



Short Skip

Volume 68 Issue 1

January 2019

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Tim N9CA, President
 Bill, N4GIX, Vice President
 Jim, KF9EX, Treasurer
 Russ, KB9HO, Secretary

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Red Cross Liaison
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 Trustee, Tim, N9CA
 Newsletter Editor and
 Webmaster, John, W9WY

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



Straight Key Night. Enjoy CW as it has been sent and enjoyed since the earliest days of Amateur Radio. Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. Info at: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

Objective: This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners

Protocol: Just send "SKN" prior to their "RST" report.

Next Meeting: Friday January 11th at 7:30pm. The program will be on Winlink Digital mode and how to send emails via radio. Presenter: Bill Leaming/N4GIX.

Raffle: there will be a pay-to-enter raffle for; a 2019 ARRL Six Volume Handbook, an ARRL book How to Go Digital (FT8), and a Garmin turn-by-turn GPS with Lifetime Map updates including gas stations, restaurants, stores, museums, and other points of interest. Chances of winning are good but the winner must be present.

LCARC Net returns: Starting this January, every Wednesday at 7:00 PM CST various members will conduct a friendly net. Net Control will check you in and control the net. LCARC repeaters 147.0000 (pl 131.8) and 442.075 (pl 131.8) will be linked together. Remember, no mike fright > just check in.

Technician License Class with VE testing: details and dates to be announced very soon.

Nearby Hamfest Calendar

Sunday 01/20/2019

Location: Kane County Fairgrounds Expo Center, 525 South Randall Road, St. Charles, IL

Website: <http://www.w9ccu.org/Hamfest.html> Sponsor: Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

Talk-In: 145.31(-) PL 107.2

Heathkit. Do you know the whole story?

In 1912 Edward Heath bought a small Chicago company named Bates Aeronautical that sold airplane parts. After WW I ended (1918), he changed the name to the Heath Airplane Company. Heath raced light airplanes, sold WW I surplus airplane parts, and offered flying instruction.

By 1926 Heath began selling a complete airplane kit. Unfortunately in 1931 while testing a new aircraft design it crashed and he was killed. The company reorganized and moved to Niles Michigan.

Heath Airplane Company eventually filed bankruptcy and in 1935 a man named Howard Anthony bought the company and the rights to use the Heath name for \$300.

Anthony was a remarkable person. He had actually built and was flying his own airplane at the age of 12! Anthony continued selling airplane parts but he also had an interest in radio. The first electronic equipment he sold was a fully assembled battery powered aircraft radio. The company prospered though WW II with a series of government contracts. Making and selling airplane parts.

After WW II there was abundance of surplus electronic parts. Anthony realized that he could purchase and bundle the parts cheaply to offer a kit. Anthony offered the parts with a predrilled chassis and a silk screened printed front panel. The first such kit was an oscilloscope and was joined by other kits such as; power supplies, signal generators, and a VTVM. He called them... Heathkits.

By 1954, the Heathkit catalog had 48 kits. Business was so good that Anthony purchased an airplane to travel and promote the business. Tragedy struck the company again when that airplane crashed killing Anthony, the pilot, and four executives.

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MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2018 — Russ, KB9HO

Meeting called to order at 7:33PM

Introductions were made with 13 attending meeting

The last meeting a slate of officers were elected with

- President Tim McGillen N9CA
- Vice President Bill Leaming N4GIX
- Secretary Russ McComb KB9HO
- Treasurer James Harney KF9EX

The Board of Directors are

Kenny Brown KE9TC, John Gianotti W9Y, Dan Ulloa KD9ARD, Adam White KD9JCX, and Bill Young N9QLS.

The club web site has a list of Elmer's to help out Amateur Radio operators and new Hams.

New programs are in consideration are Sky warn, Log Book of the World, and Active shooter. Also, any suggestions for new programs would be accepted.

Operation Iceberg the EMA site was able to get into several repeaters around the area. N9IAA repeater took charge due to his repeater being able to get all counties with Amateur radio operators being able to get into his repeater.

Net Control operators needed to do the net due to Dan not being able to do net due to work. N4GIX might be able to step up and do a net on Wednesday at 7:00PM. Tim N9CA also will help with the net.

Repeaters are OK with all tower grounds intact.

New Amateur Radio Satellite has been launched with Call sign KY1 for the King Husain of Jordon

Band conditions are poor but E Skip activity has been reported and meteor scatter has been reported.

TX0A and TX0M which is listed as Chesterfield IS but is actually a new IOTA.

Next meeting is January 11, 2019 with the program being Log Book of the World.

Meeting is adjourned at 8:00PM for coffee and cake.

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

LOCAL MAN DOES, IN FACT, OWN THE FREQUENCY

by WBOUR, on the scene



PORT O' G L O O M , GEORGIA — A Chickasaw County man has become the first amateur radio operator to officially purchase an HF radio frequency, the Federal

Communications Commission announced today in a noon hour media luncheon.

Between bites of cucumber sandwiches and small squares of bread slathered with pimento cheese, FCC spokesman Pontus "Smokey" Blumenthal told reporters gathered at the Tri-County Technical College dining hall that the sale is "...part of the government's plan to generate revenue from 'under-performing' slices of the radio spectrum."

Using a lottery system, local ham radio operator Buzz Sanders (175 Fisherman's Landing), accepted purchase of 14.281 MHz in the 20 meter amateur radio band.

A retired auto industry worker, Sanders says he'll pay \$2500 for the frequency over 35 monthly payments with a large balloon payment in month 36.

"It seemed like a fair deal to me," he said. "When I get ready to work a contest, have a rag chew, want to tune up on the air, or just create some random QRM, I can use 14.281. And if someone gets belligerent, I'll remind them that as a matter of fact I DO own the frequency!"

Sanders says he's already thinking about subletting the frequency after several large contesting organizations contacted him in recent days.

Blumenthal shared that the FCC is also considering a "lease-to-own" frequency program, with the option to return the frequency to the government at the end of the lease term if propagation isn't suitable to the operator. # # # HamHijinks.com

JANUARY PROGRAM

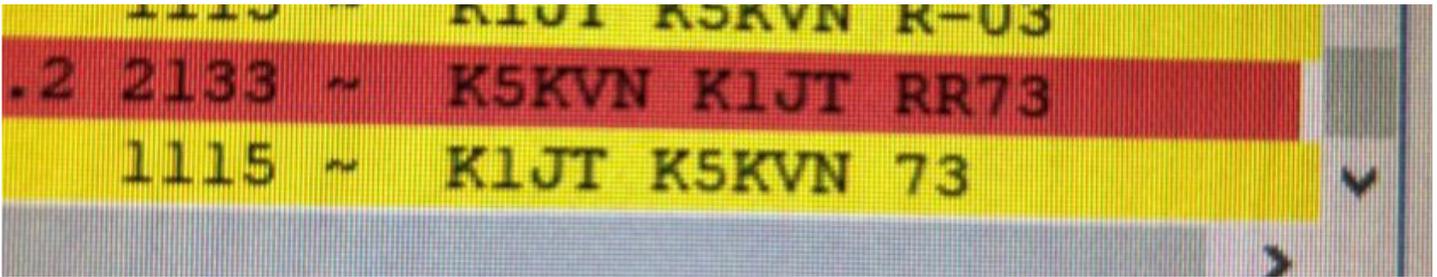
Unless something else is already planned, I have a 25 minute presentation on "Winlink Digital Mode" for January. If you are unfamiliar with it Winlink, it is a very robust system that will allow one to send/receive email via HF radio. It is one of the preferred modes during emergencies to communicate with the government, Red Cross, ARES, RACES, military, etc. -- Bill N4GIX



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

HAM SAYS FT8 NEEDS TO TAKE RUINING HAM RADIO MORE SERIOUSLY

By K5KVN, on the scene



LITTLE FORK, MINN. — A local amateur radio operator says FT8 needs to do more to live up to its reputation of destroying ham radio.

“Who are they trying to kid? FT8 needs to step it up if it’s going to ruin ham radio like everyone says,” said Cecil Donahue.

The popular digital mode is being perceived by some as taking away from sideband and CW activity.

“Here’s the deal – the mode involves a radio, RF, logging the contact, and many other facets of normal everyday operation in any other mode,” says Donahue. “They really missed the mark if they’re trying to destroy the hobby.”

Not one to complain without offering a solution, he suggests a better way.

“What they should have done is connect a computer to the internet and let people talk to each other that way. See? That’s not ham radio at all.” — By K5KVN, on the scene

FROM THE PARADE STAND CONTINUED

Continued from 1

Anthony’s wife who also did the Heath company books brokered a deal to sell the company to the Daystrom Company with the agreement that they must retain all employees and remain in Niles Michigan. Business was so good that the 1955 catalog had 53 kits and that in 1958 Daystrom built a new plant in nearby Benton Harbor Michigan.

Daystrom was acquired by Slumberger Limited in 1961. Though Slumberger was an oil field service company, by 1979 there were no less than 54 Heathkit stores. (Chicago had one). The company eventually attracted the interest of Chicago based radio and TV giant Zenith. Zenith purchased the entire Heath company in 1979 for 64 million dollars and introduced a new name: Zenith Data Systems or “ZDS”.

By the late 1980s ZDS’s profits sustained Zenith while its televi-

sion business had lost money for years. To raise money for HDTV research efforts and reduce debt, Zenith sold ZDS to “Groupe Bull” in October 1989 for \$635 million. (A pretty good return on their investment of 64 million!)

The 1990 catalog offered 79 kits expanding into computers, color televisions, hand held scientific calculators, digital weather stations, and home lighting automation devices.

But, the times were changing rapidly within the electronic world. Integrated computer chips, surface mounted components, foreign competition with low labor rates, robotic assembly, new complex part assemblies and factory necessary alignment began to take its toll. There was too little consumer savings purchasing a kit vs a 100% factory made turn-key unit. In 1992 all kit production halted.

73, and wishing all of you a happy safe New Year! Tim/N9CA

WEBSITE OF INTEREST

click on the links to go to the website

Listen to Jean Sheperd talk about ham radio. This is part 1 <https://youtu.be/22f15JtoZXU> and this is part 2 https://youtu.be/uR46E_WV6vc

How about Jean talking about bootleggers? https://youtu.be/wInxW9Ux_KA

But if you really want to hear a great broadcast, listen to Jean talk about cars. At one time he wrote articles for Car & Driver Magazine.

<https://youtu.be/gLJF7ERLw-c>

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/for-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.

WSJT-X 2.0 FULL RELEASE NOW AVAILABLE;

FT8 ENTHUSIASTS URGED TO UPGRADE NOW

ARRL Letter, 12/10/2018

The WSJT-X 2.0 software suite has been released, and developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, is urging FT8 and MSK144 users to upgrade to what will become the new standard, because the FT8 and MSK144 protocols have been enhanced in a way that is not backward compatible with older versions of the program. That includes any version 1.9 releases.

“The new protocols become the worldwide standards starting on December 10, 2018, and all users should upgrade to WSJT-X 2.0 by January 1, 2019,” Taylor said on the WSJT-X [home page](#). “After that date, only the new FT8 and MSK144 should be used on the air.”

Users are encouraged to read the new [Quick Start Guide for WSJT-X](#). Gary Hinson, ZL2IFB, has released an [FT8 Operating Guide](#).

A NEW SOURCE OF RFI

By Steve Mollman -KD9HL

A new source of RFI has hit the road. Electric vehicles (EVs) such as Tesla, the Chevrolet Volt and others are the latest generators of that insidious disease known as RFI. The motors of EVs are prodigious RFI generators. The noise produced is so strong that to avoid complaints, EV manufacturers have stopped installing AM radios in their cars.

The electric-motors in these cars generate electromagnetic noise at the same frequencies that are used by AM radios and probably by most HF amateur radio operators. As the motors grow more powerful, so does the RFI. EVs are powered by a rechargeable battery, electric motor, and a frequency converter that controls how much power the car's electrical motors put out by turning voltage on and off thousands of times a second, basically chopping up energy. This process causes electromagnetic interference that gets picked up by the radio.

Manufacturers, rather than solving the problem have instead elected to remove AM receivers from their cars. The manufacturers claim that there isn't any easy way to stop the RFI without adding too much weight. Toyota claims to be working on the problem but also says it “is a tough problem”. As part of their excuses, some spokesmen say that the day of AM radio has passed with the gravitation toward the internet or satellite radio, so why bother with a fix.

Reports as to whether EV generated RFI is strong enough to affect nearby receivers (i.e. ham HF rigs) are scarce, but as more of these cars, with even larger motors hit the road, we may have a big RFI problem from passing EVs wiping out signals in our ham shacks.



UNIDEN BDC536HP SCANNER.

Marv's WV9O, sister Jackie would like to sell this scanner from Marv's estate. She is asking \$500.00. Contact Mark, K9MQ for more information. More info and pics on the club's web site at: <https://lcarc.weebly.com/for-sale>.

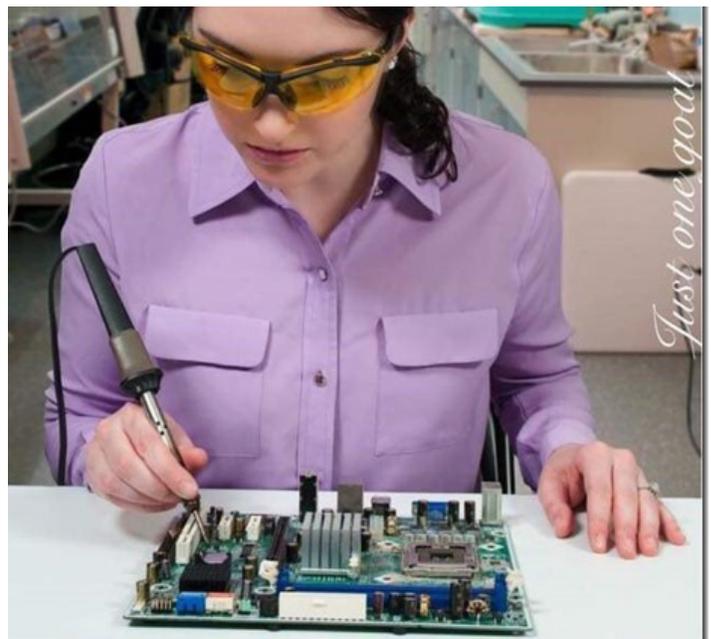
Be sure to check the website often for items for sale. At the present time there is a SWR meter, and a Dual Band HT for sale (as well as this scanner).

SPECIAL EVENT "FESTIVUS FOR THE REST OF US"

By Tom Alessi, K1TA

Finally, as we wrap up this festive season with all its special event stations, Newsline reminds you that there's still a chance to work one more station - callsign N1F - created to mark the holiday of Festivus. What *is* Festivus, you ask? Well, it's a holiday of sorts that originated on the American TV sitcom "Seinfeld" in 1997. Festivus symbolizes, among other things, the anti-commercialism of the season. Tom Alessi K1TA who is president of the Greater Norwalk Amateur Radio Club in Connecticut, told Newsline that he discovered four years ago that club members loved the idea of operating a station that honored the holiday known for its slogan "Festivus for the Rest of Us." That's how N1F came to be born. N1F's devoted practitioners operate from shacks in Connecticut all the way south to Florida from December 22nd through January the 3rd. Listen for them calling QR Zed on 75 through 20 meters on SSB, CW and FT8. The traditions of Festivus, as per the "Seinfeld" show, include the airing of grievances, the display of feats of strength and the decoration of a simple aluminum Festivus pole - although in this case, the airing of call signs and the decorating of a dipole will do.

Yes, Festivus cards will be sent - in this case, they are QSL cards. Tom says the station logs about 800 QSOs each year. If you want to be among them, visit the QR Zed dot com page for N1F and - let's keep the "festive" in Festivus! (TOM ALESSI K1TA)



HINT: Take a look at how she is using the soldering iron!! — ed.