



SHORT SKIP

Volume 63 Issue 5

May 2015

From the Oval Office

by Mark, LCARC Vice 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.



Greeting all I'm back after taking a fall in December and breaking my leg and back. I would like to thank Mark K9MQ for filling in for me while I was on the mend.

After several months in rehab I am finally back home and back on the air on HF, VHF and UHF. I was able to stay in touch with several members and work some DX using the Valparaiso N9IAA DMR Repeater. If you have not had the DMR experience you need to give it a try you will

like it! Great talk Groups which give you both local and worldwide coverage. Here are the Talk groups and time slots on the local DMR repeaters:

- Time Slot #1 - Group Call 1 = Worldwide Calling - All Languages (PTT activated, 2 min max use, with 5 min inactivity timeout)
- Time Slot #1 - Group Call 3 = North America
- Time Slot #1 - Group Call 13= Worldwide English Time Slot #1- Group Call 113= UA113 (PTT activated with 10 min inactivity timeout)
- Time Slot #2 - Group Call 2 = Tri-State Local
- Time Slot #2- Group Call 3169 = Midwest Regional

For those of you in Northwest Indiana and Chicago Southland, on Friday, May 8th, the Lake County Amateur Radio Club will have a DMR presentation at their monthly meeting presented by John W9WY, Marvin WV9O, Kenneth KE9TC, and Mark K9MQ along with a demonstration. The LCARC meetings are at the Lake County Department of Homeland Security, 2900 W. 93rd Avenue, Crown Point, IN 46307. The meeting starts at 7:30pm Central.

Let's not forget that this month is the Indiana QSO Party. We will setup behind the EMA at 10am on Saturday May 2nd. The contest starts at 11am. We anticipate operating until 5pm. If anyone is interested in coming out, please have them get a hold of me mark@k9mq.com.

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

Emerging Technology: New Aluminum Bendable Battery

Amateur Radio Newslines, BBC, Nature.com, Science Today

Scientists have built a flexible aluminum battery which they say could be a cheap, fast-charging and safe alternative to current designs.

The prototype consists of a soft pouch, containing aluminum for one electrode and graphite foam for the

other and all surrounded by a special liquid salt. It can recharge in less than a minute and is very safe and durable compared to lithium-ion batteries.

The only drawback is that the new design currently only delivers about half the voltage but work is ongoing to improve this. On the plus side and un-

like other designs, this battery will not catch fire even if accidentally punctured or drilled through.

The work appears in the journal Nature. You can find it at tinyurl.com/aluminum-salt-battery

Minutes

April 10, 2015

Called meeting to order at 7:30PM

Introductions made 13 people attended the meeting

Russ read the minutes from the March meeting and Mark made the motion to accept the minutes as corrected, motion carried.

The treasury's report was read by Jim

2896.85 checking

14.00 cash on hand

2910.85 total

Mark made motion to accept the treasury's report, motion carried.

Repeater reports

Program change made to have repeater controller to reboot at 2:59AM each morning

Lighten arrestors are 18 years old and will replace both polyphasers for 60 dollars each. Discussion as how many lighten strikes the tower has had and also the Red Cross.

DX Report

DX report was made by Nick and several DX stations will be on the air with Muldives 8Q being the best. N. Korea might be on the air in January CW only.

NW Indiana Sky warn report

Need volunteers for Lowell Marathon on April 26 and thank club for use of the repeater for the skywarn operation on the tornados that hit Ill. and was rated as an EF-4.

RACES report

Trailer getting ready for the Indiana QSO party.

Red Cross Nothing to report

Net report

2 meter repeater in use only and everything is OK

Programs

Stan from QCWA to talk tonight about Chapter 36 and QCWA.

DMR Program will be done by Mark John Marv and Kenny.

In June the Section manager will speak to the club about ARRL.

Indiana QSO party to be next club event and a sign up sheet was passed around.

New members will have a 2 page flier to be given out to welcome new members

New Business

April 1 notice from John about code being started again for all Amateur radio operators to pass. Desoldering tools were the topic for show and tell with discussion about the different types.

Next months show and tell is most unusual RF connector

Next discussion was the Best HT for John WA9FGC and discussion was made about what HT was the best.

Mobile radio install discussion will be next months discussion. 8:55 motion made to adjourn the meeting, motion carried.

Indiana QSO Party - May 2

Indiana QSO Party. We will setup behind the EMA at 10am on Saturday May 2nd. The contest starts at 11am. We anticipate operating until 5pm. If anyone is interested in coming out, please have them get a hold of me mark@k9mq.com.

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Program Schedule - May

- Show & Tell: Bring the most unusual connector. Can be anything (power, rf, electrical)
- Discussion: Mobile Installations
- Presentation: Digital Mobile Radio (DMR/Mototrbo) by Mark K9MQ, John W9WY, Marv WV9O, and Ken KE9TC.

Skywarn and Marathons

By Carter Garcia, KC9YGU



I would like to extend a large thank you to the volunteers we had at the Lowell Marathon today! HAM Radio Operators from NWI Skywarn, The Lake County Amateur Radio Club, The Porter County Amateur Radio Club, and Porter County Emergency Management Agency all came together today to make up the Emergency Communications Team for the event.

The race was a success with only minor medical incidents. Below is a list of the volunteers:
Next up, Leon's Triathlon!!! (June7)

Carter, KC9YGU
John, W9WY
Tom, KC9KOA
Jim, KB9UIP
Laura, KD9DFE
Terry, KC9SCL

Mark, KD9WDS
James, KC9KTV
Dave, KC9YKL
Ryan, KC9VPO
Josh, KC9YNP
Bob, WD9EZB

Ryan, KC9ZSU
Paul, KD8FWU
Chris, KC9SIZ
Beth, KD9DPT

Op Ed

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On an amateur radio mailing list that I subscribe to, one fellow wrote, "I weep for the state of amateur radio in the US, since this dispatch is apparently necessary..." He then pointed to an article on the ARRL website that reminded hams that while their local time may be switching to daylight time, Universal Coordinated Time did not change (<http://www.arrl.org/news/view/change-local-clocks-this-weekend-but-not-utc>).

The implication, of course, was that we have dumbed down ham radio so much that a reminder like this was necessary.

This thread went on and on, eventually garnering 17 different replies. Before it morphed into a discussion of whether or not DST is a good idea in the first place, the replies echoed the sentiment in the original e-mail:

"It's become a push button, nanny state world, what do you expect, competence?"

"We are truly in a time of appliance operating, not only in ham radio, but in practically every aspect of our lives. :-("

At first, I had the same reaction. I thought to myself, "How dumb are we getting in ham radio, if guys have to be reminded

that UTC doesn't change when we switch to daylight savings time?" After thinking about this for a while, though, I've completely change my mind on this.

I work with a lot of newcomers to amateur radio, and many of them just don't know how UTC works. This is not their fault—they just haven't had the opportunity to deal with UTC. What these old timers (old farts?) didn't realize is that the ARRL article is not directed at them, but at the newcomers to ham radio.

I'll even go one step further. It's easy for us old-timers to be dismissive of newcomers' lack of knowledge, and then complain that amateur radio is getting dumber, but knee-jerk reactions don't usually help anyone involved. A much better approach would be to roll up your sleeves and teach them something. The only way newcomers are going to get to be old timers like us is if we help them learn stuff like this.

When not teaching newbies about UTC, you'll find KB6NU working on updates to his "No Nonsense" study guides, teaching one-day Tech classes, or blogging about amateur radio at www.kb6nu.com.

Space snack time with Samantha Cristoforetti



The astronauts on board the International Space Station get hungry from time to time during their long day of work in microgravity. We asked Samantha Cristoforetti, ESA astronaut on board the ISS for the Futura mission, to tell us about the kind of healthy snack she likes to eat during her breaks.

Check out the video at:

<https://youtu.be/O2XeSUqzpZE>

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"/>	

DMR News

Mark, K9MQ

Last month, I mentioned about Connect Systems coming out with a firmware upgrade for their highly popular CS-700/701 DMR handheld. Since last month, more information has been released. The new firmware upgrade allows users to adjust the microphone gain and also better programming software that is easier to use. When the new firmware is released, Connect Systems will upgrade your existing CS-700/701 for \$20 or you may attempt to do it yourself. For those that chose to do it themselves, at this time they are indicating that the radio will have to be opened and while powering on, you will have to short out two pins, before you upload the new firmware. They will be providing more information on the "at home" upgrade procedure when the new firmware is released. Radios with the upgraded firmware will be called the CS-700A. Connect Systems will also be releasing a CS-750, that is very similar to the CS-700A, but will offer more channel and

contact list memories for \$239. This is the first attempt that any DMR radio manufacturer has taken to improve the radio specifically for amateur use. Your existing CS700/700A can be upgraded to a CS-750 for \$50.

The N9IAA Valparaiso DMR repeater will be changing/ or has changed frequencies. The new frequency will be 441.575+ CC1. Talkgroups remain the same. In the near future, N9IAA's Crown Point DMR repeater will be coming on the air on 444.350+ CC1 using the same talkgroups as Valparaiso. Make sure to program both pairs in your radios.

At this month's club meeting, we will be giving a presentation on DMR/Mototrbo along with a demo. Look forward to seeing everyone!

FOR SALE!

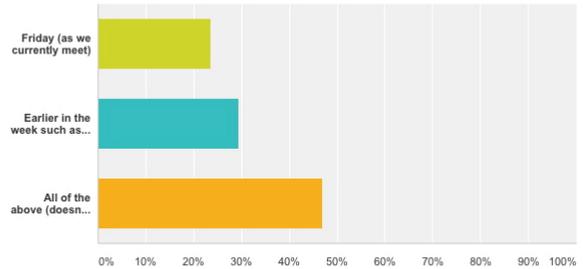


For Sale: Heathkit DX-60A Transmitter. 10-80M (excluding WARC). Includes assembly manual. There are some signs of wear, but overall the transmitter is in good shape. The transmitter worked when I first acquired it. I'm unable to fully test it at this time, but the tubes lit up. \$60, Sold As-Is. mark@k9mq.com

RESULTS OF SURVEY ON BEST DAY FOR CLUB MEETINGS

What day would make you more likely to be able to attend an LCARC monthly club meeting?

Answered: 17 Skipped: 0



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

Vibroplex Acquires Bencher, Inc.

Bencher Inc has announced the sale of its Amateur Radio product line to Vibroplex LLC of Knoxville, Tennessee, owned by Scott Robbins, W4PA.

“This sale ends Bencher’s presence in the Amateur Radio field, thus allowing the principals, Jere Benedict, President, and Bob Locher, W9KNI, to move towards retirement,” the announcement said.

Product lines included in the sale include the Bencher BY series of iambic paddles as well as the ST series of single-lever paddles, the Bencher Hex Paddle, the N2DAN Mercury Paddle, and the Bencher RJ series hand keys. The sale also includes the HK-1 Universal Hook-up kit and the YA-1 Low Pass Filter.

Vibroplex has agreed to honor the manufacturer’s warranties and to provide parts and support, and it will continue offering Bencher products through existing marketing channels.

Benedict and Locher expressed “gratitude to the Amateur Radio community for its interest and support since the sale of the first Bencher Amateur Radio products in the early 1970s.”

Spring time is time to clean up the shack. Contact John, W9WY to put an add in short skip. Ads are FREE to members.