



SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue 12

December 2015

From the Oval Office

by Marv, WV9O, LCARC President

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Newsletter Editor and
Webmaster, John, W9WY

REPEATERS

Freq	Location
147.000	Merrillville
147.240	St. John
442.075	Merrillville

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



Merry Christmas to all!

Yes folks its December all ready. It's hard to believe the year is almost over with. I would like to thank the Crown Point RoboDogs team 2171 that gave a great program last month this was one of the more memorable presentations that we have had in many years. I've received lots (more than normal) of positive feedback concerning the presentation. It was nice to have an electronics related program that wasn't necessarily amateur radio related.

Special thanks to Mark K9MQ for all the great programs he had this year for the meetings!

This month is the LCARC Christmas meeting. The Club will have cake and coffee and come and visit with us. You can visit, ask question or tell stories! It will be great fellowship for the December meeting! — See you there

Wife Installs Pay-As-You-Go Device On Radio

By K5PO, on the scene

BONIFACE, Minnesota — A local ham radio operator is facing a significant barrier to getting on the air, and it involves his wife.

Wendy Johansson, a self-described entrepreneur, has turned her husband's hobby into an income generator. She drives a new car, wears expensive furs and takes exotic vacations.

Johansson was reached by satellite phone while on a cruise of the River Nile in Egypt. "I had hoped to help moderate his time in his radio room, but instead it became a significant wealth-driver for the family. I've been able to send the kids to college and buy some nice purses," she said.

The source of the wealth? A coin-operated pay-as-you-go device that requires payment before allowing the radio to turn on.

"I didn't realize how much time I was spending on the radio," says Luther Johansson, the amateur radio operator.

"At this point, I've cleaned up all loose change in the couch cushions and under the car seat, and gone through every pair of pants in my closet. It's becoming increasingly difficult to resist my five-year-old's piggy bank," he said.

Johansson plans to start a Kickstarter account to fund his involvement in the phone portion of Sweepstakes.

"But, this weekend is the trader's net! I have no idea how I'm going to pay for that air time," he said.

Mrs. Johansson says she plans to manufacture more of the devices and sell them to other radio wives in nearby clubs.

Ham Hijinks interns are looking into FCC rules regarding this matter. So far, it appears the law says nothing about an XYL having pecuniary interest. ### HamHijinks.com

LCARC Regular Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:26PM

Introductions were made with 16 attending meeting

Minutes were read and approved as read.

- Treasury's report was read and DMR repeater fund was read
- 52 members total
- Elections nominations for treasury and secretary are
- Jim Harney for treasury and Russell McComb for secretary.
- Marv did accept the nomination as President.
- Still open in the office as Vice-president.
- Program started at 7:34
- Crown Point Robo Dogs did the program about robots built for competition against other High School clubs in robotics. The Club web address is cprobodogs2171.weebly.com
- Program ended at 8:47PM
- Nomination for Vice-president is Tim N9CA and Tim accepted.
- Coffee and cake next month for Christmas meeting
- Meeting adjourned at 8:52PM

Wife Installs Pay-As-You-Go Device On Radio

By K5PO, on the scene

ORANGE PLAINS, Kansas — Amateur radio operators listening in on 3.875 MHz last night may have been surprised at what they heard crackling through the airwaves as hams across the country recently celebrated the yuletide season.

For weeks, Robert Von Werther and members of the Sunflower State Amateur Radio Club have been planning a “Nativity Scene Net” on 80 meters as part of their Christmas holiday observances.

“One year, we sent QSL cards from Christmas City, Kansas,” says the 58-year-old beet farmer. “Another year, we activated a special event aboard a Christmas parade float. But we really knocked it out of the park with this live nativity net.”

Enlisting the help of ham operators across the United States, amateurs were assigned various “roles;” each required to send specific transmissions “to tell the nativity story” as recounted in the New Testament Gospel of Luke.

“It was heartwarming,” says Von Werther. “I cranked up my vintage Hammerlund HXL-1 and blasted over 1500 watts PEP of Baby Jesus across the ionosphere.”

Participants recited their designated lines, but ended each transmission with a callsign to keep the net “legal.”

But not all went as planned.

Ham operator Gregory Boatwright in Salisbury, Pennsylvania says he was listening into the “nativity net” as the ham portraying The Angel Gabriel concluded his monologue to the shepherds...and finished his transmission with a series of off-color comments when his PTT stuck open.

Worse, one ham says he received an FCC citation.

“I got a pink warning slip in the mail from an Official Observer,” says Winston Northridge of rural Manchester, Utah. “I had to call the OO on the phone and explain that the word “a\$\$” referred to a donkey-like animal and was mentioned in the Bible.”

Von Werther says his club is now working on an 80 meter “Passion Play” for the Easter season.

<http://hamhijinks.com/hams-awed-majesty-80-meter-nativity-net/>

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.

Program Schedule - Nov

November: Robotics Presentation

December: Christmas Gathering - Cake!!

DMR News

Mark, K9MQ

"As outgoing vice-president, I would just like to thank everyone who volunteered and gave a program at one of our club meetings. This year we had a program at every single meeting, which is something that hasn't happened in a long time. Remember, sometimes the smallest things make the most interesting programs. I hope we can keep the momentum going in 2016."

It was great seeing everyone at the Fort Wayne Hamfest. Tony, W9AMT presented the DMR Demystified program which fellow LCARC member Joe, K9JJK and myself sat in on. Hoosier DMR had a booth along with the portable roadshow repeater. State of the Art Communications was selling the Tytera MD-380 for a HOT price of \$130. I was just amazed at all of the new subscriber numbers that were issued for Indiana over Ft. Wayne weekend.

The new Covington DMR repeater came on the air within the past month hosted by Will, W9ABH. Steve, W9SMJ is currently

working on getting a repeater in Kokomo online from a new tower site.

On November 16th, as a personal project, I had the opportunity to help an engineering teacher and his class from Hobart High School with tracking their weather balloon and payload via APRS. While the balloon was in flight, I asked Marv, WV9O for his assistance via the Indiana statewide talkgroup to relay position, speed, altitude, and direction. While I had a laptop in the car, copying the balloon packets directly via APRS, I was able to concentrate on driving since Marv was able to relay the information to me while I was hopping between the Gary, Valpo, Laporte, and Mishawaka DMR repeaters. The balloon landed south of Elkhart, and at the landing site, I was able to use my HT and relay back to Marv that we have spotted the balloon in a tree. The Hoosier DMR network made things go a lot smoother and safer for this project. I hope that DMR is used more in the future for public service and EMCOMM work.

Net News

I regret to report that Thursday the 19th of November will be my last LCARC Information net as net control. Over the last few months I have been struggling with the production of this net as my Thursdays have become quite busy.

I know a lot of you are asking if I will be starting a new net. And yes I have been asked to create a net based on what the info net is, but less informative... sort of. It's still up in the air whether or not I will.

Last year I created a Holiday net on the KA9QJG repeater and on Saturday the 26th of December @ 8:00PM we will be having its 2nd annual Holiday net. The net question this year will be what was your favorite childhood gift and of course the worst gift.

I don't know if the LCARC info net will continue, that is up to the LCARC board and its members.

If anyone would like to use the reference material I have, feel free to email me at kc9uns@gmail.com

Help the Crown Point RoboDogs Robotics Team



The November meeting program was the Crown Point ROBODOGS Robotics Team. They provided a very good program and at the end mentioned they are totally self-supporting and if anyone had or knew of anyone who would be willing to provide some of the items on the "wish list" below please do so. — ed.

Our largest expense remains entry fees for competitions and travel expenses for the team to attend competitions.

Sponsorships – This is our top need.

- Annual Sponsors – people and businesses willing to build these skills in High School students on an annual basis. \$500.00 to \$10,000.00
- One-time Sponsors – people and businesses willing to support our students this year in any amount. After that a year by year decision.
- Shop Tools – in order of need
- Floor stand drill press. [The gear head

- on our current drill press has failed].
- Vertical Band Saw for up to 2" diameter material.
- Combination tabletop belt and orbital sander. [4" belt]
- 36" to 48" Brake for up 1/8"
- 20-ton shop press
- Power Tools – in order of need
- 4" Belt Sander – rechargeable if possible [We currently own DeWalt 18v. tools]
- Drill Driver [We currently own DeWalt 18v. tools]
- Hand Tools – in order of need
- High quality screwdriver set(s) [current screwdrivers are getting worn]
- A decent set of standard drill bits with extra 17/64's bits
- Pneumatic tubing cutter [for small pneumatic tubing – ¼ or 3/16"]
- High quality metal files of various sizes and configurations
- 7/16" wrenches, ratcheting wrenches
- Materials – in order of need

- 1" x 1" 16 gauge Aluminum [1/16th inch] square stock. [Lengths longer than 5' preferred.]
- Depending on the game and the design, we often need a variety of hardware, electrical switches, chain, sprockets, sensors [optical, ultrasonic], or specialized items. If interested, please contact us.
- Technology – in order of need
- Current laptop computer [PC – Windows 7 or later, i5 or above preferred]
- 32" diagonal flat screen TV...for team training sessions and display at competitions.
- Professional Services [Because of our short build season, clear communication about lead time is critical]
- Waterjet services
- Machining services
- CAD services [Mentors or training our students]
- Printing or sign-making services

For information or to become a sponsor visit the web site at:

<http://www.cprobodogs2171.weebly.com/>

Secret Radio Stations by the Numbers

by Al Williams



One thing has stayed with the James Bond movie franchise through the decades: Mr. Bond always has the most wonderful of gadgets. Be it handheld, car-based, or otherwise, there's always something to thrill that is mostly believable.

The biggest problem with all of those gadgets is that they mark Commander Bond as an obvious spy. "So Mr. Bond, I see you have a book with many random five character groups. Nothing suspicious about that at all!" And we all know that import/export specialists often carry exploding cufflinks or briefcases full of unknown electronics in hidden compartments.

Just as steganography hides data in plain sight, the best spy gadgets are the ones that don't seem to be a spy gadget. It is no wonder some old weapons are little more than sticks or farm implements. You can tell a peasant he can't have a sword, but it is hard to ban sticks.

Imagine you were a cold war era spy living in a hostile country with a cover job with Universal Exports. Would you rather get caught with a sophisticated encryption machine or an ordinary consumer radio? I'm guessing you went with the radio. You aren't the only one. That was one of the presumed purposes to the mysterious shortwave broadcasts known as number stations. These were very common during the cold war, but there are still a few of them operating.

Read the entire story at <http://hackaday.com/2015/10/29/secret-radio-stations-by-the-numbers/>

Kids are Not the Future of Ham Radio

by Bob Witte, KONR

You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

We've had really good success on creating new hams of all ages in our Technician License Class (at the Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association). We've been doing this for a while now and I think I am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios.

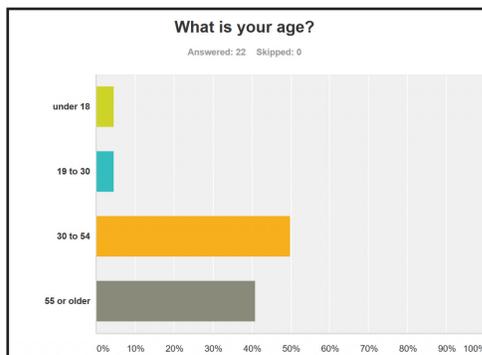
Then this thing called high school happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the

kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently posted about the demographics of our students in the Tech License Class (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/10/where-are-the-new-technicians-coming-from/>). The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmm, clearly most of our students are 30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected

age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.



For whatever reason, it seems that most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say "I want to get my ham radio license." When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

My hypothesis is that the most effective way of growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.

This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees.

We've all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don't want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that's my read on the situation. I've got some data to support my theory but I can't really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

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"/>	

Save Money on your ARRL Renewal

ARRL dues are going to increase. Visit the Web site below and renew your dues before the end of the year to get the "old" rate <http://www.arrl.org/dues-increase-faq>

Renew your membership prior to December 31st to get locked in at the old rate.

- \$39 vs \$49 one year Save \$10
- \$76 vs \$96 two year Save \$20
- \$111 vs \$141 three year Save \$30