



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



First, the LCARC Friday July 10th meeting will be another virtual one on ZOOM. I will call it to order at 7:00pm. It will feature a number of short show-and-tell presentations that should be interesting. Look for an email link sent to you a few days before July 10th. When it is 7:00pm (ish) click the emailed link to enter the meeting. Turn on video as you wish. If you find you have a noisy background, please mute and unmute your audio as needed.

We are hoping to go back to live meetings at our previous meeting site at the EMA conference room for August 8th. Details will follow. By now, everyone is an expert epidemiologist so that this will come as no surprise. IF everyone wears a proper mask (not a bandana), the risk someone infected communicating covid-19 to another is 1.5% The risk of death in Indiana from covid-19 is 0.003%.

In reality, everything in life has risks. Until a vaccine is developed, and depending on your health and age, YOU MUST gauge your comfort and risk attending a public event - any event - anywhere - any time.

Personally, this gives me just the out I hoped for to avoid Karaoke night!

Second, the Club will be holding a 2 hour VE session Saturday morning August 22nd to help our hobby. I will need a couple VE to help. Contact me - ASAP - @ 219-769-0673

July 2020 Contest Calendar

July 11th - IARU HF World Championship. Objective; To support amateur self-training in radio communications including improving amateur operating skills, conducting technical investigations, and intercommunicating with other amateurs around the world, especially IARU member society headquarters stations, using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10-meter bands. Details at ARRL.org.

July 18th - CQWW VHF Contest - The contest promotes VHF activity on the 6 and 2 meter bands with participation from around the world. www.cqww-vhf.com

July 18th - North American RTTY QSO Party. Visit www.ncjweb.com

UK radio ham answers call for help

ARRL report UK radio amateur Maxis Johnston GM0MRJ answered a call for help made on DMR by an amateur in Massapequa, New York

When Richard Tashner, N2EO, of Massapequa, New York, suffered a medical emergency on May 18, his DMR radio was closer than his phone. His call for help was answered by Maxis Johnston, GM0MRJ, who put out a call for "anyone in the states."

Kent County Amateur Radio Club member Ken Dix, KB2KBD, in Delaware heard the call on the local 146.91 MHz repeater, which was linked to the North American talk group. Dix called authorities in Tashner's vicinity, and help was dispatched.

Dix said the dispatcher in New York was able to hear part of the call and was amazed at how an amateur radio communication had gone from New York to Scotland to Delaware and then back to New York. The dispatcher expressed surprise at how quickly the information had been relayed across the Atlantic. The Delaware repeater, at the Delaware State Communications complex, is set on C4FM Fusion and linked to DMR on "America's Net."

— Thanks to the ARES E-Letter via Jerry Palmer, N3KRX

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FROM THE PARADE STAND

by Tim, N9CA

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PRS and WSPR balloon completes 2nd circumnavigation of Earth

A balloon launched on May 20 by 'Amateur Radio Roundtable' web show host Tom Medlin, W5KUB, and team has begun its third circumnavigation of Earth transmitting 144.390 MHz FM APRS and 14.0971 MHz WSPR

The balloon, at 43,000 – 45,000 feet, completed its second trip around the globe on June 19. It crossed the Atlantic ocean “in record time” at a speed of about 170 MPH, the balloon website reported this week.

The balloon, identified as W5KUB-18, carries APRS and WSPR amateur radio payloads. As of the afternoon of June 23, it was heading over Uzbekistan at over 100 MPH.

As the balloon website states, the mission and goal

are to launch a high-altitude balloon for long-duration and multiple trips around the world.

The balloon, an SBS-13, is capable of flying up to 45,000 feet. “It will be filled with hydrogen to obtain higher altitude,” the website explains. “It will be solar powered only (no batteries, so it will only transmit during daylight). We will receive tracking every 10 minutes via WSPR on HF [14.0971 MHz].” WSJT-X Update

Released 06/23/2020

The digital modes suite WSJT-X version 2.2.2 has been released. The update is a bug-fix release. The primary change is to incorporate the new Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) Prince Edward Island

(PE) Section PE into the FT8/FT4/MSK144 contest mode for ARRL Field Day. Operators planning to be on the air

for Field Day should upgrade to this version to enable accurate logging.

Another change: the FT8 decoder has been sped up in “normal” and “fast” modes. This offers a decoding speed closer to that of version 2.1.2 without compromising the number of decodes. It is particularly targeted for slower, single-board computers, such as the Raspberry Pi Model 3 or similar. Plus there are several new FT8 frequencies to help with over crowding.

Also, the DX grid field now clears automatically whenever the DX call field is changed. www.physics.princeton.edu

73, Wishing all of you a safe fun filled July 4th. Hope to hear you on the Wednesday night LCARC Nets. 8:00pm LCARC repeaters pl 131.8. Tim/N9CA



MEETING MINUTES

Sometime in the summer of 2020 Russ, KB9HO

The COVID-19 virus destroyed them. I have taken great precautions to prevent this from happening in the future. Sorry.

SIGNAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Ever hear a signal on the radio and you don't know what it is? Check out this website for audio files of over 377 different digital signals, both amateur and commercial. Most interesting.

https://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Signal_Identification_Guide

NEED HELP? CALL ON THESE ELMERS

- Tim N9CA
- Bill N4GIX
- Bill Young N9QLS
- Russ KB9HO
- Andy W9FXT.
- Mark K9MQ is an ARRL Tech Specialist and can also be called on.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Click on the highlighted links to go to the website

Check out the West Mountain Radio Website at <http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Quarter-2-2019.pdf>. Lots of good information not just on their products but ham radio topics as well.

Interested in DX? Join (FREE) the NWI DX Club and/or read the monthly newsletter. See them on the web at: <http://nwidx-club.weebly.com/>



Want to buy or sell “stuff”. Checkout the club's website for great deals. <https://lcarc.weebly.com/for-sale> Right now there are some GREAT deals on \/\otorola Mobile and Portable (HTs) DMR radios and accessories.

HAM RADIO TO THE RESCUE!

<https://wma.arrl.org/ham-radio-saving-a-life-locally.html> submitted by Bill, N9GIX

On Tuesday, June 15, Alden Sumner Jones IV, KC1JWR, was hiking on the southern part of the Appalachian trail in Vermont (it's also been reported as being on the Long Trail) with his cousins at around 12:30 PM. Alden started feeling light headed, his pulse was racing and the next thing he remembers is waking up with an EMT named Dave, from AMR out of Springfield, MA, who was hiking and saw Alden go down. Alden had suffered seizures. It was later determined that this was caused by low blood sugar. Dave attempted to call 911 on his cell phone. He could connect, but the 911 operator couldn't understand him. At this point, Alden pulled out his HT ham radio, a BaoFeng.

He made contact through the K1FFK repeater. This repeater is located on Mt. Greylock on 146.91. The repeater is owned and maintained by the Northern Berkshire Amateur Radio Club. The initial call went out just before the Cycle 1 of the Western Massachusetts Traffic Net. Ron Wonderlick, AG1W, took the call. Alden initially asked if the 911 call went through. Ron began an eight hour process of acting as a relay between Alden, the emergency crews and various others.

The Traffic Net was truncated and the frequency was cleared by Peter Mattice, KD2JKV, who also stood by as a backup for Ron. KC1JPU, Matthew Sacco, was also monitoring and after a short consultation with Ron & Peter, proceeded to head to the staging area where the Fire and EMS crews were going to come from.

In Matthew's own words, this what happened when he arrived at the staging area:

As I arrived at the staging point set up by the Fire Department, I met up with Fire Chief Scott Moore (95-C1) of the Wilmington Fire Department who was Incident Command. I told him how I heard about the incident and offered my services. I then got to work attempting to make contact with Ron over the 91. We were in a bit of a shadow as far as coverage went from the 91 and my first attempt to make contact with my HT was to no avail. I then went to my truck to try my mobile radio which also failed to open up the repeater. Running out of options, I went into my radio bag and was able to construct a roll up J-Pole out of some 450 ohm ladder line, a short length of coax, and male UHF connector. In that bag I keep some basic soldering equipment and a power inverter for the truck. Once it was constructed and tested, I grabbed my fishing pole from the back seat, put a weight on the end, and cast the weight into the highest branch I could find. I tied the J-Pole to the end of the line and reeled it up about 20' into the tree with the help of a barrel connector and about another 24' of coax. I tried that antenna plugged into the back of my mobile radio and we were up and running! I was then in contact with Net Control!

Now the struggle was to find the hiker. Alden's (KC1JWR) status was communicated between the EMT on site through the ham radio and impromptu net set up through Ron (AG1W) and Matthew (KC1JPU). The information passed through the net was used

to determine what type of rescue equipment would be necessary. Finding the location based on landmarks was proving too difficult. One of the people on site had a cell phone with a GPS unit and they were able to get a location in Google Maps Plus Code. That was converted into latitude and longitude. At this point, it was 4:30 in the afternoon.

On site were members of the Wilmington, VT Fire Department, Wardsboro, VT Fire Department, Deerfield Valley Ambulance, and Rescue Inc., all served through the ham radio net being operated on the K1FFK repeater.

Once the rescuers were getting close to Alden's location, it was determined that they were not going to be able to get an ATV to the location for an evacuation. So, the determination was made to contact New York State Search and Rescue for a helicopter. Again, this need was relayed through the ham net. Almost all the communication, all day, was through the ham net, or, relayed to the phone by Ron (AG1W) or Peter (KD2JKV).

Meanwhile, Alden is conscious and spending time talking to the EMT and the rescuers about ham radio and how to get their licenses.

An area is cleared by another hiker as a place for the helicopter to lower it's basket. The GPS coordinates are relayed through the ham net to the helicopter crew. The rescuers took Alden through the woods to the clearing and the helicopter arrived at around 7PM. While the rescuers were talking the helicopter in on their radios, they were having trouble making contact through their rubber duck antennas. So, Alden, who had a better antenna for his HT, lent it to the rescuers for better communication. Alden was initially flown to Woodford Mountain for evaluation and treatment. He was then flown to the hospital in Albany NY. During the flight, Alden again talked to the pilots and the other rescuers about ham radio.

During the rescue, one fire fighter from Wilmington was injured. This forced part of the team to stay the night with him in a shelter along the trail. He was brought out safely and is doing well. Alden is suffering from a number of injuries from the seizures, but he is also recovering.

Neil Van Dyke (N1TNC), the Search & Rescue Coordinator for the Vermont Dept. of Public Safety was the one who called in Search and Rescue. When asked about the event, Mr. Van Dyke said "Ham radio was a key part of the incident and played a major role in the rescue". Alden said it even better, "Ham radio saved my life last night and I am very thankful for how everyone helped me."

Well done to all involved in this event. Thank you for all you did for Alden Jones and for being great ham radio operators.

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From <https://wma.arrl.org/ham-radio-saving-a-life-locally.html>
submitted by Bill, N9GIX

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.