



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



It was most gratifying to see 29 Hams attend the January 2019 meeting. The upcoming LCARC meeting is Friday February 8th at 7:30pm (6:30 Board meeting). Congratulations to all the raffle winners. Thank you Bill/N4GIX and Mark/K9MQ for their presentations on email by HF radio and on kiwiSDR.

LCARC February Program is: "Using Log Book of The World Software" presented by Harold (Tom) Ruggles W8FIB. For those who do not know Tom, his passion is Dx. He has more HR award wallpaper than most anyone. Out of necessity he now uses LBoTW to keep

track and ease his submission of contacts for awards. In this digital age, mailed QSL cards are getting very rare. Come learn shortcuts to logging and claim your share of HR awards.

THANK YOU to all those who've hosted and checked into the LCARC Information Net. The NET is every Thursday evening @ 7:00pm with both VHF and UHF repeaters linked together. Will there be shared information and or traffic... you bet! Will there be advance winning lottery numbers shared... not so much! Please tune in: 147.000+ or 442.075+ (131.8 pl tone).

LaPorte County Cabin Fever Hamfest: Saturday February 23rd. Starts @ 7:00 am CST . Will there be great deals on; books, equipment and parts? Prize drawings? VE testing? Yes, Yes and Yes! But, you have to get there to see for yourself. Tickets are cheap and the nearby parking is free. LPCARC.org

LCARC Winter-Fest. I jumped when I saw LCARC on the ARRL's February Calendar hosting "Winter-Fest". When I clicked the link, it is the Lawrence County Amateur Radio Club in Hoxie Arkansas. Whew!

Coming February HR Events: CQWW WPX RTTY 9th- 10th, School Club Round Up 11th - 15th, ARRL CW Dx Contest 16th -17th, CQWW 160 meter SSB Contest 23rd-24th, North American QSO RTTY Party 23-24th, and Valentine's Day Thursday Feb. 14th.

LCARC Technician License Class will begin Thursday March 7th at the Lake County Public Library in Merrillville. Classes extend over 7 Thursday evenings from 6:30- 8:00pm. For details see W9LJ.org, or have interested parties contact Tim/N9CA tim2020@sbcglobal.net or 219-769-0673. Class is free.

LCARC VE Session will be Thursday April 25th at the EMA Club meeting building 7:00 sharp! Examination cost is \$14.00.

73, Tim/N9CA

FT 8 a tipping point?

https://www.flexradio.com/ft8-tipping-point-for-ham-radio/?utm_source=amateur-radio-weekly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter

Boeing 787 Antennas ever wonder how many antennas are on a Boeing 787? Thanks to Tom, W8FIB for this link

<https://swling.com/blog/2018/12/boeing-787-antennas/>

Thanks to Ben, KC9UNS for keeping these links updated:

LIST of 2019 Hamfests:

<http://tinyurl.com/chihamfests>

Chicago Land NETS

<http://tinyurl.com/chicago-ham-nets>

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2019— Russ, KB9HO

Meeting Called to order at 7:33PM

Reminder dues for 2019 are due.

Introductions were made with 27 total attendees

The net is starting back up on Wednesday at 7PM every week.

The repeaters will be linked together to help with check-ins.

March 7 will start a new class for Technician license. April 25 will be VE test which is open to everyone to test or upgrade their license.

Taxes have been filed for the state but federal taxes cannot be filed due to the shutdown.

FT8 software update is now available. The old version is not compatible with the new version. Also suggested is to have a wider bandpass on your radio.

The website is now linked to U Tube for the videos due to the price increase on our website provider.

Warren Schultz is now a silent key. He was a member for only a year.

Audit committee has been formed to check the club books.

HF bands with DX has been present with FT8 very active.

Tim has asked for presenters for club programs.

Tonight's program is Winlink digital mode presented by Bill Leaming N4GIX. Mark will also show how KiwiSDR works.

Next months program will be Log Book of the World by Tom Ruggles W8FIB.

Raffle after the program with K9NAT win Handbook, KA9HKA a book on digital communications, KD9KDX a GPS, KD9IRH a USB to serial adapter, and N4GIX won a Cigarette plug in adapter 1 for 2 out.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05PM



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

NEED HELP? CALL ON THESE ELMERS

Tim N9CA

Bill N4GIX

Bill Young N9QLS

Russ KB9HO

Andy W9FXT.

Also it was mentioned Mark K9MQ is an ARRL Tech Specialist and can be called on.

The club has been informed that Bowman Electronics in Valparaiso will do tower climbing and antenna repair. Give them a call at: (219) 462-7933 or stop and see them at: 504 Marquette St, Valparaiso, IN 46383

QSL CARD CHECKING

From NWI DX Club Newsletter

DXCC CARD CHECKING

Doctor Richard Lochner, K9QA is our Official ARRL DXCC Card Checker. Contact Rich to schedule an appointment for card checking.

You may email him k9qa@arrl.net for details on how to mail your cards to him, if you desire to go that route.

WHY USE FT8 MODE FOR DXPEDITIONS?

From Northern California DX Foundation
Fall 2018 Newsletter

FT8 is rapidly becoming the digital mode of choice for DXpeditions and here are some reasons why:

- Important for little pistol stations, especially in antenna-challenged HOA or high-noise neighborhoods.
- No other mode has the capability of working five different calls in parallel in the same sub-band with queuing.
- Very high rates possible compared to RTTY, which equals more ATNOs in the log.
- Easier to reach certain parts of the world under poor propagation conditions and weak solar cycles.
- Excellent mode for challenging bands like 6M and 160M.
- Still get credit for a digital QSO toward awards, etc.
- May attract new operators or revitalize older ones.
- Excellent mode for hearing- or speech-impaired hams.
- DQRM not a problem.
- Less stressful for DXpedition operators.
- Has tremendous remote operation possibilities.



VIDEO CHAT IS A CHANCE FOR MY INTERNET
FRIENDS TO GET TO KNOW THE REAL ME.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Log Book of the World by Tom Ruggles W8FIB.



Scan this code to go
directly to our web page
w9lj.org

Can I Use my Ham Radio on Public Safety Frequencies?

By Bob K0NR

There is a more recent article on this topic. Please see: Can I Use My Ham Radio on Public Safety Frequencies? Updated We have quite a few licensed radio amateurs that are members of public safety agencies, including fire departments, law enforcement agencies and search and rescue. Since they are authorized users of those public safety channels, they often ask this question:

Can I use my VHF/UHF ham radio on the fire, police or SAR channel?

It is widely known that many amateur radios can be modified to transmit outside the ham bands. The answer to this question used to be that amateur radio equipment cannot be used legally on public safety channels because it is not approved for use under Part 90 of the FCC Rules. (Part 90 covers the Private Land Mobile Radio Services.) The only option was to buy a commercial radio with Part 90 approval and a frequency range that covered the desired amateur band. Some commercial radios tune easily to the adjacent ham band but some do not. The commercial gear is usually two to three times as expensive as the amateur gear, and just as important, does not have the features and controls that ham operators expect. Usually, the commercial radios do not have a VFO and are completely channelized, typically changeable only with the required programming software.

The situation has changed dramatically in the past two years. Several wireless manufacturers in China (Wouxun, Baofeng, etc.) have introduced low cost handheld transceivers into the US amateur market that are approved for Part 90 use. These radios offer keypad frequency entry and all of the usual features of a ham radio. It seems that these radios are a viable option for dual use: public safety and amateur radio.

See Chart at right for a short list of the most common radios on the market:

Some Things to Consider When Buying These Radios

The manufacturers offer several different radios under the same model number. Also, they are improving the radios every few months with firmware changes and feature updates. This causes confusion in the marketplace, so buy carefully.

Make sure the vendor selling the radio indicates that the radio is approved for Part 90 use. I have seen some radios show up in the US without an FCC Part 90 label.

Make sure the radio is specified to tune to the channels that you need.

The 2.5-kHz tuning step is required for some public safety channels. Your particular set of frequencies may or may not need it. For example, a 5-kHz frequency step can be used to select frequencies such as 155.1600 MHz and 154.2650 MHz. However, a 2.5 kHz step size is needed to select frequencies such as 155.7525 MHz. There are a number of Public Safety Interoperability Channels that require the 2.5-kHz step (e.g., VCALL10 155.7525 MHz, VCALL11 151.1375 MHz, VFIRE24 154.2725). The safest thing to do for public safety use is to get a radio that tunes the 2.5-kHz steps.

Although these radios have two frequencies in the display, they

only have one receiver, which scans back and forth between the two selected frequencies. This can be confusing when the radio locks onto a signal on one of the frequencies and ignores the other.

Recommendation

I own 3 different models of Wouxun radios and two Baofeng UV-5R radios. I think they are all great radios for what they do. **I would recommend getting the Wouxun KG-UV6D with the 2.5-kHz frequency step.** The controls of the Wouxun are superior, including a knob for channel/VFO selection and RPT key for changing repeater shift. The Wouxun software works much better than Baofeng's (which is really a mess). Also, if you show up at an incident with the Baofeng, your fellow first responders will think it is a toy. I have purchased several radios from importcommunications.com and have been very satisfied with the service. You may want to shop around for the best price.

73, Bob K0NR

NOTE: The opinions expressed in this article are those of the author, not of the LCARC or the editor. Prices were as of a couple of years ago.-- ed.

Model	Features	Price
<u>Wouxun</u> KG-UV2D, KG-UV3D	Several different models with slight variation in features, check carefully before ordering 136-174/420-470 MHz 5 kHz is smallest frequency step	\$120
<u>Wouxun</u> KG-UV6D	Several different models with slight variation in features, check carefully before ordering 136-174 / 420-520 MHz 2.5 kHz frequency step	\$175
<u>Baofeng</u> UV-5R, UV-5RC	The UV-5RC is an updated case style 136-174 / 400-480MHz 2.5 kHz frequency step	\$65

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.

AMATEUR RADIO (ILLEGALLY) AIDING YACHT RACERS

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



The Golden Globe Race (<https://gold-engloberrace.com>), a 30,000 mile, non-stop solo yacht race to celebrate Sir Robin Knox-Johnston's historic 1968/9 world first solo non-stop circumnavigation. There are 18 sailors in the race, which started on July 1, 2018 from Les Sables-D'Olonne, France.

Amateur radio is at the heart of the latest controversy surrounding the race. Scuttlebutt Sailing News reported (<https://www.sailingscuttlebutt.com/2019/01/21/main-taining-information-barrier/>) on January 21, 2019 (day 205 of the race):

"Sailors have been making use of the Amateur Radio net (ham radio) for decades, and while National telecommunication authorities have often turned a deaf ear to unlicensed operators using made-up call signs while at sea, warnings from a National regulator to Golden Globe Race skippers has created intrigue into an exciting finale for race leaders.

"Modern navigation and routing tools are restricted from use in the 2018-19 contest, limiting GGR skippers to the type of equipment available for the inaugural Sunday Times Golden Globe solo non-stop round the world race in 1968-69. That includes Amateur Radio.

"The skippers have been using this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, which is allowed under the Race Rules. However, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by National and International regulations which Jean-Luc Van Den Heede and Mark Slats, in first and second in the race, have not been doing. [[Neither Van den Heede or Slats have valid amateur radio licenses...Dan]]

"Said the warning, 'You use an amateur callsign and are making connections with amateur radio operators. The call sign letters are not registered, and thus illegal. I ask you to stop. If you have a legal amateur callsign then I urge you to present it.'"

As a result of this warning, Slats is considering dropping out of the race, even though the race is nearly complete. Yachting Monthly reports (<https://www.yachtingmonthly.com/boat-events/golden-globe-race/golden-globe-slats-considers-quitting-comms-row-68574>):

"Mark Slats, who is less than 50 miles from Golden Globe Race leader Jean-Luc Van Den Heede, has announced he is thinking about retiring from the race after being banned from broadcasting on the Ham Radio Net.

FREE LICENSE CLASS! LCARC

The LCARC Technician Licensing Classes will be held each week over 7 Thursdays beginning March 7th through April 18th from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at the Lake County Public Library 1919 W. 81st Ave (Rt. 30). Merrillville Indiana 46410.

The Classes will be in the lower level meeting rooms which are handicapped accessible. The Classes are free and open to ages 8 and up.

The Class will follow the ARRL Level 1 License Manual - 4th edition - ARRL item #0871 available from ARRL.org, Amazon, and DX Engineering. \$30

April 25th (the 8th Thursday) at 7:00 pm the LCARC will host a VE License testing session at the Lake County Government Center EMA Building, 2900 W. 93rd Ave. Crown Point Indiana 46307. The building is set back to the North side of 93rd Ave.

Cost of the examinations are \$14.00.

Contact Tim McGillen N9CA with questions and to sign up at: 219-769-0673 or tim2020@sbcglobal.net

"Race organisers said the Dutch skipper does not have the required licence, and has been warned by the Dutch authorities to stop broadcasting, which has left him unable to communicate with his shore team.

"Under the rules of the race, all of the entrants are able to use this free communication system to gain weather forecasts and maintain contact with their teams, but, it is the responsibility of each skipper to ensure that they abide by national and international regulations."

It's not only the yachters that are flouting the rules, it's the amateur radio operators who are communicating with them. According to Yachting Monthly, OFCOM, the UK regulator issued the following warning:

"Fair warning both to unregistered GGR skippers and to legitimate Ham radio operators communicating with them. In Britain, the Ham Radio net is controlled by OFCOM, which recently revoked more than 500 licences for non-compliance. This includes communicating with unregistered Ham radio operators. The maximum penalty is 6 months in prison, a £5,000 fine and loss of their licence."

This is a fascinating story, and I wish that I'd found out about this sooner. It would be interesting to listen in on some of these communications. One question I have is why these guys failed to obtain a valid amateur radio license? The Golden Globe Radio website notes, "[The race] will be sailed under the auspices of the Royal Nomuka Yacht Club in the Kingdom of Tonga. His Royal Highness, Crown Prince Tupouto'a Ulukalala is Patron of the Race." They probably could have issued valid amateur radio licenses to all the racers.

If any of you have heard the communications or know any more about the technical details, I'd love to hear from you.

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog (KB6NU.Com), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.KB6NU.Com/study-guides/), and one of the hosts of the No Nonsense Amateur Radio Podcast (NoNonsenseAmateurRadio.Com). When he's not think about operating maritime mobile, you'll find him on 30m, 40m, and 80m.