



SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue 1

January 2015

From the Oval Office

by Marv, WV9O, LCARC President

The Officers and Board of Directors welcomes you New Year of Lake County Armature Radio Club! We hope you will joins in an exciting year. We are planning to have a program at each meeting, a topic of discussion on ham radio topics. We are going to do a contest for January meeting for the oldest QSL card worked!

We will be asking for other topic of interest from our club members for meeting discussion. We will try to bring members with knowledge on topics to help with the discussion.

FOR THE JANUARY MEETING:

Program: Video on DxPedition to Pitcairn Island (14 minutes long)

Contest: Contest/Show and tell item, bring your oldest qsl card worked

Discussion: Getting on HF - Antenna's and Feedline

I would like to introduce the members to your officers and board of directors!

MARV BOETCHER WV9O PRESIDENT:

I have been an Amateur Radio Operator for 47 Years. I was first licensed as WN9UXP in 1967. I up graded to Technician with the call of WA9UXP in 1968. Next, I upgraded to Advance Class. Finally, I upgraded to Extra in 1990. I changed my call to WV9O.

I operate from 160 meters to 70 cm amateur band. I am a member of the Lake County Amateur Radio Club and trustee for the club's call W9LJ. I am active in Emergency Communications and the Geratol Net. In 2005, I started to work for my Worked All States Award (WAS) on the 75-meter amateur band. I joined the Geratol Net, which meets at 01:00 UTC every night on 3.668 MHz. The 2006-2007 season of the Geratol Net, I volunteered to be Net Control on Saturday night for the first shift. I am found just about every night on the Geratol Net on 3.668 MHz. My Geratol Number is 2448 and Director Number is 531.

I am active on several Digital modes, Packet Radio, D-Star, and DMR. I stared a packet radio BBS in 1976. The system and 4 ports and did message forwarding on 220 IDEA Net (9600 baud) HF port, and two VHF ports.

I am a member of:

- ARRL (Life Member)
- Lake County Armature Radio Club (Trustee of W9LJ) (President 1978)
- Geratol Net G# 2448 D# 531 (Vice Chairman)

OFFICERS

Marv, WV9O, President
Mark, K9MQ, V President
Jim, KE9FX, Treasurer
Rus, KB9HO, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Young, N9QLS
John Gianotti, W9WY
Ken Brown, KE9TC
Carter Garcia, KC9YGU
Bob, WD9FNY
Rus, KB9HO

OTHERS

Red Cross Liason
Bill, N9QLS
Trustee, Marv, WV9O
Newsletter Editor and
Webmaster, John, W9WY

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LCARC Member of the Month and Year

by Marv Boetcher, WV9O

I purpose a contest between club members for the club member that participates in the most club functions every month. Finally for the club member who participates in the most club functions every year. It will be done on the honor point system. Each club event will have points assigned to it. The member(s) who have the most points for the month will win; final member(s) who have the most points for the year will win. We can do a certificate for each award.

Point system:

- Club Meetings 50
- Club Net 10
- INPOTA 100
- Indiana QSO Party 100
- Field Day 150
- Other Club Events 50

A Really Basic DMR Primer

Timeslots and Talkgroups - Issue 2 February 2014 - Newsletter of DMR-UK & Yorkshire DMR Group

Almost all of us use DV mode virtually every day of our lives. In fact, to many, it is their life! Mobile phones use advanced digital voice modes and the older 2G networks used a version of TDMA very similar to what is used on the DMR protocol. All digital voice standards use encode/decode software called “codecs”, which can be proprietary or open source, as in the case of DMR.

DMR uses a form of FSK or “frequency shift key” known as C4FM four level FSK constant envelope modulation. The voice is encoded/modulated, transmitted as a stream of data, then decoded by the receiver.

The advantages of DV include easy IP distribution (Internet connectivity), excellent bandwidth efficiency and high quality audio.

DMR applies a channel access protocol known as “Time Division Multiple Access” to allow two timeslots or voice channels within a single 12.5kHz frequency allocation. Conventionally, the timing algorithm for this is controlled by the repeater but the latest Motorola radios such as the 4000 series can also provide the facility.

FACTS and FICTION

Fact - All repeaters that are connected to the DMR-MARC network must be Motorola repeaters. This is done to facilitate interconnectivity. The Motorola repeaters all “play nice” with each other. Remember, we are talking here about the REPEATER, not the individual user radios.

Fiction - Only Motorola subscriber radios can be used on the DMR-MARC network.

Fact - Most any DMR radio can be used on the DMR-MARC network for voice! However some manufacturers do not offer some of the enhanced features available with Motorola radios. Many manufacturers such as Yaesu, Hytera, CSI offer radios that work fine for on the DMR network.

Connect Systems Inc. recently introduced the CS700 an entry level DMR/Analog UHF portable. Although these radios are missing some of the bells and whistles of other radios on the market they seem to be star performers with a lot of bang for the buck. Connect Systems hopes to have an entry level mobile radio out by the middle of 2015 If you are interested in DMR and would like to use the DMR-MARC network one of these radios might be for you.

As a matter of fact, many of the LCARC hams who are on DMR use the CSI handheld and it works great. The price is under \$200 and this includes the programming cable and software! This radio can do DMR and conventional analog so it works with existing repeaters.

Another advantage is the the “codeplug” (fancy name for the data file used to program the radio) is readily available for our area and if there is enough interest it will be made available on the LCARC’s members only page for download.

Minutes

December 12, 2014

Russ, KB9HO called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm.

There was no minutes available from the previous meeting.

The treasurers report was read by Jim, KF9EX and approved as read. Jim also brought up about the Board recommending a dues decrease to the following amounts:

Full: \$20/year

Family: \$25/year

Senior (grandfathered): \$15/year

Associate: \$10/year

A vote was taken and it unanimously passed to lower the dues.

At a previous meeting the following nominations were made:

Marv, WV9O for President

Mark, K9MQ for Vice-President

Russ, KB9HO for Secretary

Jim, KF9EX for Treasurer

There was no additional nominations from the floor. A vote was taken and all of the nominee's were elected unanimously.

Marv, WV9O mentioned that as a start he will be asking the following people to serve on the board: Bill, N9QLS, Kenny, KE9TC, Carter, KC9YGU, and John, W9WY.

The current Short Skip editor has resigned as editor and secretary. We will try to find a new editor. In the interim, a simpler text only version of Short Skip will be sent out as an email every month. It will contain a paragraph from the president, minutes from the previous meeting, meeting information such as next months program, the show & tell topic, and anything else that might be beneficial. Jim, KF9EX has volunteered to compile and email this newsletter out.

Marv, WV9O stated that as president he would like to have an amateur radio topic to discuss among the membership every month. He also stated that he would like have a contest for January. He would like everyone to bring the oldest QSL card that they have.

The club will like to continue and do the Indiana Parks on the Air event and Indiana QSO Party events this year. We also are going to look at doing Field Day even if we can't operate the full 24 hours.

Russ, KB9HO and his wife Jan provided a cake for our Christmas party.

The meeting was closed at 8:04 pm by Russ, KB9HO.

NW Indiana Skywarn

Carter Garcia, KC9YGU Executive Vice-President - carter.nwiskywarn@gmail.com



SKYWARN

Hi there from all of us at NW Indiana Skywarn! I hope you and your family have had a great holiday season! Over the next few weeks, we will be preparing for the 2015 storm season. All of our current members will be asked to renew their membership. If you would like to become a member, we'd love to have you! There is no fee as we feel you are donating your time. However, all of our members must become a certified Skywarn spotter with the National Weather Service and have been trained within the past two years. We also ask are members to pass the spotternetwork.org test as it has many resources you will need. For more information on how to join please visit our website, www.nwispotters.org. Also, don't forget to check-in to our weekly net on Tuesdays at 8pm on the N9IAA repeater (146.685, pl131.8).

Information:

NET CONTROLLERS NEEDED

NWI Skywarn is in need of HAM Radio Operators to sign up for a NET Control position. NET controllers must have storm spotter training. Contact Carter, KC9YGU for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN APRIL

NWI Skywarn's Emergency Communications division and the LCARC will be going out on April 26 for the Crossroads of NWI Marathon in Lowell, IN. HAM Radio volunteers are needed to be positioned around the course to handle a variety of information critical to the success of the race. More information on how to sign up will be posted soon.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN JUNE

NWI Skywarn's Emergency Communications division and the LCARC will be out for Leon's Triathlon on June 7. This is a big event. Leon's Triathlon is the host of the United States Military Triathlon Championship 2015. This event will be televised nationally. Consequently, MANY operators are needed to be positioned on the course and even on boats. Prior experience is not need but I do recommend you come out to the Lowell Marathon in April to understand how we'll operate. More information will be posted soon!

FOR SALE!

For Sale: Kenwood TS 2000. Contact Kenny KE9TC at 219-730-7661 for additional info... Priced at a very low \$800...

They sell for over \$1,000 on eBay!

Note: picture of radio is a stock photo, but Ken keeps pretty good care of this equipment.-- ed.



From the Oval Office

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- Weather Spotter “Sky Warn”
- Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service “RACES”
- QCWA Chapter 36
- VE Examiner (ARRL) (W5YI)

MARK K9MQ VICE PRESIDENT:

I’ve been licensed and a member of the LCARC for 19 years, originally testing for my first ticket at a club sponsored VE session. Originally licensed as KB9MNO, I upgraded to Extra class in 2000 and received K9MQ. Operate on most HF/VHF/UHF bands using phone, cw, and digital modes. Currently interested in Flexradio SDR and DMR (Mototrbo). I’m an active award chaser and have obtained DXCC, Geratol Net #2359 and Directors #499, Worked All Continents, VHF/UHF Century Club, and my favorite, Worked All States (23 band/mode endorsements). I also have an interest in trains and photography.

JAMES HARNEY KE9FX TREASURE:

- I was first licensed July 21, 1958 as KN9ORQ, Novice
- Next on Jun. 6, 1980 as KA9IBF, Novice
- Next on Jan. 27, 1981 as KA9IBF, Tech
- Next on May 21, 1982 as N9DFU, Gen
- Next on Aug. 6, 1991 as KF9EX, Advanced
- Next on Nov. 17, 2000 as KF9EX, Extra

Joined LCARC in 1980 and was President of LCARC in 1985. I have been Treasurer since 1995. oined QCWA Apr. 24, 2009.

I am not real active on the air these days; I spend much of my time with Genealogy and family camping. My wife Sandy and I have 5 granddaughters, 3 grandsons and 1 great-granddaughter. We will have been married 50 years in March.

Board of Directors:

JOHN GIANOTTI, W9WY

I was first licensed in 1981. I am an Amateur Extra Class license holder and my ham radio interests are:

- Digital Modes (voice and data)
- HF operating, but I don’t get on as much as I would like
- Field Day, and special events operations (when they don’t conflict with Purdue home football games).
- Rag Chewing on the HF bands

I am a former teacher (electronics at Highland High) and finally retired after 18 years as the IT director at Lake Central School Corporation. I am an ARRL member, and also member of the GERATOL Net (but have not been on it a while) and the QCWA. Currently I am experimenting with DMR or MotoTrbo digital modes. I was the newsletter editor for 25+ years before retireing, I guess I now have another 25 years to go??

KENNY BROWN KE9TC

I've been licensed for 36 years and currently hold an Amateur Extra license. My operating preference is: HF, VHF/UHF, Dstar, andn DMR.

The organizations that I belong to are: ARRL, QCWA, LCARC

Other interest is: the Geratol Net on 80 meters serving as net control on Monday night.

As a member of the LCARC I have served in all the offices and as a board of director.

CARTER GARCIA, KC9YGU

Hi there, my name is Carter Garcia, KC9YGU. I've been licensed since February 12, 2013 and currently hold the Technician class licence. The difference you'll see between other operators and myself is that i'm only 15 years old. I first got into HAM Radio in 7th grade when my Engineering Teacher at Union Township Middle School, W9BYU, started studying with me. It took until the beginning of my 8th grade year but I have loved it ever since. Compared to other operators, my knowledge and experience is somewhat minimal. However, in this hobby, there are many areas of interest one may participate in. I am familiar and experienced in the Public Service aspect of HAM Radio. Over the past two years, I've coordinated Emergency Communications for The Tri-town Community Marathon in Merrillville, The Crossroads of NWI Marathon in Lowell, The Valparaiso Half Marathon, and assisted the Illinois Radio

League with communications and medical support at the Chicago Marathon. I am currently working with race coordinators to plan for the Lowell and Merrillville Marathons, Leon's Triathlon, and Chicago's Shamrock Shuffle in 2015. Apart from Marathon's, I am also the Executive Vice- President for N.W. Indiana Skywarn. NW Indiana Skywarn is NW Indiana's only severe weather spotter organization currently affiliated with the National Weather Service in Chicago and the only WRN Ambassador in NW Indiana affiliated with NOAA. During times of severe weather, our dedicated team of 39 volunteers spring into action to assist the National Weather Service and protect our community. Our HAM Radio Operators are on standby 24/7 to run our severe weather net on the N9IAA repeater. This is the only Skywarn net and repeater monitored by WX9LOT, the National Weather Service's HAM Team.

I can be contacted at:

carter.nwiskywarn@gmail.com

- w9lj.org
- nwispotters.org

RUSS MCCOMB KB9HO

I was licensed before 1984 because I had my Advanced license when I was laid off. I remember going to Chicago and taking the test with 2 other people. The one person talked me into taking the test and becoming an Amateur Radio operator. Both of those 2 failed to upgrade, so I was the only one that day in our group to pass. At the Time about the only radios I had was an Icom IC2A HT and a mobile ICOM 22 channel 25watt 2 meter radio. I did Get a Swan 300 from someone with a mobile 12VDC power supply which I had to fix to get the power supply working so I could sell the radio as the person wanting to buy the radio wanted to go mobile and not base. I hold an Extra class license now and I now operate mainly 2 meter. The only activity I have is the club that is pertaining to Amateur Radio. I don't many other activities as work does take up a lot of my time. I did start repairing an old Hallicrafters SR22 that was given to me and in very poor shape. Probably have more money in the radio than it is worth.

ROBERT NELMS WD9FNY

I received my ticket 1973, general 1975. Like dx, rag chew!