



SHORT SKIP

Volume 65 Issue 7

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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



A number of things cross my mind as I write this for the July 2017 issue of Short Skip. As you may know, I love summer hamfests so I'll start with them.

Upcoming Local Hamfests

- Indy Hamfest Indiana- Friday AND Saturday July 7th and 8th, www.indyhamfest.com
- Angola Indiana - Saturday August 12th www.llarc.org
- Aurora Illinois - Fox River Radio League, Sunday July 9th www.frrl.org
- Peotone Illinois - Karsfest, Sunday July 16th www.W9AZ.com
- Peotone Illinois - Hamfester's, Sunday August 6th www.ham-ham.org

LCARC Field Day 2017

First, I want to personally thank each and every Club member who came out whether it was to get "Big Blue" out, to help set up, or for operating. While we did not go for "the points" by running 24 hours, I believe more importantly that we had fun and Club comradery was high. We also proved to ourselves that if there was an emergency, we could be on the air contributing.

This year we had three operating positions and four HF antenna to pick from; a G5RV, a 40 meter quarter wave vertical, a multiband "Bearded" Zepp, and a tricked out BuddiPole.

With three laptops running N3FJP logging software, most of our FD contacts were made on 40 meters and 20 meters. To my pleasant surprise, both 15 meters, and 10 meters were open and quite active to the east coast. Six meters was dead with no activity and no beacons heard. My thoughts for next year would be to use more digital modes vs SSB ie CW, PSK31, or JT65.

Other Thoughts

I was read an article the other day about a 13 year old ham. They asked why Ham Radio? Why wasn't he mirroring his classmates who spend considerable time with their cellphones. His reply was astute. "On a cell phone you only talk to your current friends, with Ham Radio you make new friends!"

Another article commented how much of their Club member time they spent with young people trying to expose them to Amateur Radio hoping to catch their interest with so-so results.

Adult Service Clubs such as; the JC's, or the Rotary Club are always looking for program speakers. At my LCARC license classes many commented "I wanted to get my license years ago, this time I am going to do it". Speaking to adults in Service Clubs about Ham Radio is path we should consider.

Program topic for July 14th Meeting: The Deluxe Buddipole presented by Bill Leaming N4GIX

Program topic for August 11th Meeting: "Ham Radio Station Grounding"

Happy birth month to Dan KD9ARD LCARC Net Control. 73, Tim/N9CA 2017 President LCARC

"OBSERVE" AUGUST'S ECLIPSE WITH YOUR AM RADIO

By: Joe Rao | June 29, 2017

While we cannot see this one we can try to hear it by going to:

<http://www.skyandtelescope.com/2017-total-solar-eclipse/how-to-hear-the-solar-eclipse/> Thanks Marty, WJ9Q

MEETING MINUTES

June 9, 2017

- Meeting called to order at 7:33PM
- Introductions were made with 15 attending meeting
- Tim asked for attending members to come out for Field Day. An E-mail will be sent out requesting members to attend and help.
- Also requested is for help with the Hobart Brickyard run. This is a very short run with only 2 hours needed to complete race.
- Program started at 7:39PM and finished at 8:15PM with talk on portable antennas. Meeting adjourned at 8:27PM

WILL KEEP TRYING TO JOIN 7.200 CONVERSATIONS

By K5KVN, on the scene

SPEAKHAVEN, GEORGIA – A local ham radio operator, frustrated with his inability to break through the QRM on 7.200, says he won't give up trying to "have his say in the matter."

Nathan Brinn, who holds a General class license, says he's been trying for weeks to join the cacophony of malicious interference on the frequency.

"I want to have my opinion heard, too, but I can't find a millisecond of free space to transmit," he says. "But, I don't want to talk over someone accidentally or block someone from being heard with my long CW keydown. I'm not that kind of guy."

Brinn says he goes to the frequency every day after work and several times on weekend afternoons after returning home from volunteering at the local homeless shelter. "I hope the operators on frequency will start to leave some space for others to join in. Until then, I'll keep trying."

LINKS OF INTEREST

Those of you who do not get the Post-Tribune or did not see the article in the post should click on this link: <http://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/post-tribune/news/ct-ptb-emergency-radio-system-st-0322-20170322-story.html>

This is a nice story about how one of our club members, Andy Finick, W9FXT has setup emergency stations in our local hospitals.

Andy is also the May club meeting program and will be bringing his communications trailer for all to see.



MIDWAY AND KURE ISLANDS ARE NOW DELETED DXCC ENTITIES

ARRL 3/31/2017

Midway and Kure Islands have been placed on the list of DXCC deleted entities, effective August 26, 2016. This came about as an unintended consequence of action last summer by then-President Barack Obama that expanded the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument to include the northwestern Hawaiian Islands west of Ni'ihau Island, making it the largest contiguous protected conservation area under the US flag.

Midway (KH4) had qualified for DXCC status by virtue of its being governed by a separate administration. Because it is now under the administration of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, however, it becomes a deleted entity. Approximately 50 people live on Midway, including US Fish and Wildlife Service staffers and contractors. The Battle of Midway, a turning point in the Allied World War II Pacific Campaign, took place in June 1942.

Now uninhabited, Kure Island (KH7K), a part of Hawaii, is separated from the rest of the state by Midway; because of that, it qualified for DXCC status under Section II, 2 (b) (iii) of the DXCC Rules — separation from its "parent" Hawaii. Midway Island's change in DXCC status in turn made Kure Island no longer eligible for DXCC status, since Kure no longer is separated from the rest of Hawaii by intervening land or islands that are part of another DXCC entity.

Kure Island once was home to a US Coast Guard LORAN station, remnants of which are still evident. It has been a state wildlife sanctuary since 1981.

The relevant parts of Section II of the DXCC Rules follow:

A Geographic Separation Entity may result when a single Political Entity is physically separated into two or more parts. The part of such a Political Entity that contains the capital city is considered the Parent for tests under these criteria. One or more of the remaining parts resulting from the separation may then qualify for separate status as a DXCC Entity if they satisfy paragraph a) or b) of the Geographic Separation Criteria, as follows.

b) Island Areas (Separation by Water):

A new entity results in the case of an island under any of the following conditions:

iii) The island is separated from its Parent by intervening land or islands that are part of another DXCC entity, such that a line drawn along a great circle in any direction, from any part of the island, does not touch the Parent before touching the intervening DXCC entity. There is no minimum separation distance for the first island entity created under this rule. Additional island entities may be created under this rule, provided that they are similarly separated from the Parent by a different DXCC entity and separated from any other islands associated with the Parent by at least 800 km.

Neither Midway nor Kure was able to be activated without prior permission and only for a planned DXpedition. Only contacts made on August 25, 2016, or earlier will count for these two entities.

Check out the Hoosier DMR Best Practices Guide at <http://tinyurl.com/nbvo7xh>

FUN WITH VINTAGE RIGS

by Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA Central Division Vice Director



Let's face it – the Amateur Radio population consists of many who were licensed in the 1950s and 1960s. As such, we have fond memories of the transmitters and receivers that we used during those times. And quite a few of us still operate those old rigs.

I succumbed to this facet of Amateur Radio about 10 years ago. I found and bought my Novice receiver (a National NC-60B) and Novice transmitter (a Heathkit DX-35). Both of them needed work. I replaced all the paper caps and the electrolytic caps – these are the ones that generally go bad after many years. Some of the tubes were replaced as necessary, along with some of the resistors.

Along the way I also bought some other rigs. I now have a Drake 2B receiver, a Hallicrafters SX-100 receiver, the NC-60, the DX-35, a Johnson Viking Ranger II transmitter, a Hammarlund HQ-170 receiver, a World Radio Labs Globe Chief transmitter, and a Johnson Challenger transmitter. The 2B, HQ-170, NC-60, DX-35 and Ranger II are up and running. The SX-100 is in the process of refurbishment, with the Globe Chief and Challenger next on the list for repair.

I also picked up a Heathkit VF-1 VFO and Heathkit SWR meter (to go with the DX-35), and a Hallicrafters TO Keyer (to go with the Ranger II). These are up and running, too.

Right now the 2B is paired with the DX-35, and the Ranger II is paired with the HQ-170. See the accompanying photos. Both of these stations have been used in the ARRL's Straight Key Night and in the Novice Rig Roundup (<http://novicerigroundup.com/>). I've even used the Ranger II/HQ-170 combo to check into QIN – the Indiana CW traffic net.

Once the SX-100, Globe Chief and Challenger are completed, I'll probably have to think about sending some of these old rigs to a new home. I just don't have the room for more than two modern stations (OMNI-VI and OMNI 7) and two old stations. It will be a sad day when I part with them, but I'll be satisfied using what's left.

If you're interested in vintage rigs, I suggest going to local hamfests – you'll likely find something. But be aware that they may require some work.

W9DXCC DX CONVENTION

(May 21, 2017) – Online registration is now available and much of the program is in place for the 2017 W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet in suburban Chicago September 15-16, 2017. This year's keynote speaker will be ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. The ARRL has approved the gathering as an Operating Specialty Convention. Discounted hotel rooms can also be booked now.

Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, W9DXCC will also offer Contest University and DX University programs on Friday, with presentations for new and veteran DXers and contest operators. The daylong session on Saturday will feature speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking, a CW pileup contest and many valuable prizes. The evening banquet is a time to relax and enjoy our keynote speaker. For non-ham family members, Woodfield Mall, which offers a wide array of shopping, is one traffic light south of the convention site at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 East Golf Road.

Updates and Registration: <http://w9dxcc.com/>

For more information: John McCormick, K9KE@arrrl.net

Missing Issues of Morsum Magnificat Now Available for Free Download

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05/18/2017

All copies of the English-language version of Morsum Magnificat, the Morse Magazine, are now available for free download from the website of Lynn Burlingame, N7CFO. This includes the 89 issues published from 1986 to 2004. Mike Feher, N4FS, was able to provide the missing editions, which Randy Cole, KN6W, scanned for viewing. The 89 issues of Morsum Magnificat contain more than 4,000 printed pages, covering all aspects of Morse telegraphy.

The newly available downloads also include “The Story of the Key: The Best of MM-1,” by Louise Ramsey Moreau W3WRE, which includes a list of American telegraph instrument makers from 1837 to 1900, compiled by Roger Reinke. In addition, there’s “Key WT 8 Amp Worldwide Survey: The Best of MM-2,” by Tony Smith G4FAI, an updated and revised version of the 54-page book-

let that provides information about the famous military Morse key, of which more than 100 versions were manufactured in six countries.

Also available: The MM Q & Z Codebook, (English), compiled by Rinus Hellemons, PA0BFN, and Dick Kraayveld, PA3ALM, publishers of the original Dutch version of Morsum Magnificat. The codebook lists all Q & Z codes in their original applications, including a copy of the original single-page Q-code guide of 1912.

All copies of Morsum Magnificat or associated publications downloaded from the N7CFO website are for personal use only and may not be downloaded or distributed for any commercial purpose. — Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News via Tony Smith, G4FAI, co-founder of the English edition of Morsum Magnificat

W9DXCC Convention (Sept. 15-16)

Dear fellow amateur radio operator and Midwest ham club contact: It's our hope that you might help us spread the word about the 65th annual W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet on Sept. 15-16, 2017, in Schaumburg, Illinois. Please consider sharing the following information with your members via e-mail, website or word of mouth: (May 21, 2017) - Online registration is now available and much of the program is in place for the 2017 W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet in suburban Chicago. This year's keynote speaker will be ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR. The ARRL has approved the gathering as an Operating Specialty Convention. Discounted hotel rooms can also be booked now. Sponsored by the Northern Illinois DX Association, W9DXCC will also offer Contest University and DX University programs on Friday, with presentations for new and veteran DXers and contest operators. The day-long session on Saturday will feature speakers, exhibits, QSL card checking, a CW pileup contest and many valuable prizes. The evening banquet is a time to relax and enjoy our key note speaker. For non-ham family members, Woodfield Mall, which offers a wide array of shopping, is one traffic light south of the convention site at the Hyatt Regency Schaumburg, 1800 East Golf Road. Updates and Registration: <http://w9dxcc.com/> For more information: John McCormick, K9KE@arrl.net

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Check out the pictures of the LCARC

Field Day Event. They are on our webpage at:

<http://lcarc.weebly.com/lcarc---slide-shows.html>

- It's so hot everyone is sweating like a politician on Election Day!
- It's so hot the only bread in the supermarket is toast!
- It's so hot that Lance Armstrong tested positive for water!
from Tim, N9CA



Here is a picture of one of our club members (current call W9WY) when he was teaching electronics at Highland High School in 1972.

Even though the Oscilloscope is not shown, we were probabl doing a test to determine tube gain. Oh well. At the time the DeVry equipment shown was quality stuff for an educational setting!. W9WY is the handsome dude in the center. Check out the tie!!

ARDUINO HAM RADIO STARTER KIT

John Fallows, VE6EY

Earlier this year, I published a series of articles on my web site called the "Arduino Ham Radio Starter Kit". The purpose of this information is to encourage more hams and their clubs to engage with the local maker community as a gateway to amateur radio.

These articles explain Arduino basics in a ham radio context. They contain many suggestions about how amateurs can use Arduinos, as well as how a ham club can engage other makers in hobby activities.

Please take a moment to review the Arduino Ham Radio Starter Kit articles. If you find them to be useful, please consider passing these along to your members or contacts.

You can use these articles by linking them to your web site, Twitter feed, Facebook page or by e-mail. The URL is: <http://play.fallows.ca/wp/series/arduino-ham-radio-starter-kit/>

Thanks for your consideration. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me.

73 John Fallows VE6EY Calgary, Alberta

UNBRICKING AN MD-380

by John, W9WY

A few days ago I decided to update the firmware on my Tytera MD-380. I downloaded the firmware, ran the installer and was well on the way to updating the firmware when my computer burped. Bummer I now had a totally dead radio. This can happen to most any radio when one is updating the firmware (not the same as uploading a codeplug). I was not a happy camper.

I crossed it off to dumb luck and vowed to be more careful when doing anything like this to my "real" radio (name starts with A/\otorola).

A few days later I was driving along and talking to Bill, N9QLS. In the course of the conversation a lightbulb (LED type since the other kinds are not good for the planet) went on in my head. Why not try to reset the radio by removing the battery for a while?

I got home and for grins and giggles I removed the battery on the MD-380. I allowed it sit on the desk. I came back and powered it on holding down the button above the PTT switch and the PTT button at the same time (this puts it in the programming mode for updating firmware – not needed when just updating the codeplug.)

Eureka!!!! Top light blinking in red and green (indicating it was waiting for me to send the firmware update).

I started the firmware update program, waited until the progress bar progressed and voila! MD-380 now functions! I am a genius!! Well, maybe not since I bricked the thing a day before -- but I am a Gemini).

Anyway, MD-380 is now a functioning HT. Sometimes it helps to talk things out with someone. Often it tweaks some of the little gray cells and causes one's thinking process to go into another direction . . . which in this case must have been the correct one!

TRUMP PROMISES GREATEST PROPAGATION EVER

by K5PO, on the scene



NEWINGSTEAD, VT – Newly inaugurated President Trump wasted no time reaching out to members of the amateur radio community. On Monday, President Trump was the keynote speaker at a banquet co-sponsored by radio equipment manufacturer Peanut Whistle Transmitters Inc. and the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL). Trump was a surprise late addition to the speaker lineup for the annual two-day "Radio in America" gathering at the NRRL's headquarters.

"We invited him as a courtesy, but honestly didn't expect he'd show up. I assume he's a very busy man," said NRRL president Bob Gilligan. "But then I received a call yesterday from the Trump administration who informed us that the President would most certainly meet with such great communicators. We were shocked! To fit in the President we had to cancel Wiley Roger's planned panel discussion on his hypothesis that blue-colored wire has increased his DX performance."

President Trump's speech to the 27 attendees lasted a little over three hours and ranged in topics from installing antennas atop Trump Tower to the low sunspot cycle. When Peanut Whistle Transmitter Company's Chief Counsel asked Trump if he had any plans to improve propagation as we approach a new low in the sunspot cycle, President Trump had no reservations in stating, "My administration will bring amazing propagation to all of you. To all American hams. It'll be the best. The best propagation. So big. They'll be so much DX, we'll be exporting it to other counties. You've never seen propagation like the propagation we'll have."

Trump closed the banquet with the announcement that he'll immediately sign an executive order to increase sunspot counts to 1000 within the next 100 days. Ham Hijinks inquired with NOAA Space Weather Scientist Ramish Pental about how the administration would go about this executive order. He quickly replied, "It literally makes zero sense. I have no idea whatsoever."

HamHijinks.com