



SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue 7

July 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 Repeaters are open to all amateurs. All repeaters must have a PL of 131.8 set in order to access.



Well folks its July already the year is flying by. June was another busy month for the Lake County Amateur Radio Club.

Special thanks for Joseph, K9RFZ ARRL Indiana Section Manager for coming out and giving the program for the June meeting on the ARRL and Emergency Communications.

Field day was a great success, thanks to Mark K9MQ for organizing, and brings out his station for the club to use. Thanks to everyone that came out and setup and operated Field Day. Thanks to Lake County

Homeland Security for the use of "Big Blue" to operate out of. Special thanks to Bob, WD9FNY's non ham son for getting our G5RV up in the tree's. It's hard to find a competitive fisherman who also does antenna work. The turnout was great with a lot of the new members coming out and operating. This was their first time for many on the HF and participating in the contest. The score has been sent in let's see how we did with our low key operation this year.

59 QSO's, 50 on 20M Phone, 9 on 15 M Phone, Bonus Points: 100% Emergency Power 100 Points, Media Publicity 100 Points, Set-up in Public Place 100 Points, Invited Served agency official 100 Points, Educational Activity (DMR) 100 Points, Web Submission: 50 Points, Total: 550 Bonus Points, 59 QSOs * 2 (power multiplier) = 118 points, 118 qso points plus 550 bonus points = 668 total points.

The Brickyard Run was held on July 4th in Hobart with club members suppling communications for the run. The next club operating event is IPOTA (Indiana Parks on the Air) at the Indiana Dunes State Park September 12, 2015. This will be the LCARC's club picnic and operating event. The call sigh N9D and the Tremont shelter have reserved.

The scores for the 2015 Indiana QSO Party have been posted! This year the LCARC participated casually in a low key setting. You can see our results under the "Club Competition" and "Multi-Op" sections.

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W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention

Pigeon Forge, TN

For Immediate Release to ALL Amateur Radio Operators-----The W4DXCC DX and Contest Convention located in Pigeon Forge, TN starts September 25th and 26th, that's in 110 days. This is our 11th year and it will be another great event. The presentation schedule is full and packed with presentations. Our manufacturers are located in the lobby right outside of the conference hall allowing you easy access to all the gear. Come and have a one on one conversation with the manufacturers and twist the knobs. This year for the first time we have the Ham Radio Bootcamp on Friday before the convention. The Ham Radio Bootcamp is an all day session that will help the new amateur learn how to build a station, build antennas, make QSOs and log them and after lunch learn how to DX, How to Contest and learn some tricks for DXing. This is the Elmer you never had to help you get started right. This session is sure to be of use to every Ham. We will conduct Amateur FCC License testing. It's a great time to upgrade or get your spouse or friends licensed. Pigeon Forge is a wonderful place for the family too, bring the family and they can enjoy the local attractions while you enjoy the convention. <http://www.w4dxcc.com/>

Minutes

June 12, 2015

Meeting Called to order at 7:30PM by Marv

- Introductions made 15 People attended meeting.
- Program given by Joseph K9RFZ on the importance of Amateur Radio and how to help the club with getting new members and keeping members.
- Program ended at 8:39PM
- Minutes from last meeting were read and motion made to accept, motion was carried.

Treasury's report was read with 47 members motion made to accept motion carried.

- Lightening arrestors will be installed by Mark and Marv.
- Repeater reboot is working OK and repeater is working OK.

Red Cross no report

- EMA will move across the street to 911 center.
- DX report Several DX stations are going on with North Korea going on the air in 2016

Field Day

- Field day discussion and how operation will set up at 10:00 AM and run until dark. This will not work as contest but only for training and fun.
- Dayton The big showing new SDR radios with Flex and K3 Elecraft. Also showing was new DMR radio.
- John next month will do a fox hunting presentation and nets.
- Next month bring your Emergency communication go kit
- Motion made to adjourn at 9:01PM motion carried.

Ham "Just Sure" That Obama Is Out to Get Him

by WBØRUR, on the scene

SEINS FORMIDABLE, UTAH – A Fulbright County man is casting wild accusations today against a high profile politician: U.S. President Barack Obama.

"I heard that Obama got his ham radio license, but that can't be right." – Johnson Earwig

Local ham radio operator Johnson Earwig says the leader of the free world is personally making enjoyment of his hobby "almost impossible."

Earwig – a regular contributor to right-wing conservative online message boards – claims Obama is manipulating the sunspot cycle to ruin propagation on Earwig's days off from work.

"A few weeks ago, I shared one of those Facebook messages about Obama being the worst President ever. Now, I can't make any contacts. The bands are not only quiet...they're totally dead!"

Earwig says he is "almost 100% positive" that Obama saw his message online and "turned the dial" on the White House HAARP device to create the low sunspot numbers.

"It's just typical of a Washington bureaucrat to do that to the little guy!" exclaims the retired bus mechanic and general class ham. "I've worked my entire life for some peace and quiet...and the opportunity to work DX. And now Obama goes and messes it up!"

Earwig says he'll be happy when a new U.S. President is elected in 2016 so the sunspot numbers will go up again.

Editor's note: President Barrack Obama reportedly received a ham radio license recently.

HamHijinks.com

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Program Schedule - June

Presentation: John, W9WY - Fox Hunting

Discussion Topic: Net's - Purpose of them and what net's we participate in.

Show & Tell: Bring your Emcomm/Portable Station/Go Kit's

Skywarn and Marathons

By Carter Garcia, KC9YGU



June 7 was Leon's Triathlon. Luckily, many HAM radio operators volunteered their time to provide emergency communications for the event. Most of these operators, who are also storm spotters for NWI Skywarn, were up by 3:30AM and worked until 2PM when they were called out by NWS for the severe weather threat. One of our spotters, Eric KD9DPN, spotted the tornado in DeMotte and communicated with WX9LOT over the air in real time, giving eastern cities a 15+ minute warning. Working with NWS, Porter County EMA, and the Highway Dept. through the entire event, all of the volunteers yesterday deserve a special thank you!!

Thank You to: (all of these operators made up the Leon's Team, most were also storm spotting)

John, W9WY — Tom, KC9KOA — Dennis, N9DPP — Bob, WD9EZB — Ryan, KC9VOP — Josh, KC9YNP — Pual, KD8FWU — Dave, KD9BGX — Beth, KD9DPT — Eric, KD9DPN — Laura, KD9DFE — Terry, KC9SCL — Matt, KC9YNM — Jim, W9MAQ — Andy, W9FXT — Pat, KC9SCS — Chris, KC9SIZ

DMR News

Mark, K9MQ



Northwest Indiana gained yet another DMR repeater. Jim, W9CTO trustee of the 442.750 repeater in Gary recently got on DMR. Less than one week after receiving his new DMR radio, he decided to convert his under utilized UHF analog repeater over to DMR. Steve N9KYB and Tony W9AMT from Hoosier DMR came up from down-state and helped Jim install the new system Tuesday night. The new Gary DMR system is on a tower at a height of at least 500 ft and offers some additional talk groups, that we did not previously have access to.

Most importantly it is on the Hoosier DMR c-bridge. Northwest Indiana now has a "true" local talk group that is local to the Gary machine and not the whole c-bridge as in the past. This means you are tying up only one repeater versus up to fifteen or so repeaters when on the Chicagoland/Tri-State talk group. We gain full time access to the Indiana State-wide #3118 talk group along with a Parrot talk group that repeaters your transmit audio back to you for testing

purposes.

In the past month, Hoosier DMR now has officially become a club. The club callsign is N9DMR. Hoosier DMR has put together a "care package" for clubs that have an existing analog repeater that could be possibly be a candidate for conversion to DMR. The "care package" consists of a Motorola XPR8400 repeater, a Verizon MiFi hotspot (for internet access), and ten DMR handhelds. This care package will be loaned to

qualifying clubs for them to fully evaluate DMR using their existing sites.

In the past month, a couple new repeater sites were announced. Kevin N9IAA will be putting up a site in Laporte. Tony W9AMT has secured a site in West Terre Haute.

Some of the new Tytera MD380's and the Connect Systems CS-750's have appeared on the air. The Tytera's have been getting some pretty good reviews. It does have more mic gain than the CS700's had but I still think it could use a little more punch. The microphone gain on the CS-750's at the default value seems to match pretty close to a Motorola that is set at the correct gain. The audio that I have heard sounds good. The main complaint right now with the CS-750 is with bugs in the code plug programming software. It's still a work in progress.

This month, Connect Systems has started shipping their much-anticipated CS-800 mobile. Unfortunately, I have not heard any of these on the air yet. As of the time of this writing, Connect Systems has asked that you do not hook up an external speaker to the radio as you may damage the radio. They are investigating this further.

The Real Cost of 5BDXCC

Does it Really Take \$500,000 to Achieve Five Band DXCC?

from the DX Magazine Copyright © 2006-2012, Jim Clymer, Jr.

I address this issue with the intention of dispelling some of the popular misconceptions I hear bandied about these days among hams. I won't purport to be an "expert," but I've been around long enough to know the smell of a rat in the corn crib! I would hate to think that this bad information, left unchallenged, might actually be a stumbling block to an aspiring 5B DXCC chaser. So here goes — right to the heart of the matter!

The smelly gossip to which I refer is the allegation that a ham of average means can't afford the 5B DXCC award, and by implication, to be a Big-Gun DXer. I've even been told (with a very authoritative tone) that to be a Big-Gun on five bands, it would take at least \$500,000.00! Hogwash and malice, I say! Who starts these distortions, and for what purpose? (I have a theory — I won't get into it in this article — about a conspiracy to keep new-comers out of that sacred real-estate that insiders call "The DX Window.") Below is an item-by-item listing of the true costs of Big-Gun DXing. You can substitute your own choices, but I'm sure you too, will discover that these gossip gems are far from the truth!

• 120' Tri-X Sky Needle (economy package)	18995.00
• Truck freight for delivery of above.....	897.45
• 3 TIC General ring rotators (one with 3 motors).....	2712.75
• 9 yards of concrete, excavation, concrete pump rental dirt removal	1390.00
• 2-Element 80M beam, with relays (mounted at 120')	3876.42
• 3-Element 40M beam (mounted at 105')	1249.585
• KT-34XA (mounted at 90')	997.67
• Remote coax switch, 500' RG-213.....	300.00
• 4 hours crane rental (150' boom, \$125 per hour)	500.00
• Building permit (at new proposed rate, \$1 per foot)	120.00
• Coffee & doughnuts, 3 six-packs, chips & pretzels (had to bribe the help)	29.34
• Three-month physical therapy (strained back, pulled muscles)	200.00
• Primary radio - TS-950SDX.....	3995.00
• Backup radio - TS-850S.....	1849.95
• Primary linear (life is too short for QRP) Alpha 87.....	5396.95
• Backup linear, Ameritron AL-1500.....	2625.00
• Station accessories - tuners, keyers, switches, etc.....	1669.00
• Full-blown 486DX2 computer, LOGic 3, Miniprop, Greyline, KAM, etc.....	5634.68
• 48' tower, Cushcraft 13B2, TS790S, acces. (DX Packet connection)	2,598.00
• Filter kits for all the neighbors' telephones, VCR's, etc.....	438.00
• Airfare to fly W6UMB to Fresno, 6 hours consultation (Couldn't solve RFI problems, neighbors threatening law-suits)	608.00
• Airmail postage for 500 QSLs, greenstamps, IRC's, envelopes, etc.....	1810.00
• Three years subscription to DX bulletin, GO list, foreign Callbook.....	282.00
• Three years membership NCDXF, trips to DX conventions in Visalia and Dayton, donations to Peter I and Bouvet.....	2568.00
• Yamaha 7' 6" Grand Piano - Deluxe ebony lustre finish (placate wife).....	17679.00
• Three years additional property taxes, insurance on the equip (and piano)	2235.00
• Three years Dr. bills (ENT specialist, audiologist, MRI) diagnosis; Meniere's disease, tinnitus. Probable cause; prolonged exposure to loud heterodynes, 80M static (before the JPS NIR-10), and foul language on 75M SSB.	2460.00
• JPS NIR-10 automatic notch and noise filter	389.00
• New 8877 tube - fell asleep on the key; 1:00AM, 3.506 kHz.....	895.00
• 5B DXCC plaque from ARRL!.....	30.00

GRAND TOTAL! \$82,200.79

Well, what do you think of that? Like I told you; \$500,000... no way! As you can clearly see, almost everyone, even those with only mod-est incomes, should be able to hack that small amount of cash. (Maybe you should consider sending your wife back to work.)

Oh, I almost forgot. There is one small detail I failed to mention. You will probably need a property of at least 2.5 acres to accommodate all that aluminum. (The larger the property, the more the isolation, the more you will save on RFI filters for the neighbors!) Casually browsing through the real-estate section of Sunday's paper, I found many appropriate listings. Many started at a measly \$275,000. Hhm-mmmn. Well, that still doesn't equal \$500,000!

See you in the static on 80 meters!

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.

FOR SALE!



For Sale: Heathkit DX-60A Transmitter. 10-80M (excluding WARC). Includes assembly manual. There are some signs of wear, but overall the transmitter is in good shape. The transmitter worked when I first acquired it. I'm unable to fully test it at this time, but the tubes lit up. \$60, Sold As-Is. mark@k9mq.com



FOR SALE: YAESU FT-920

Comes with:

- Hand Microphone
- FM Unit
- 500Hz CW Filter
- Manual
- Power Cord

Asking \$700.00

Contact: Kerry, KB9ORH
kerry0464@comcast.net

HOME OFFICE

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<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/scores.php>

July meeting topics:

- Presentation: John, W9WY - Fox Hunting
- Discussion Topic: Net's - Purpose of them and what net's we participate in.
- Show & Tell: Bring your Emcomm/Portable Station/Go Kit's
- Club project? Antenna building.

Looks like another busy meeting see you there! - 73 Marv WV9O

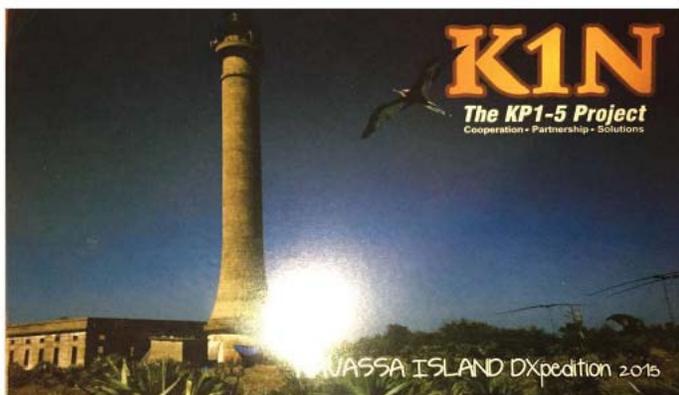
FOR SALE: MOTOROLA XTS 3000



For Sale: MOTOROLA XTS3000 Handie-Talkies The picture shows 2 HTs (One is VHF, the other is UHF) and one charger but *the package comes with 2 IMPRESS chargers*. The IMPRESS chargers a smart chargers that read the battery condition and charge accordingly. These radios are both capable of P-25 as well as analog. They both come with a speaker mic. Both are programmed for repeaters in the Lake County / Chicago area.

You can purchase both for \$400.00 or your choice of VHF OR UHF for \$200.00. Contact John, W9WY at 219-922-1065

K1N - Navassa Island DXpedition 2015



Here is what the card looks like (sorry for the camera flare). Check out all the information at:

<http://www.navassadx.com/>

Indiana QSO Party Results

The scores for the 2015 Indiana QSO party have been posted! This year the LCARC participated casually in a low key setting. You can see our results under the "Club Competition" and "Multi-Op" sections

<http://www.hdxcc.org/inqp/scores.php>