



SHORT SKIP

Volume 64 Issue 5

May 2016

From the Oval Office

by Marv, WV9O, LCARC President

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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.



Lake County Armature Radio Club lost a Member (Silent Key) with the passing of WD9FNY Bob Nelns on April 20, 2016. Bob was been a member of the club for many years and Bob served on the Board of Director for the last several years. Bob will be missed RIP old Friend!

Month of May!

Indiana QSO Party May 7, 2016 Set up 10:00 AM Start 12:00 PM

Objective:

For Amateurs worldwide to contact as many stations in Indiana as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10-meter Amateur bands.

Worked All Indiana Award

The INQP is a great time to work on your Worked All Indiana Award. It only takes 60 confirmed counties to earn the initial certificate. Your INQP QSOs count as confirmed QSOs toward your WAI. Just indicate the INQP QSOs on your GCR, and we'll use your submitted log to confirm the QSOs.

Indiana Bicentennial

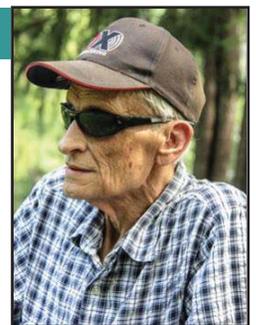
This year marks 200 years of Indiana statehood. In conjunction with the Bicentennial celebration, HDXCC is pleased to offer a pair of special certificates.

The Program for May is on Sun Spots by the Astronomical Society

It looks like a busy night and another great meeting for March, "Be there or be square"!

Bob, WD9FNY, SK

I received some bad news today that Bob, WD9FNY has become a silent key. He was great friend on and off the radio and I enjoyed his stories. My favorite one was about his Heathkit transceiver that he had issues with. Every time he took it back to Heathkit in Michigan, they told him it had a cold solder joint. After they told him cold solder joint after the sixth or seventh visit, his response was "Cold solder joint my ass, give me back my money!". Fifteen minutes later he had a check and ordered a Kenwood TS-820.



Reminder, If you have not paid your dues now is the time. If you already have paid for 2016, Thank you. Send them to the PO Box or to my home address below.

Full member \$20, Family \$25, Associate-Non Ham- \$10

LCARC, PO Box 90, Crown Point, IN 46308-0090

James W. Harney Sr., KF9EX
 2600 W. 61st Place, Merrillville, IN 46410,
 (Home) 219-980-1798
 (Cell) 219-671-1814
 jwharney@sbcglobal.net



Yehh - I'm paid up my dues are paid for another year.
 Are yours?

Minutes LCARC

April 8, 2016

Meeting called to order at 7:28PM

Introductions were made with 20 attending meeting.

Minutes were read and accepted as read

The Treasury's report was read and accepted as read.

Contest for 1 year free membership was won by Russ KB9HO.

New ham radio class report 3 meetings have been held with 8 persons attended with 2 classes left on Tuesday 12 and 19th of April. Class dates changed due to conflict in schedule at Lake County Library.

Public Relations Notice of club meeting in Times and Post Tribune and class for new Amateur radio. 1370 AM would like to do an interview on air about Amateur Radio.

Net report March 17 had 20 check-ins and April 7 had 11 check-ins.

EMA report is that a change of personal has taken place and this may make getting the trailer a little harder.

Indiana QSO party needs a radio Russ will have TS430 for party with the club having the coax and antenna tuner.

DX report Juan de Nova, Heard Is, Iraq, Iran, and Bahrain. A deletion from DX entity is Kingman Reef.

The Board of directors have voted to discontinuing DMR fund due to lack of interest and to many DMR repeaters on the air to benefit members.

New Business

May the Calumet Astronomical Society will do a program on sunspots and observing sunspots.

Break at 7:55PM with program on DXCC given by Tom Ruggles
Meeting adjourned at 9:15PM

May - June Program

We will have presentation "*White Light Solar Observing*" (including Sunspots) which will be presented by Richard Loslo of the Calumet Astronomical Society. He is an avid Amateur Astronomer with a great interest in doing observations of our Sun.

Additionally, all LCARC members and their friends and family are invited to come out to the May CAS Open House on May 14th (at about 8pm).

The location of the CAS Observatory on the grounds of Buckley Homestead, 19100 Chase St., Lowell, IN.

The JUNE program will be about home brewing a tube linear amplifier.

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Why You Should Get Your Extra

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams—even hams that live outside the U.S.—aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the "beginner's license." To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)

Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

- Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
- Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
- Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 – 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 – 14.175 Mhz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. These are the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

Another reason to get your Extra Class license is that only Extra Class licensees can administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.

Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1×2 or 2×1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

Dan, KB6NU is the author of the "No Nonsense" line of amateur radio license study guides, a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com), and an active CW operator in the Extra Class portion of the HF bands. If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

I'm EXTRA Ignorant

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On Sunday, I received the following e-mail from a reader:

"Just wanted to let you know I passed the General exam using your study guide. It was very helpful. I am now generally ignorant whereas before I was only technically ignorant. Ha!"

My reply to him was:

"Well, if you're generally ignorant, I guess that makes me EXTRA ignorant!"

This isn't just a joke--being ignorant is part of the hobby. Amateur radio operators will always be ignorant about something or other. Even if you could master every facet of the hobby at some point in time, your mastery would be short-lived as the technology continued to advance.

Over the course of my amateur radio career, we've gone from equipment that primarily used vacuum tubes, to solid-state gear that first used discrete transistors and then integrated circuits, to software-defined radios. I could have, at some point, simply given up on the new technology and still enjoyed amateur radio. Some guys do that, and that's OK. It is only a hobby after all.

I'm not one of those guys, though, and if you're not one of those guys, then you have to resign yourself to being ignorant. But, that's a good thing, as long as you realize that you're ignorant. Realizing that you're ignorant will spur you on to learn new things and accept new challenges.

Recently, I realized that I'm mostly ignorant about satellite operation. I know some of the basics from having read articles and writing about the topic in my study guides, but I have never made a contact using a satellite. I think that might be one of my next challenges. With the advent of CubeSat, there are many new satellites up in the air and many more opportunities to have interesting contacts.

So, what are you ignorant about? By that I mean, of course, what's going to be your next challenge in amateur radio?

When he's not challenging himself with new things, Dan falls back on something he knows pretty well--operating CW. You'll find him mainly on the 80m, 40m, and 30m bands. Dan is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Stuck at 20 wpm

Learning CW is not a sprint -- From <http://www.hamradioqrp.com/>

I am in the 9th month of my CW / Morse Code journey and I will readily admit that in my case it has been slow, steady progress rather than a sprint. Some weeks I think I'm doing well while at others I seem to be stuck or losing my copy skills, even with daily practice and QSOs.

During my off-air training I had raised my copy speed of news stories sent in CW to about 23wpm with 80% comprehension but as that happened I somehow reduced my ability to copy slower speeds. This was especially noticeable in on-air qsos. So I have gone back a bit to practice slower speeds. It's difficult to explain to myself how that happened. I guess I'd become accustomed to the higher speed characters and lost recognition at slower speeds.

As my copy speed has increased, my on-air sending speed has gone up which of course results in the other side of the qso being sent at a higher speed as well. I'm still very limited when I work an unusual FIST or someone who doesn't leave space between their words. I'm normally starting more of my qsos with a paddle/keyer than straight key now at around 17-19wpm resulting in the responding stations generally working me a couple wpm faster than I send. I'm working fewer straight key operators as I work outside the SKCC frequencies although I still seem to encounter lots of bug operators. I happy to work a bug op because I switch to my bug for the qso. I still enjoy the SKCC group and ops but I can't send well above 16wpm on a straight key so that is limiting me working faster ops. I generally can work the bug around 19-20 wpm on the SKCC frequencies but then I get bug operators coming back at me with 27wpm dits which I have great difficulty copying.

I began the habit of spending some time most mornings before work just listening to higher speed ops chat with each other at speeds around 25wpm on 80m and 40m. There's almost always a couple of CW qsos going on at that speed between 6-7 AM Eastern time. I miss much of what they are saying but it's a good supplement to the machine generated copy study that I do at lunchtime and gets me used to real FISTS at my target speed of 25wpm. All this listening is of course followed up with actual qsos in the evenings and weekends as time allows at 17-20wpm.

20wpm seems to be a wall of sorts. I have difficulty reliably having real qsos at and above 20wpm. I've been stuck at this speed for a couple months now and would appreciate suggestions at moving beyond the wall as I find myself still having to ask stations sending above 20wpm with tight spacing to slow down. Some days it seems to click, but when I think back I believe it has more to do with a good FIST of the other operator than my copy skill.

All I can reliably say is real people rarely sound like machine generated CW and all the off-air machine practice in the world doesn't reveal my real ability to copy, or not copy, like real qsos do.

So the journey continues. I plan to occasionally blog about my progress and copy speed as much for my own record as anything else but maybe it will be of some encouragement to others as well.

Announcing the FLEX-15000 Signature Series Transceiver



FlexRadio is pleased to announce immediate availability of the FLEX-15000 Signature Series transceiver - the first heavy metal, direct sampling superhet SDR (researched by FlexRadio among major manufacturers). Weighing in at 52 lbs (23.6 kg) it brings most knobs ever (39!) to the front panel of a SDR. We even left just enough room for a real time panadapter/waterfall on its built in 1 inch by 3.75 inch TFT LCD display.

The FLEX-15000 incorporates a powerful 32-bit DSP chip with firmware that can be updated occasionally over its built-in USB 2.0 port making it a true superhet SDR. We even added a real analog meter with that warm incandescent glow that we all remember so nostalgically at night in our youth.

Priced at \$14,999.99 the FLEX-15000 comes in at just under \$385 per knob or \$288 per pound (\$636/kg). The radio ships with a collapsible dolly and a wrap around back brace for easy portability.

Order yours today so you will be the first in your club to own a real heavy metal, direct sampling superhet SDR. Supplies are limited so hurry!

*Sorry this is a month late. I just got this product announcement on **April 1**, a few days after the April Newsletter was published. Hope some of you guys get a chance to see it at Dayton. This is my kind of radio, it has a great KDLS factor (Knobs, Dials, Lights, Switches.). The more the better! — Ed.*

Local Man Does, In Fact, Own The Frequency

By WBØRUR, on the scene

PORT O' GLOOM, GEORGIA — A Chickasaw County man has become the first amateur radio operator to officially purchase an HF radio frequency, the Federal Communications Commission announced today in a noon hour media luncheon.

Between bites of cucumber sandwiches and small squares of bread slathered with pimento cheese, FCC spokesman Pontus "Smokey" Blumenthal told reporters gathered at the Tri-County Technical College dining hall that the sale is "...part of the government's plan to

generate revenue from 'under-performing' slices of the radio spectrum."

Using a lottery system, local ham radio operator Buzz Sanders (175 Fisherman's Landing), accepted purchase of 14.281 MHz in the 20 meter amateur radio band.

A retired auto industry worker, Sanders says he'll pay \$2500 for the frequency over 35 monthly payments with a large balloon payment in month 36.

"It seemed like a fair deal to me," he said. "When I get ready to work a contest, have a rag chew, want to tune up on the

air, or just create some random QRM, I can use 14.281. And if someone gets belligerent, I'll remind them that as a matter of fact I DO own the frequency!"

Sanders says he's already thinking about subletting the frequency after several large contesting organizations contacted him in recent days.

Blumenthal shared that the FCC is also considering a "lease-to-own" frequency program, with the option to return the frequency to the government at the end of the lease term if propagation isn't suitable to the operator.

FOR SALE!

I have an antenna for sale. It is an Arrow OSJ 146/440 dual band base antenna. The antenna has been in the attic, never outdoors. New, the antenna sells for 47.95, I will take 35.00 or best offer. My e-mail is jkrradio@yahoo.com. Joe K9JJK

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"/>	

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.

Thursday Night Net Resumes!

The Lake County Amateur Radio Club has restarted the Thursday night net.

The net will be on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. The net will begin at 7:30 PM on the club's 2 meter repeater, 147.000 MHZ, +, PL of 131.8. The net control operator will be Dan, KD9ARD. As you plan for your upcoming week, mark Thursday, Feb 18, 7:30 PM on your calendar. Hope to hear you Thursday. Joe K9JJK