



SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue

March 2015

From the Oval Office

by Mark, LCARC Vice President



March is finally here and hopefully warmer temperatures. Currently as I write this, it is minus 6 out. We had a great turnout at our February meeting, including some new members. This year we are making an effort to have quality meeting content and activities. We need to have a reason to come to meetings. One of those reasons should be quality content.

At our last meeting we had a discussion on erecting your first hf antenna. I also presented a program on the ARRL Worked All States program. Jim, KF9EX won the show and tell by bringing his oldest QSL card from his novice days. For March, we will be having a discussion about the demise of Radio Shack. Nick, W9UM will be presenting a program concerning the ARRL Official Observer program. For show and tell, everyone is encouraged to bring in your smallest HT (it should transmit on the ham bands).

Back in the January edition of Short Skip, President Marv, WV9O proposed a point system to encourage member participation. You earn points by doing certain activities such as checking into the club net, coming to a meeting, etc. The member with the most points at the end of year will get a free years membership for free.

With the warmer weather approaching, there will be a number of marathons/runs that are being held throughout Northwest Indiana. Carter, KC9YGU is organizing communications for quite a few of them. Keep an eye out in his column for more information of these events. He will be looking for volunteers.

The LCARC is planning to participate in the Indiana QSO Party on Saturday, May 2nd. The plan is to operate at the same site they we hold our meetings at. The EMA/RACES trailer should be available. Further details and a signup list to be sent out at a later date.

I would like to encourage anyone that has any ideas for possible programs, discussion topics, or show and tell items to please send an email to mark@k9mq.com Hope to see you all at our March meeting!

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 Liaison
Bill, N9QLS
Trustee, Marv, WV9O
Newsletter Editor and
Webmaster, John, W9WY

Program Schedule

- March: Nick, W9UM on the ARRL Official Observer Program
- April: Stan, W4SV on QCWA and QCWA Chapter 36
- May: Possible DMR program (waiting to see if WV9O will be able to join us)
- June: Joseph, K9FRZ Indiana Section Manager

Minutes

February 13, 2015

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM

Introductions made and 15 members in attendance.

Minutes from the December meeting was read by Russ KB9HO. Mark made motion to accept minutes as read. Motion carried.

Treasury's report was read. We now have 37 paid members. Mark made motion to accept motion as read. Motion carried.

Repeater report. Mark stated he needed to go to the Red Cross to check on the repeaters lightening arrestors and the DTMF board.

DX reports. John said he tried to an a station and was not able to work the station due to operators not working correctly with stations request.

Sky Warn Carter said the NW Indiana Sky warn has a class on weather spotter on Feb 23 and this will qualify you as a weather spotter.

April 26 NWI cross-roads Marathon at Lowell meet at 6:00AM.

Mark commented we will as a club we will be supporting more public service events that Carter is involved with.

EMA RACES nothing to report

Red Cross Bill will try to get in touch with the person in charge and get a working relationship with the Red Cross concerning tower insurance

A Survey was sent out and 22 people responded. The Section manager from Fort Wayne has wanting to attend a meeting and will have a time set up in the future. Will be conducting less club business at club meetings and have programs at each meeting. Also will be a show and tell each month. This month is bring your oldest QSL card.

Short Skip has been taken over by John. John needs articles and Mark has said he will be doing a DMR column each month to keep the club updated on events.

Nw Business

Board of directors be appointed Bill N9QLS, John W9WY Kenny KE9TC, Carter KC9YGU, Bob WB-9SNY and Russ KB9HO. Mark made the motion to accept the board. The motion was accepted.

The Club License needed renewed and was renewed. The Club repeater is now OK until January 20, 2025.

The club entity has been submitted to the ARRL for meeting times and places with the new officers listed.

A point system is now in place which will award points for attendance for meetings, net check in, precipitating in club events and public service events. Point values were in short skip for point value for each activity to be awarded.

Club needs to be active in club events such as Indiana QSO, Field Day, and INPOTA. The Club has decided to start by setting up for Indiana QSO. We will be using the EMA trailer and set up at the EMA.

The Club Domain name will be renewed by Mark

The suggestion has been submitted to have a greeter at the door for new members. No volunteers for greeters.

Suggestion was made by Wayne K9YNB to have the club meeting on a different day of the week. Jim stated that the club meeting was set by the constitution but could be changed. The club will put out a survey to check with the members about changing the date of the meetings.

Kenny KE9TC stated about the audit and stated all was in order.

This month the contest for show and tell is the oldest QSL card. Jim KF9EX won the oldest QSL card. Next months show and tell will be the smallest HT.

The nights discussion was setting up your first HF station. Dan KB9ARD made the suggestion and he is looking for help in setting up his HF station. The discussion was about antennas and need for radials with verticals. Also talked about was grounding for the station.

Tonight's program was presented by Mark about Worked All States award.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:09PM

March Meeting Agenda

- Show and Tell: Bring your smallest HT (it should transmit in the amateur bands).
- Discussion Topic: The demise of Radio Shack. The good times, the bad times, where do we get parts?
- Presentation: Nick, W9UM will talk about the ARRL Official Observer Program

Skywarn and Marathons

By Carter Garcia, KC9YGU



April Spotter Training: The National Weather Service in Chicago will be sponsoring another spotter training here in NWI! This class will be on April 7, 2015 at Gibson Woods 6201 Parrish Ave Hammond, IN. This two-hour free course will provide all of the training necessary to certify you as a Storm Spotter at the basic level for the NWS office in Chicago.

NWS Repeater List: (picture page 5) The National Weather Service's HAM Team recently released the list of Skywarn NETS they will monitor during severe weather. You can submit any urgent and non-urgent reports to NET control on these frequencies. I would suggest printing out this picture to hang in the shack!

2015 Events: (Operators Needed)

Lowell Marathon-April 26

Leon's Triathlon-June 10

Merrillville Marathon-Sep. 27

Valparaiso ½ Marathon-October?

DMR News

Mark, K9MQ

The first part of this year, we continued to see the DMR network expand thru Indiana with the addition of two new Mototrbo/DMR repeaters in the northern zone. We saw new Mototrbo machines from Brad, N9MTF in Wolf Lake, IN (north-east of Columbia City) and Rich, N9GPY in Culver, IN. Last month, I took a trip out towards Culver and talked to Rich on his machine. He is hoping that he will be able to get the repeater up on an even higher tower. There is talk about converting an existing analog repeater in Lafayette over and several new systems around Clinton and Covington. The state north of Indianapolis will be pretty well covered. Closer to Chicagoland, the Northbrook, IL repeater is off the air. When it returns, it will be from its new location in downtown Chicago. Hopefully, northwest Indiana will receive some additional coverage from the relocation of this repeater.

The Valparaiso repeaters network connection was offline since late last

year. Early last month, it came back online and we now have access to the networked talkgroups with the exception of Indiana Statewide (TG #3118). That issue is being looked into.

The fine folks from the Hooiser DMR group gave a DMR presentation to the Michiana Radio Club in downtown South Bend. There is interest in installing a machine out that way and we have already seen hams from that area register for their subscriber number. Tony, W9AMT has a portable Mototrbo demo repeater setup with a wireless broadband internet connection. This demo repeater has been to many hamfests and club meetings. It's a great way to actually show how DMR works with a real repeater and a real radio, when there is not a local system on the air yet.

Every Tuesday night at 7pm (CST), Hoosier DMR has a net on Indiana Statewide. If you don't have access to the Statewide talkgroup, you can still listen into a audio stream.

<http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/19156> If you have a question for the net, you can submit it thru their Facebook group page.

Connect Systems Incorporated (CSI) makes the ever-popular CS-700 DMR HT that allows hams to get on DMR for under \$200. There are currently ten beta units on the air across the country that feature a new version of the firmware for these ht's. The new firmware features an upgraded version of the programming software along with offering adjustment of the microphone audio gain and MDC1200. CSI is going to try their best to make the firmware upgrade available to the older CS700's. The CS-800, CSI's first DMR mobile is getting closer to production. They hope to start shipping it in a few months for \$280. The CS-7000 multiprotocol HT is still in development. The HT will be capable of operating on Analog, DMR, NXDN, dPMR, P25, D-Star, and System Fusion with a

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Membership forms can also 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.

Lake County Amateur Radio Club Membership Application



Please complete this form and return (address below) with your dues. Make all checks payable to LAKE COUNTY ARC. You may also return this application at one of our club meetings, held the 2nd Friday of each month at the Lake Co Dept of Homeland Security Office, 2900 W 93rd Ave, Crown Point, IN.

Lake County ARC -- PO Box 90 -- Crown Point, IN 46308-0090

Name	Call	License Class	ARRL Member
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		
Street Address			
<input type="text"/>			
City	State	Zip code	
<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	
E-mail address	Phone number		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>		

Family Members covered by membership (living with you)

DUES ENCLOSED (please choose)

- Full (\$20) Family (\$25)
 Associate -- Non Ham (\$10)

Name	Call	E-mail address	License Class
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Name	Call	E-mail address	License Class
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	

"Paperless" Ham Radio License Policy Now in Effect

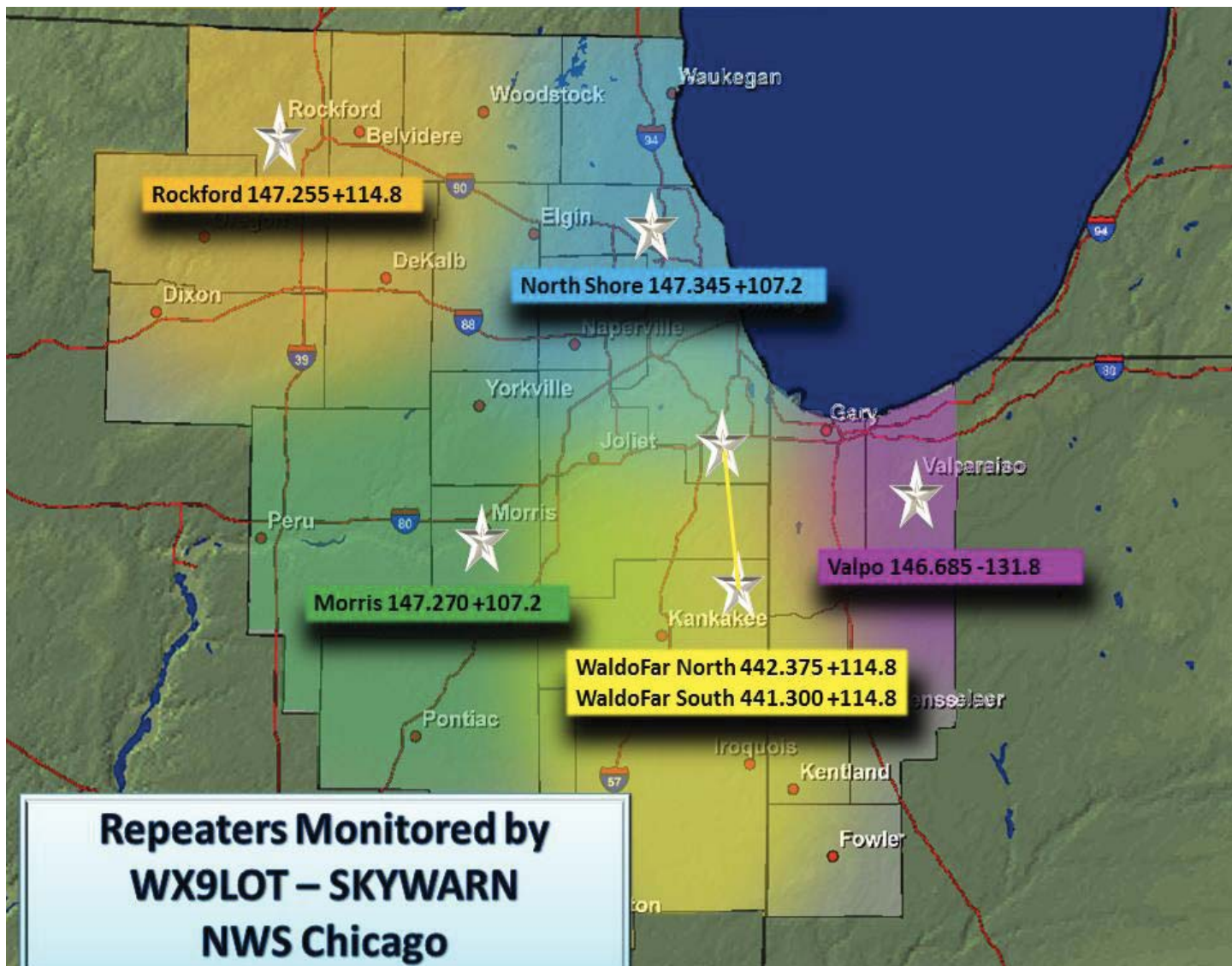
From ARRL Newington CT Feb 17,, 2015

Starting today, February 17, the FCC no longer routinely issues paper license documents to Amateur Radio applicants and licensees. The Commission maintains that the official Amateur Radio license authorization is the electronic record that exists in its Universal Licensing System (ULS), although the FCC had routinely continued to print and mail hard copy licenses until this week.

In mid-December, the FCC adopted final procedures to provide access to official electronic authorizations, as it had proposed in WT Docket 14-161 as part of its "process reform" initiatives. Under the new procedures, licensees will access their current official authorization ("Active" status only) via the ULS License Manager. The FCC will continue to provide paper license documents to all licensees who notify the Commission that they prefer to receive one. Licensees will also be able to print out an official authorization — as well as an unofficial "reference copy" — from the ULS License Manager.

"We find this electronic process will improve efficiency by simplifying access to official authorizations in ULS, shortening the time period between grant of an application and access to the official authorization, and reducing regulatory costs," the FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) said. According to the WTB, the new procedures will save at least \$304,000 a year, including staff expenses.

The ULS License Manager now permits licensees to change the default setting so that the Bureau will print and mail a license document.



FOR SALE!



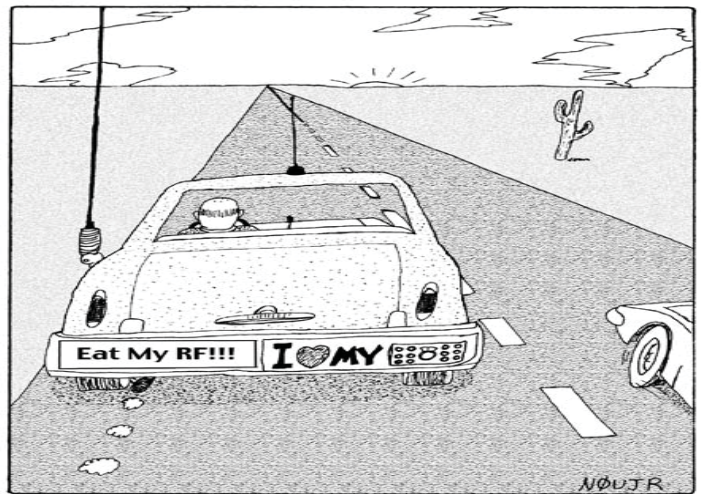
For Sale: Heathkit DX-60A Transmitter. 10-80M (excluding WARC). Includes assembly manual. There are some signs of wear, but overall the transmitter is in good shape. The transmitter worked when I first acquired it. I'm unable to fully test it at this time, but the tubes lit up. \$60, Sold As-Is. mark@k9mq.com



For Sale (maybe) - What I have is a Standard CCR 708A 30-950 MHz radio with spectrum analyzer display. This has been my go to fox hunting receiver but I just don't fox hunt anymore. These things are very rare (when new I think they were around \$1,000) but it is a nice piece of gear. Add a beam, an attenuator (even though there is one built-in for fox hunting you need more attenuation than the 10 db included in the radio.) For more details go to <http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/scanners/ccr708a.html>. If you are interested in this radio contact w9wy@aol.net and let's talk. Be prepared to spend a few hundred dollars if you want to be the new owner. The picture is of the Standard AX-700 which is the European version of the radio. External appearance is the same, I am not sure what the difference is, frequency coverage or power requirements?? Includes radio, manual, AC power supply, 12VDC power cord (plugs into lighter).

Got extra equipment in your shack? Kenny sold his. If you have something for sale, send a nice, clear picture along with a description of the item, the price, and your contact information to:

John, W9WY -- w9wy@aol.com



QCWA members with an attitude...

DMR

Continued from from page 3
starting price of \$249. There currently is a reservation list (you are not obligated to buy) for both the CS-800 and CS-7000.

This spring, I'm going to be organizing a meet and greet dinner somewhere in the Valparaiso area for DMR users in Northwest Indiana. There is not going to be a presentation. However, anyone that is interested in getting started in DMR, this would be a good opportunity for them to come out and get their questions answered. We will also have a few HT's available for people to get on the Valpo machine and give DMR a try. I have not set a date yet, but if you are interested in being notified when one has been set, please send an email to mark@k9mq.com and I will keep you posted.