



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



The LCARC sponsored a Technician License Class that began February 22nd and concluded April 12th with a VE examination for all license levels. A total of 10 new Technicians were licensed plus one upgrade to General. All new licensees showed in the FCC database April 25th. The class was taught (alphabetically) by; Tim McGillen-N9CA, George Pazak-KD9FCI, Dan Ulloa-KD9ARD.

LCARC License Session VEs were; John Gianotti-W9WY, Jim Harney-KF9EX, Tim McGillen-N9CA, George Pazak-KD9FCI, Mark Skowronski-K9MQ, and Dan Ulloa-KD9ARD.

My most sincere congratulations to all the new licensees. The LCARC extends a big "THANK YOU" to the Club members who made this outreach Class and License Session test a success.

Did you know about this? There is a live streamed Ham Radio Show! Every Tuesday night W5KUB.com at 8:00 PM central (0100 GMT). Previously aired shows are also able to be viewed. May 1st, Rich Moseson, tells us about next months CQ, Don Wilbanks talks about the Young Ham of the Year. The featured guest is Glen Popiel KW5GP author of a number of ARRL books such as Arduino for ham radio, More Arduino for ham radio, and Meshed networks for ham radio. Chat room and phone line will be open for viewers questions and comments. There will also be a parallel audio simulcast on international shortwave station WBCQ on 5130 Khz. W5KUB also supports a ham radio facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/w5kub/>

GR9RW will be the call sign for a Royal Wedding special event operation. To celebrate the marriage of Great Britain's Prince Harry to American actress Meghan Markle, special event call sign GR9RW will be on the air May 19 - 23. The royal wedding will take place on May 19 at St. George's Chapel in England's Windsor Castle. GR9RW will primarily use SSB and CW. Three stations will cover all bands from 80 meters to 70 centimeters. A commemorative QSL card is available upon request.

Solar activity climbed over the past week, with daily solar flux rallying from 69.9 to 73.4. The predicted solar flux is 71 on April 26-29; 70 on April 30-May 16; 75 on May 17-29, and 70 on May 30-June 9.

HAMVENTION 2018 is coming up May 18-20. Rooms are still available. Tickets are \$22.00. For those of you not on site, there will be 40 hours of live streamed commentary from HAMVENTION at W5KUB.com. There will be an audio simulcast on shortwave radio station WBCQ on 5130 kHz.

Club Elmers. Look for a new Club website list of "Elmers". Volunteers to answer "How do I ..." questions newer hams might have. Fifty percent of new Hams never get on the air! We can and should help them.

THE DOCTOR IS IN

from ARRL Letter

"Kits and Kit Building" is the topic of the new (April 26) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" <http://www.arrl.org/doctor> podcast. Listen...and learn!

Sponsored by DX Engineering <http://www.dxengineering.com/>, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM

Introductions were made with 22 attending meeting

OLD BUSINESS

- The Tech class had 14 people take the class with 7 sessions at the Lake County Library and 15 people taking the tech test with 13 people passing and 1 able to get the General Class license and 12 getting Technical Class license.

NEW BUSINESS

- Have a conversation about the possibility of the Red Cross Selling the Building where the repeater is housed and the tower is located.

MINUTES

- Read and accepted as read.

Treasury's report

- Read and accepted as read.

NET REPORT

- March 15 and April 5 had 9 check-ins for each net with April 19 being the next net.
- Sent out letters of congratulations to the new hams in the area and an invitation to come to the club meeting and join the club with the first year of membership being free.

DX REPORT

- DX is not very good but DX is out there with 3B7A Marshal Is. On the air and Saipan coming up on the air.

PROGRAM

- Started at 7:55 on SDR radios and Jumbo Spots and ended at 8:40PM
- Meeting adjourned at 9:03PM

MAY PROGRAM

presented by John, W9WY Topic, Home Automation

John, W9WY will be giving a presentation on Home Automation. What is it? How expensive (or inexpensive) is it, how to get started and more! — *you can be sure I will be there —ed*



Scan this code to go directly to our web page
w9lj.org

HAM CAN'T PRONOUNCE RADIO BRAND

By WBØRUR, on the scene



WEST HELENA, Alabama — Local amateur radio enthusiast “Junior” Thompson says he’d be perfectly fine purchasing a radio from China, if he could pronounce the brand’s name.

“Woosie? Whosin? Wax On? Wapner? Oh, I can’t ever figure it out!” laments the retired cable television installer. “The radio looks like it’s got a lot of great features for the price. But I just get all confused when I start to order it.”

In recent years, imported UHF/VHF radios such as Wouxian and Baofeng have made steady inroads in the U.S. market. And while U.S. hams understand these less expensive radios may come with user-friendly trade offs (difficulty in programming memory channels, etc), hams are often willing to accept the inconvenience in exchange for lower prices.

“I miss the good old days of radio,” opines Thompson. “Why can’t we go back to American names like Yaesu and Hammerlund?”

HamHijinks.com

HAM CAN'T FIND JOHNSON

A Ham Hijinks staff report



CHOUJIAN, China — Taking a cue from a popular Coca-Cola trend, Pofung has announced a new branding effort. But, it’s left at least one ham disappointed.

New handheld radios will feature first names printed on the front of the device, along with the phrase “Share A Pofung With.” More than 1,000 names will be avail-

able, according to the company.

“Our radios cost about the same as a soft drink, so we thought we would try it,” Pofung executives said in a news release.

The company says they hope that ham radio operators will consider buying the inexpensive radios in bulk, too. New advertisements will encourage customers to “share a six-pack with your club.”

Some ham radio operators aren’t impressed, though. “I can’t find my name on one,” said Johnson Longfellow, W7XXO.

Look for the personalized Pofung at ham radio stores in the U.S. and U.K. next month.

HamHijinks.com

YOUR TECHNICIAN ACCENT ... AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!

By James 'Jav' Craswell, WOVNE - from April 1998 QST

To quote from "Your Novice Accent," the classic November 1956 QST article by W613TY, "People speak a language with the same accent as those with whom they live and work. New hams pick up habits and operating procedures of the gang they chew the fat with." How true this still is. I feel that the large influx of Technician licensees has created some of the same problems experienced by Novice operators of the '50s. I hope that people won't see me as finding fault with my fellow hams. Please take it in the spirit it was intended. It was prompted by my wife's (NOKJH) honest question: "Tell me what you think is correct procedure?"

FM and Repeater Procedure: "KD9XYZ KD9XYZ KD9XYZ this is KE9ABC calling and listening, bye."

KD9XYZ KD9XYZ KD9XYZ here is KE9ABC are you around Fred?" "

Negative contact. KE9ABC clear."

On FM a single call is all you need. I suppose in some rare cases the person being called is operating their receiver in the scan mode and won't catch the more acceptable "KD9XYZ, KE9ABC." And there is no reason to throw in "negative contact," "clear" and so on. Everyone who can hear the repeater knows quite well that you have had "negative contact." I think habit arises from people who spend too much time listening to police scanners and not enough time listening to proper Amateur Radio procedures. Being "clear" on the police band is a signal that you are free for the next assignment. On Amateur Radio if you are not in contact with a station it is assumed you are "clear." Let's ditch the Highway Patrol procedures and extra yakking. It sounds silly.

Endless Calling: You will often hear the same long calls repeated over and over. This is unnecessary. On FM your signal is copiable, or it isn't. As my friend Tom says, "If you weren't there you didn't miss anything." If you call and no one responds they will rarely change their minds two seconds later. Most of the time a general call should be as simple as "KDOYXZ listening." Once in a while I'll say, "CQ 2 WOVNE." This gives some people the giggles, but every one immediately understands that I am calling any station.

Listen: One rude practice is turning to a new frequency (or flipping on the power switch) and talking without listening. Listen first! Before you pick up the microphone for the first time, spend hours, even days, listening. Learn the proper procedures on your local repeater before jumping in.

Q Codes, Spelling, RST and The Weight of Correct Operating: "QSL your hamster died, QSL on the good old days, Bob. Yeah, QSL on your new antenna. You're eight pounds now, Bob. I suppose you could get a linear for that FM rig and push me 9 or 10 pounds, huh? The handle here is Frank. F-R-A-N-K."

The dreaded Q codes are making another stab at polluting the phone bands. Q codes are meant for CW. This habit of "QSLing" everything is a little like the idle character on a teletype circuit. Please assume that everything is received unless otherwise specified. It sure makes for tedious listening when every single thing said is repeated.

If you must acknowledge a transmission, you don't need to repeat yourself over and over. "Good copy, Bob" is short and to the point.

When words must be spelled, they should only be spelled phonetically. For example V, B, E, G, D and C all sound pretty much

the same. That's why phonetics were created. Spelling your name on an FM repeater (even phonetically) is questionable at best. The exception might be if your name is truly unusual, or if your signal is marginal into the system.

Your handle? When I heard this for the first time, I thought, what the heck is this goofball talking about? Sorry, I have knobs on my radio, but no handles. The most important lesson is to speak plainly, just as you would in person. When you meet someone new at the radio club you don't ask them for their handle. You ask for their Name!

Signal Reports: should follow the RST (Readability, Signal Strength and Tone) system. Not in "pounds," "feet," or "shoe leather." You will hear old-timers saying "Q5" once in a while (historical note: The readability or intelligibility scale goes from 1 to 5-(see QRK in any list of signals).

But for most voice operations, RST works best. Of course, you drop the Tone figure unless you hear some unusual noise on their signal (such as alternator whine). Some stations just give the signal strength in S units. "Bob, you're S8 now." Others provide the readability and signal strength by saying, "You were 5 by 8 on your last transmission." If someone specifically asks for a report, it is important that you give an accurate report; my minority opinion is that DXers and contesters who give 59 for everything (while asking for several repetitions of "all after crackklespffff") is a waste of time. If you give a signal report, give a real one.

Phonetics: Cute nonstandard phonetics are questionable at best. My wife sometimes tells people her call is November Zero Keep Jay Hopping. Kind of silly, but it might help some folks remember her call sign. The line is crossed when you become vulgar.

IDing: "KD9XYZ this is KE9ABC for ID. Yeah, Bob, we got our ticket back when you had to memorize the license manual. Our transmitter is a Gad.Zooks 1001. We like to operate with our feet hanging out the window." "For IDT" isn't it understood that you are identifying? And the royal "we" is heard so often that "we" have to comment. Who is this other half of the "we" / "our" in your transmissions? When I was a young squirt and picked up this bit of silliness I was asked by one of the old-timers who was this "we"? Me and the mouse in my pocket?

Endless Signoffs: "Well, Bob, may the good Lord take a liking to you and yours. Have a good day today and a better day tomorrow. We will be clear on your final and I wish you 73s and a goodnight. This is KDOXYZ clear and QRT."

Nice sentiments (I do hope the good Lord takes a liking to me), but let's lose the canned "CB" jazz. The point is that these sign-off benedictions drag out an otherwise nice conversation. 73s? Best Regardses? Is this a form of stuttering? I won't belabor the fact that 73 is CW shorthand since everyone (even me) uses it, but let's use it correctly.

If you avoid some of the operating pitfalls we've just discussed, I guarantee you more contacts. Best of all, you'll rapidly earn the respect of your fellow amateurs

"THE KOSOVO RULE" – WHAT'S NEXT?

By Steve Mollman – KD9HL - via the NWIDX Club Newsletter

The ARRL DXCC rules were amended on January 21, 2018 to read in Section 2-Part 1-Para D- "The entity has a separate IARU member society AND is included on the U.S. State Department Independent States in the World." This rule opened a new criteria for entities to be included in the DXCC List. Some are now referring to the new rule as the "Kosovo Rule" because Z6-Kosovo was the first beneficiary of the change.

Are there any other entities that could qualify under the new rule? At this writing the answer seems to be NO. Are there any potential entities that may at some time in the future become candidates? The answer is MAYBE.

Since the beginning of written history there have always been areas of the world with political, religious and ethnic groups that are unhappy with their government, neighbors or economic status. Often this animosity develops into a movement by the grievors to separate themselves from their "oppressors". In recent times Kosovo was one of those situations. South Sudan is another. As history tends to repeat itself, we can expect others. Sometimes this separation results in an almost universal acceptance by the other nations of the world and occasionally it doesn't. Kosovo was one of those entities that hasn't quite made that universal acceptance status. Hence the ARRL has written a rule that allows Kosovo to be a DXCC entity.

A look at world politics reveals that there are a number of areas that have political unrest and significant separatist movements.

- Kurdistan – The Iraqi Kurds recently voted for independence. The referendum was opposed by most nations. Because the area is landlocked by Iraq, economically the area has little chance of survival without Iraqi cooperation. Countries with significant ethnic Kurd populations such as Turkey, Iran and Russia fear that an independent Kurd nation would cause upheaval in their countries.

- Spanish Basques- The Basque Country is the name given to the geographical area located on the shores of the Bay of Biscay and on the two sides of the western Pyrenees that span the border between France and Spain. About 3 million people live in the area. The Basques have managed to preserve their own culture and language throughout the centuries and today a large part of the population shares a desire to be self-governed, either with political autonomy or full independence.
- Spanish Catalonia- Separatist politicians in Catalonia have been pushing for independence from Spain. In October 2017, Catalonia's parliament passed a motion to declare independence from Spain. Of course the Spanish government rejected the motion. Since then a number of Catalan leaders have been arrested.
- China Uyghurs and Tibetans-Although information is limited, there continue to be reports of violence and independence movements by both the Moslem Uyghurs of Northwestern China and Tibetans. Given China's imperialistic tendencies and hard line toward dissent, it is hard to imagine any near term acceptance by the regime of independence.
- Others—Chechnya, Corsica, Flanders-Belgium, Venice, Rohingya-Myanmar all have nascent independence movements.

History shows that most independence movements take many years to develop. Sometimes they are successful and sometimes they wither and die. To look for another Kosovo type entity in the near future is probably wishful thinking. There are some potential candidates but the "pot hasn't boiled yet"!

HAM WON'T UNBOX RIG

By K5KVN, on the scene



PFLUGERVILLE, TEXAS – Stephan Seymore's new FTDX-5000 arrived yesterday but he says he "absolutely will not" take it out of its box.

Intrigued, Ham Hijinks caught up with Seymore as he was checking to ensure the transparent sticker covering the display on his Icom 756Pro was still in place.

"I reluctantly unboxed this one, but only because I know having

the stickers on will bring some extra value when I sell it," he says, while pointing to the Icom.

When asked why he's intent on keeping the new arrival in its box, he recoiled as he told of a particularly traumatizing incident in 2007. One fateful day, his Kenwood mobile rig died after he plugged in an accessory while the power was still on. He says he "learned a lesson."

"I sent it off for repair and it came back good as new, but I decided to never turn it on again. I just didn't want to risk having an issue with it again. And you know what, I haven't had any problems with it since," he says.

For now, his new radio is on a shelf next to a TI-81 calculator circa 1991 – still in its plastic clamshell retail packaging.

HamHijinks.com

ARRL: HOW WE CAN HELP

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The following is an op-ed from Dan, KB6NU RE the controversial ARRL actions a month or so ago. — ed

“Hi Dan,

“Hope you’re doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I’ve been reading your blog and other sources, and it’s clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there’s really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?”

I replied that it is true that there’s only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they’ve never really taken off. It’s an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you’re not currently a member, join. You’ll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.
- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn’t really seem to care about this. In the past, I’ve encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs (link 1, link 2). I honestly don’t think this is asking too much, and I’ve never heard a good argument for them not to do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.
- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on “Edit your profile,” then “Edit email subscriptions.”
- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.
- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I’d like to see the “loyal opposition” get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It’s easier to lose bands if we’re not using them. Encourage others to be active.
- Be an Elmer to those that need it.
- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.
- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the “maker” groups that have sprung up around the

country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I’d love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path.

+++++

When he’s not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He’s the author of the No Nonsense amateur radio license study guides and The CW Geek’s Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.

HAM RADIO THROUGHOUT THE AGES

from arrl web page

In a whimsical mood, here’s a light-hearted look at ham radio history. The original version of this was posted on the Contest Reflector in the 1990’s: -ed

- 200 Million BC—More beams sold. Installer falls from top of pole. Safety belt is invented
 - 100 Million BC—First mountain appears. The repeater is invented.
 - 50 Million BC—CQ is adopted.
 - 4 Million BC—Humans replace swine as dominant species. The name ham operator hangs on, however.
 - 3 Million BC—Dugout canoe invented. Maritime Mobile Net formed on 14.313 MHz
 - 2 Million BC to 800 AD—Nothing much happens for a long time.
 - 900 AD—Chinese invent gunpowder. BY1AA is first “Big Gun” DXer.
 - 1790 AD—Ben Franklin invents long wire receiving antenna. Ground switch invented.
 - 1961 AD—Second repeater erected. First repeater group refuses to change frequency. First repeater coordinator appointed.
 - 1997 AD—Amateur Radio humor sinks to a new low.
- 4 Billion BC—Earth is a swirling ball of flames. Propagation is extremely poor
 - 1 Billion BC—First dry land appears. It is divided up into grid squares.
 - 500 Million BC—Second patch of dry land appears. First DXpedition, DXCC credit disallowed because of questionable licensing agreement.
 - 400 Million BC—Flowering plants and grasses evolve. Rotary beam invented but sales stall for lack of suitable mounting structures
 - 300 Million BC—First tree appears and is immediately cut down, stripped of branches, placed in a concrete base and called a telephone pole. Beam sales pick up