



Short Skip

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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.

FROM THE PARADE STAND

by Tim, N9CA, LCARC President



Hi everyone.

Today, yet again, I thought what a great hobby Ham Radio is! It's been very hot and humid outside, while I was comfortable inside with the A/C on. No worries about social distancing or mask issues having fun operating. Now, what I need to do is to pick an award, and shoot for the contacts to make it happen.

Heard On-The-Band I fired up my radio today and tuned on through listening to the FT8 frequencies. Staring with 6 meters – nada, 10 meters – nope, ditto for many of the upper bands until I got to 40 meters.

At 5:00pm CST on a Thursday afternoon, my display filled with call signs from: Kuwait, Canary Island, South Africa, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, Belgium, Ecuador, plus every US state and Canadian province.

Virtual Hamfest Register ASAP for a free (yes free) on-line Ham Radio Expo. The event features 70+ HR speakers both this Saturday August 7th and Sunday August 8th. There will also be on-line virtual trade show of equipment. Visit www.qsotodayhamexpo.com

ARRL Podcasts: The latest episode of the On the Air podcast (Episode 7) features tips for soldering a PL-259 connector onto the end of a coaxial cable, and information on beginner courses for hams who want to serve their communities during disasters and other incidents. The On the Air podcast is a monthly companion to On the Air magazine, ARRL's magazine for beginner-to-intermediate ham radio operators.

Download podcasts at: [iTunes](#) Store, Bubby or [Sticher](#).

New Hurricanes are forming in the Atlantic, look for interesting propagation on VHF (especially 2 meters) along the frontal approaching boundaries.

For 2 meter VHF propagation anytime-any day visit: aprs.mennolink.org Just drag the map over and zoom into your location to see real-time VHF propagation.

Perseid Meteor Shower 2020 is predicted to peak August 11-12. Has anyone tried VHF meteor scatter propagation of the meteorite ionized trails using WSJT FT8, FT4, or MSK-144 modes? Six meters is the best and 50.260 is the calling frequency. It does not have to be at nighttime as ionization in the early morning hours is best - as are schedules with another ham. Visit: www.na0tc.org, or www.pingjockey.net for details and how to operate this mode.

LCARC will hold an actual physical meeting at the EMA office where we meet for many years: 2900 W. 93rd Ave, Crown Point IN 46307 at 7:00pm Friday August 14th. Masks and social distance will be maintained. Hard surfaces will be disinfected. Attending is a personal choice. Please weigh the risks vs your own health or that of a loved one you reside with before attending.

LCARC VE Session on Saturday August 22nd at 9:00am at the EMA 2900 W. 93rd office. All ham licenses levels will be offered for testing. Test cost is \$15.00 cash or check. Masks and social distancing will be strictly required as will a photo ID. All hard surfaces will be disinfected. Space is limited. Contact Tim McGillen/N9CA at 219-769-0673 to reserve your seat.

73, Tim/N9CA

LESSONS FROM THE RISE AND FALL OF BLACKBERRY

by Jeff Kagan

Lessons From the Rise and Fall of Blackberry: Jeff Kagan

Jeff Kagan Follow | Saturday, 20 June 2020 00:05 (EST)

What brought Blackberry down? This smartphone was a phenomenon that grew in popularity and market share for years. Crackberry was a term used to describe this device because it was so addictive for users. Then the Apple iPhone and Google Android entered the scene and Blackberry growth crashed. It could have survived but did not. Let's take a closer look and learn important lessons on the rise and fall of Blackberry.

Blackberry became one of those companies that captured the imagination of the marketplace and soared. The problem ultimately was its corporate personality. The senior executives got so full of themselves and didn't see how the world was changing and that the competitive threat was aimed at them.

Blackberry executives' attitude brought them down

They thought their customers would always stay with them. They were wrong. Their arrogance and attitude spelled their own disaster.

As long as you take great care of your customers and continue to innovate with important improvements, you can continue to succeed.

If you are slow to innovate, however, and if you show arrogance to your customers and the marketplace, you will fail — especially when you have powerful competitors.

Blackberry started out as a pager. The paging business was robust with many competitors. Then the company emerged from the pack, doing something other pagers couldn't. The product became a two-way pager and started to own the space.

Next, management introduced the wireless smartphone version and they thought they had struck gold. And they did,

for a while.

Blackberry executives thought they were invisible

This rapid success changed the leadership style and attitude of Blackberry and their executives. They thought their future growth was secure. They had little competition in their early years. Basically Palm, Motorola and Nokia were their only well-known competitors. So they had a lock on the smartphone market for a while and grew complacent.

That was their downfall. They never cared about the customer. They never cared about innovation. They had a slow upgrade cycle. They would only upgrade the technology and the handset occasionally. At the time, customers didn't demand more so they were still OK.

Today, users are used to an annual upgrade cycle from smartphones powered by iPhone iOS and Android.

Also, Blackberry was a business device. I remember speaking with the company

when it was trying to expand into the consumer marketplace. While many consumers did use the device, it remained basically a business device.

Early on, it was a solid device that did more than users expected. It had great battery life and was very secure. These were its advantages. And that was enough for the company to maintain its market share, for a while.

The wireless industry changed, leaving Blackberry behind

The app marketplace changed and grew, however, focusing on iPhone and Android and leaving Blackberry behind. While the Blackberry app store had a few hundred apps, the iPhone and Android app stores have grown to millions of apps.

Users fell in love with their iPhone and Android and wanted to use it for business. At that time the business marketplace was slow to embrace these new devices. The big threat was

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MEETING MINUTES

Sometime in the summer of 2020 Russ, KB9HO

The COVID-19 virus destroyed them. I have taken great precautions to prevent this from happening in the future. Sorry.

SIGNAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Ever hear a signal on the radio and you don't know what it is? Check out this website for audio files of over 377 different digital signals, both amateur and commercial. Most interesting.

https://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Signal_Identification_Guide

NEED HELP? CALL ON THESE ELMERS

- Tim N9CA
- Bill N4GIX
- Bill Young N9QLS
- Russ KB9HO
- Andy W9FXT.
- Mark K9MQ is an ARRL Tech Specialist and can also be called on.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Click on the highlighted links to go to the website

Check out the West Mountain Radio Website at <http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Quarter-2-2019.pdf>. Lots of good information not just on their products but ham radio topics as well.

Interested in DX? Join (FREE) the NWI DX Club and/or read the monthly newsletter. See them on the web at: <http://nwidx-club.weebly.com/>



Want to buy or sell "stuff". Checkout the club's website for great deals. <https://lcarc.weebly.com/for-sale> Right now there are some GREAT deals on Motorola Mobile and Portable (HTs) DMR radios and accessories.

RADIO OPERATORS BAND TOGETHER TO PRACTICE FOR THE WORST.

June 30, 2020 — Wayne Rash, Contributor, Consumer Tech, Wayne is a technology and science writer base in Washington

For twenty-four hours over the weekend of June 27 and 28, 2020, thousands of amateur radio operators across the United States and Canada set up temporary emergency communications centers where everything had to be done without external services. This meant they had to erect their own temporary antennas, provide their own emergency power and operate their equipment in temporary locations. Their goal was to prove that they can communicate with each other in times of an emergency when there's no infrastructure available.

These amateur radio operators, also known as hams, devote seemingly endless hours preparing their radio equipment, computers, cables and antennas required to conduct radio communications in today's demanding environment. What's more, these radio operators volunteered their time, provided their own equipment and transported it to a remote site without electrical power, frequently without shelter and with only the supplies they could carry. And this time, they were doing it in the middle of a pandemic where they met crowd size requirements and social distancing laws.

FEMA — Federal Emergency Management Agency. GETTY

US government concept acronym FEMA "They do this for the same reason we always

exercise," said former FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate. "It's better to have it break in practice than break for real."

In this case, the radio operators were having to work around Covid-19 requirements, but Fugate thinks that's a good thing.

"One purpose is to practice making contacts under really difficult conditions," he explained. "Finding clear channels is hard. These are some of the problems you find in an emergency." While the conditions the radio operators were working in only simulate a real emergency, they can be unpleasant. Fugate pointed out that ham radio operators are essential to communications such as hurricanes in the south or wildfires in the west.

"It's a good practice to make sure I can get my station set up, and that I can make contacts on a lone radio with a long wire," Fugate said. He pointed out in a recent op-ed in The Hill newspaper that when there's an emergency, amateur radio may be your only choice.

"A lot of this is doing stuff in emergency conditions," he said. "You're going to work with whatever you've got."

Fugate pointed out that in a real emergency, your normal channels of communication may not be there when you need them. "When all else fails there's amateur radio," he said. "We saw what Hurricane Mi-

chael did to cellular networks in the Florida panhandle. One county didn't have any contact with the state emergency operations center until a ham got there."

"That's the environment that ham radio excels in," Fugate said.

Field Day

The weekend event, known as Field Day, is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League, a national organization that supports amateur radio and helps watch over its interests, especially in Washington.

"Field Day started in 1953 as an annual event for the amateur radio community as an exercise for their communications emergency capability," said Bob Inderbitzen, a spokesperson for the ARRL. He noted that it's called "Field Day," because it's a time when amateur radio operators take their equipment out into a field, or perhaps a public park or picnic shelter, and test their ability to assemble and operate an emergency communications center. The exercises include contacting as many hams as possible in the U.S. and Canada, passing simulated emergency message traffic, communicating with emergency services and explaining the effort to local officials and first responders.

RADIO THEORY CAUSES CLASS CAUSES COMMOTION

By WBORUR, on the scene

GOLDEN SPIKE, MONTANA – Battered biscuits were thrown and voices were raised in anger at last month's meeting of the Gold Diggers Amateur Radio Club. According to witnesses, the proceedings turned tense after the Treasurer's report as Club president Lou Rodden's brother-in-law presented the monthly program.

Visiting from Square Butte Township, Nebraska, Mike Yuness told the group he has developed a technique which will "revolutionize radio broadcasting."

The amateur geologist and ham radio operator says he's come up with a way to ionize the Earth's molten core of magma and use it to send radio signals to the far corners of the globe.

As members lunched on braised beef tips and unlimited onion rings, Yuness raised the question: "Why go around the earth...when you can go through it?"

He describes his technique as a "cross between spark gap and digital," but declined to elaborate due to what he described as "very costly and ongoing patent infringement issues which must be resolved at great expense."

Yuness stated emphatically that ham operators thousands of miles away will be able to communicate "...using nothing more than common grounding rods."

As the hams looked on, club member Junior Brown bolted from his chair yelling, "You're a

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FOR SALE: Got some radio gear for sale? Looking for some radio gear to purchase? Check out the new FOR SALE page on the club's website — <https://lcarc.weebly.com/> -sale. Scroll down to see the most current items or click on the ARCHIVE section to see items for sale in previous months. If you have something that has been sold, be sure to contact John, W9WY for information to have your listing removed. There is no charge for club members to list their items. This is a service for members.

LESSONS FROM THE RISE AND FALL OF BLACKBERRY

by Jeff Kagan *Continued from page 4*

security. While Blackberry was very secure, iPhone and Android were not.

Fast forward to today, and every user, business or consumer uses an iPhone or Android device. Blackberry market share is zero.

Blackberry growth rose and fell over one decade

The Blackberry decade was 2006 – 2016. They sold four million smartphones in the early days. That grew to more than eleven million in 2011. That was its heyday. Then just as quickly, units sold fell back to less than four million again.

By this point, the smartphone market had exploded and so many more users were online. So, four million at the end of that decade was actually a much smaller slice of the marketplace than it was at the beginning.

Smartphone growth came from Apple and Google, not Blackberry. This was the beginning of the end for this iconic brand.

I met with management several times and shared my opinion of what they were up against and how they needed to change. They had an arrogance problem. They thought I was crazy. They never doubted their solid marketplace position. They didn't need anyone's help. Then they collapsed completely and quickly over just a few short years.

Blackberry didn't see the end coming until they collapsed

They didn't see it coming. By the time they did, it was too late. In 2016, the writing was on the wall and Blackberry stopped making their own phones.

In 2016 the company licensed the brand and handset business to partners, with TCL, a Chinese electronics and technology company, acquiring near global rights. Blackberry stayed in the security software business with hopes it could stay alive.

Earlier this year, TCL announced it will be no longer selling Blackberry after August 31, 2020. Blackberry does have a couple of manufacturing partners in South Asia and Indonesia, but TCL had the rights for all of the other regions.

I told management early on that they needed to move away from their Blackberry OS to the Android OS. Android was a big success already and Blackberry was dying on the vine. This was their only hope for success. They ignored my advice year after year.

By the time Blackberry went Android, it was too late. After trying several new smartphones which fell on deaf ears, they eventually introduced an Android device. By that that time, however, it was simply too late.

Their growth curve had risen for five years until 2011, then

it started to fall. At the end of a ten-year stretch, they were back to where they started. Except by this time, the thrill had died and there was nothing left upon which to build. The growth curve rises, crests and falls. You want to keep pumping it while it is growing. Once it crests and falls, it is very difficult to re-ignite the next growth wave.

The most recent Blackberry Key2 was introduced in 2018. Nothing since. This was the way Blackberry always did business. They were always a day late and a dollar short.

Today, there is no sizzle behind the Blackberry brand.

When it had no real competition in a new marketplace where users had no expectations yet, that was fine. But today consumers and business customers expect and even demand continual updates to both the handsets and the OS. Something Blackberry was just never able or willing to do.

The Blackberry name is still around, but it is a much smaller and less powerful competitor in the wireless space. Today, it is more like a gnat buzzing around your face. It's there but has no real impact.

This is the sad story of an industry leader that helped create the smartphone industry. Its place in history will be there forever.

This is also a lesson, however, on how executives and companies have to create, nurture and grow their relationship with their customers, whether they be individuals, companies, governments or the media.

Today, companies need to innovate regularly with real, meaningful, relevant steps forward. That means continuing to create and expand value. Simply redesigning the keyboard with no added benefit only creates anger from your customer base.

No matter how successful you become, you are only as good as your last quarter. Any company's standing in the world can be pulled out from under it virtually overnight, even if there appears to be no real competitor in a space. Every entrant needs to stay alert, stay on the growth side of the growth wave, and always WOW their customers.

This is where Blackberry went wrong.

Jeff Kagan is an Equities.com columnist. Kagan is an Industry Analyst, Thought Leader and Influencer focused on Wireless, Telecom, Pay TV, Cloud, AI, IoT, Tele Health, Healthcare, Automotive and Self-Driving cars. Email him at jeff@jeffKAGAN.com. His web site is www.jeffKAGAN.com. Follow him on Twitter @jeffkagan and LinkedIn www.linkedin.com/in/jeff-kagan/

RADIO THEORY CAUSES COMMOTION

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liar!" and shaking a fist while throwing a basket of cloverleaf rolls at the presenter with the other hand.

Brown – who makes a comfortable living selling HF antennas made from recycled lawn chairs – says Yuness is only trying to collect money for his GoFundMe account and has no credible facts to back up his ionized magma core theory.

Dodging the rolls, Yuness yelled, "I've had a number of heated exchanges about this topic in online forums, BUT I KNOW I'M CORRECT!"

Brown claims Yuness and Rodden want the GoFundMe money to pay for their next trip to the Dayton Hamvention in the spring.

The Golden Spike Amateur Radio Club meetings on the third Thursday of the month in the private dining area of the Golden Corral on East Winchester Street. The public is invited to attend.

By WB0RUR, on the scene