a DMR repeater and starting up a DMR Fund to purchase a Motorola DMR repeater and sell assets connected with the UHF repeater to cover costs.
- Next Month we have no program. Mark has suggestions for next months program and this is how to program a DMR radio.
- Bob also showing an antenna he constructed out of parts bought from a hardware store and simple to build.
- Show and tell is go kits with Paul showing a go kit he uses.
- Next show and tell will be keys for CW
- John, W9WY presented a program on Foxhunting
- Meeting Adjourned at 8:55PM

ARRL Files More "Grow Light" Ballast Complaints

from ARRL Web

The ARRL has filed three more complaints with the FCC, urging its Enforcement Bureau to investigate and initiate enforcement proceedings to halt the marketing and retail sale of certain RF lighting devices typically known as "grow light" ballasts, which, it said, violate FCC Part 18 rules. The largely identical complaints zeroed in on three specific products: The Galaxy Legacy Selective Wattage Ballast, the Quantum Horticulture HPS/MH-600W RF Lighting Ballast, and the

Lumatek "Dial-a-Watt Air-Cooled" 1000 W Ballast. The League had complained to the FCC in March 2014 about another Lumatek product, and noted that "apparently nothing has been done to date" in that case. The ARRL asserted that the three devices that are the subjects of its most recent complaints generate "blatantly excessive conducted emissions." Further, the League alleged, the devices are being marketed and sold illegally — in both instanc-

es in violation of FCC Part 18 rules. Supporting all three complaints were detailed reports

from the ARRL Laboratory that quantify the League's emission level concerns.

Program Schedule - August

For our August meeting, Brent Walls, N9BA is going to come up from Indianapolis and speak to us. While he is involved with Hoosier DMR, he is also the ARRL Indiana Section Emergency Coordinator and is going to speak to us about ARES. I've met Brent before and he might be able to generate some enthusiasm for Emcomm in our area.

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Skywarn and Marathons

By Carter Garcia, KC9YGU



Got this from a post on the KA9QJG newsgroup. The LCARC is glad to hear Carter is doing well and hope for a speedy recovery. - ed.

From NWI Skywarn : Our executive vice president was in a nasty car accident yesterday on US 30. Remind you he is a young man, 16 years old! He's doing ok, has minor injuries, but will be under the weather for a while. And from the pics I have seen his new truck he just got is a totaled. Prayers sent to Carter for a quick recovery!!!!

From Carter's Mother's Facebook post. "He (Carter) only has a bad concussion with amnesia and doesn't remembered leaving the fair The idiot who hit him was driving on a suspended license, ran the red light and hit Carter so hard it spun his truck around 360 degrees!"

DMR News

Mark, K9MQ



Round the Clock, home of the first NWI Meet and Greet and a great time had by all!!

The new Gary DMR repeater has been very active since first coming online. The repeater is frequently in the daily top ten list of most used DMR repeaters in the world. The local talkgroup, which is truly local has probably been the most popular talkgroup used. Since the repeater came online, Jim W9CTO has made a few improvements to

combed addition to our area.

Lake County currently has thirty-five DMR subscriber numbers issued and continues to grow. The number of issued subscriber numbers makes up for a little less than thirteen percent of all the issued numbers in the state of Indiana. This is great news since I was issued the first DMR num-

ber in Lake County back in September and we've grown that much in under a year. Last month, the Indianapolis Hamfest was held. State of the Art Communications in Russiaville sold numerous Tytera MD-380's at the hamfest. Several of them were purchased by hams in Northwest Indiana. Terre Haute also gained a DMR repeater since last month and is on the Hoosier DMR network. We also held our first Hoosier DMR Meet & Greet/Newbie Night for Northwest Indiana and the turnout was spectacular with twenty attendees' at the Round the Clock in Highland. While the event was setup to be more of a social gathering, there was plenty of discussion about DMR going on at the tables. I would like to thank everyone that came out. Ad a hearty TNX to Mark, K9MQ for organizing this event. See the article below for an unsolicited comment about DMR. John is a long-time CW fan and also a new convert to "the dark side". Thanks for the use of the article John -- ed.

the system. He has upgraded the power supply and duplexers. He also moved the repeater into a climate controlled building. The new Gary machine has been a wel-

come addition to our area.

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I was just going to send this to a couple folks but then I figured what the heck, let's get everyone on DMR.

I bought and set up a Connect Systems CS800 DMR digital UHF radio for my mobile.

I found traffic on UHF!!!! I dropped

\$280 for the rig all in. You don't need a new antenna and you don't need to cart around a basket of crystals.

It's good fun and not too expensive. Many thanks to Jeff, KC9TEW for setting me up with initial programming. It's not hard to program but it is also not intuitive.

We have two very good digital repeaters. W9CTO the creme de la creme as it has all the bells and whistles. N9IAA which has a tad bit better coverage for South County folks like me.

Sell your old 2m analog, it ain't coming back, and jump into digital. See you on the dark side. 73, John NA9U

HamShield turns an Arduino into a VHF/UHF transceiver

by Dan Romanchik, KB6N



The Arduino seems to be making a big splash in ham radio circles these days. The ARRL has recently published a couple of books about the Arduino and Arduino-based amateur radio projects. And, recently, I purchased a NanoKeyer (nanokeyer.wordpress.com), which is a CW keyer powered by an Ar-

duino Nano.

Now, a couple of enterprising young hams have built the HamShield (<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/749835103/ham-shield-for-arduino-vhf-uhf-transceiver>).

It's an Arduino shield that turns an Arduino into a VHF/UHF transceiver. With the HamShield, you can transmit and receive on the 2 m, 220 MHz, and 440 MHz bands.

According to Casey, KC7IBT, one of the project leaders, "We have both voice and data working on the shield right now and also have a powerful library to

control it."

"We also have it talking to the Chrome browser, so any computer that can run a web browser can operate a packet radio station or voice station. We also have another piece of chrome software called "APRS Messenger", a text messaging app for APRS. One of our prototypes is in a neat little case that clips right to the back of your laptop (shown in the video). I will launch these apps in the Chrome Store once we get closer to completion.

"We have 10 working prototypes currently, but need to raise money to fund the production cost and get the unit

prices down to acceptable levels. This means buying parts in bulk and reducing production costs."

I think this is a very cool project, and I hope that you'll consider supporting the HamShield Kickstarter project. I plan to get one and see what I can do with it.

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When not playing with Arduinos, Dan operates CW on the HF bands and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. He is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides. His most recent book is The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.

Allied Catalogs Online



This website will bring back some great memories: www.alliedcatalogs.com. The site also has a link to the archive of Radio Shack catalogs; the company was founded in 1921 but didn't print their first catalog until 1939.



US Islands QSO Party



This is to invite the Lake County ARC (W9LJ)and its members to participate in the 2015 US Islands QSO Party on August 29-30 (1200-0300 UTC). Nearly 3000 islands have been listed by the 21 year old US Islands Award Program and a little more than 2000 of these have been activated. There are many more islands in the USA and its territories that qualify for listing since an Island only need to be surrounded by water, at least 100 feet long and at least 50 feet from the main shoreline.

A mini-expedition to activate an island can be a fun club or individual Ham experience. This is especially true during USI's Spring One-Day Getaway and the August QSO Party. Being on the receiving end of relaxed pile-ups along with QSOs with other island stations and an expanding band of island collectors can be a rewarding activity for W9LJ. Some QSO Party island expeditions will be to previously activated Islands while others will be activating listed but not yet activated islands or new

islands they have had added to the list.

The first reported activators of an island have their callsign shown on the list of US Islands. Initial activations require at least 25 QSOs and contacts with at least two DX entities (usually the US and one other), but subsequent activations can be as few or many QSOs as you want to make.

Participating non-island stations are an important part of the USI QSO Party, so if Lake County ARC will not be operating from an island please consider having W9LJ contact the island stations during the USI QSO Party.

Information about the US Islands, the QSO Party and a calendar to post your planned operations can be found at: <http://www.usislands.org/> It would be appreciated if this information were mentioned at your club meetings and in your newsletters with the hope some members would want to participate as a club or individual effort.

73,

Ralph, NM5RC US Islands Award Program Committee Member

Membership forms can be downloaded from our web site at 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.

FOR SALE!



FOR SALE: YAESU FT-920

Comes with:

- Hand Microphone
- FM Unit
- 500Hz CW Filter
- Manual
- Power Cord

Asking \$700.00

Contact: Kerry, KB9ORH
kerry0464@comcast.net

FOR SALE: MOTOROLA XTS 3000



For Sale: MOTOROLA XTS3000 Handie-Talkies The picture shows 2 HTs (One is VHF, the other is UHF) and one charger but *the package comes with 2 IMPRESS chargers*. The IMPRESS chargers a smart chargers that read the battery condition and charge accordingly. These radios are both capable of P-25 as well as analog. They both come with a speaker mic. Both are programmed for repeaters in the Lake County / Chicago area.

You can purchase both for \$400.00 or your choice of VHF OR UHF for \$200.00. Contact John, W9WY at 219-922-1065

- The necessity of making a design change increases as the fabrication of the system approaches completion.
- Firmness of delivery dates is inversely proportional to the tightness of the schedule.
- Dimensions will always be expressed in the least usable term. Velocity, for example, will be expressed in furlongs per fortnight squared.

For Sale: Heathkit DX-60A Transmitter. 10-80M (excluding WARC). Includes assembly manual. There are some signs of wear, but overall the transmitter is in good shape. The transmitter worked when I first acquired it. I'm unable to fully test it at this time, but the tubes lit up. \$60, Sold As-Is. mark@k9mq.com

- Any wire cut to length, will be too short.
- The availability of a component is inversely proportional to the need for that component.
- Interchangeable parts won't (or to say it another way, Universal parts fit nothing!

Club Ditches Hats After Rude Comments

By WBØRUR, on the scene

BEAVER PASS, Georgia – In what is being called a completely unexpected turn of events, members of a central Georgia radio club have opted to forgo their idea of wearing matching apparel at local hamfests.

“We thought it would be a great way to build unity and club morale,” says Archie Smithpeters, President of the Georgia Peaches Radio Club. “But it had just the opposite effect.”

Eyewitnesses say the 12 radio club members were heckled and harassed while attending the “Great Southeast Ham Radio Swap” held in late October at an Atlanta suburb conference center.

“It was bad enough that they were making fun of our bright purple polo shirts. But then we all donned our neon yellow berets to walk the exhibit floor. The cat calls and laughs were really just too much to take,” said Smithpeters.

Hamfest organizers say the rude comments came from just a few attendees; most hams attending thought the brightly colored bunch were members of an ethnic dance troop headed to a nearby quinceanera.

Regardless, Smithpeters says the yellow berets have been discarded and the club will only wear flashing LED call signs on their shirts from this point forward.