



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



As I write this on April 27th, the snow is flying. Does anybody else feel like this is the 117th day of January?

Question: Will our Club meeting site be moving soon?

Thank you Bill Leaming/N4GIX for the great April Club Program on "The Russian Woodpecker" over the horizon radar system.

Our May 10th @ 7:30pm Club Program will be seasonably appropriate. "What A Ham Needs to Know In Case of Severe Local Weather... Sky Warn".

Raffle at the May 10th Club Meeting. You have to be there to win.

The first 10 to arrive will receive a useful door prize.

The Spring 2019 LCARC Technician License Class has finished. All class attendees passed. Is anyone interested in a 4-5 night General License upgrade Class?

The LCARC VE test on April 25th culminated in 7 new Technician Licensees and one upgrade to Extra Class by Enrique Rivera/KB9QGG. Congratulations everyone! All 8 will receive complimentary LCARC memberships through year 2019.

Indiana QSO Party 2019: Will start Saturday May 4th. Rules and details at HDXCC.org

AM Radio Band News - Bryan Broadcasting Corporation has petitioned the FCC to authorize "MA3 Primary All-Digital Service Mode" for any AM station in the US that chooses to do so. Bryan is the licensee of four AM and five FM stations (and six FM translators) in central Texas.

All HD Radio receivers that have HD AM functionality would be able to receive such all-digital signals, but legacy AM receivers would not.

FT8 was so last year! Over the past month, a small group of volunteers have been conducting on-the-air tests of FT4," the WSJT-X development group announced.

Transmit-receive sequences are just 6 seconds long, making it 2.5 times faster than FT8 and about the same speed as conventional RTTY for radio contesting. FT4 can work with signals 10 dB weaker what would be required to decode RTTY while using much less bandwidth. FT4 signals occupy 90 Hz.

FT4 Beta software version 2.1.0.rc-5 became download as of April 29th 2019. So long FT8?

The International Space Station has just taken delivery of 6 CubeSats that it will soon deploy. Go to "Birds-3 Website" for info. Transmitting a beacon with a CW message on 435.375 MHz. Decode the message and send a QSL. You will get a QSL card in return.

73, Buzz/N9CA

Here is the proposed schedule related to the FT4 beta version rollout.

- April 29: Second announcement, with links to downloadable installation packages for WSJT-X 2.1.0-rc5
- May 9, 0000 – 0100 UTC: FT4 practice session, 7.090 MHz
- May 14, 0000 – 0100 UTC: FT4 practice session, 7.090 MHz
- June 5, 0000 – 0100 UTC: FT4 practice session, 7.090 MHz (if needed)
- July 15: General Availability (GA) release of WSJT-X 2.1.0.

MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2019— Russ, KB9HO



Due to unforeseen circumstances I was not able to get to the April Club meeting. I was in the Panama Canal! I plan on being at the May meeting so minutes will resume!!

Thanks for your understanding -- Russ, KB9HO.

Russ, we could have held the club meeting in one of the dining areas if you would have invited us along! — ed :-)

VHF/ UHF ANTENNA GAIN MYTHS

from <http://www.k0bg.com/myths.html>

Far too many amateurs purchase VHF antennas based solely on their advertised gain. Adding insult, the published gain figure typically doesn't have a quantifying designator. That is to say, they just list the dB, and not the dBi or dBd (the i stands for isotropic, and the d for dipole). Without one of these designators, the figure is meaningless.

And be advised, that a +3 dB increase in ERP (effective radiated power) will not magically double the distance you can communicate over, especially when using FM (actually phase modulation in most cases). In the real world, it may take as much as 10 dB, and perhaps a good deal more, depending on several factors (typically uncontrollable such as Fresnel zoning).

Keep in mind, that antennas don't achieve gain in the usual sense. If you feed an antenna with 50 watts, the radiated power is still 50 watts. What does happen is the radiation pattern is changed. This results in more power being radiated in a specific direction, and reduced in others. It is this differential which is expressed as gain. Further, there is a good case to be made about using unity gain (0 dBd) antennas in a metropolitan area. The reason? The HAAT (height above average terrain) of the repeater, versus that of a mobile, requires radiating power at higher angles. As a result, 1/4 wave, unity gain antennas perform better in these situations, than their higher-gain counterparts do. This article by Danny Richardson, K6MHE, compares the differences between 1/4, 1/2, and 5/8 wave VHF mobile antennas, and their effect on radiation patterns. While reading the article, note the saw-tooth like gaps in the radiation patterns.

There are other factors to consider as well. Almost everyone mounts their VHF antenna via a lip or clip mount. The tiny coax supplied with these types of mounts, actually has more loss than the antennas mounted on them have in gain! Worse, the phasing coils used are minuscule, and any real gain they might exhibit, is lost as heat!

Lastly, sturdiness is an often over-looked buying factor. Some Pacific Rim antennas are so poorly designed and made, that one good slap from a errant tree limb will render them useless.

NEED HELP? CALL ON THESE ELMERS

Tim N9CA
Bill N4GIX
Bill Young N9QLS
Russ KB9HO
Andy W9FXT.

Also it was mentioned Mark K9MQ is an ARRL Tech Specialist and can be called on.

The club has been informed that Bowman Electronics in Valparaiso will do tower climbing and antenna repair. Give them a call at: (219) 462-7933 or stop and see them at: 504 Marquette St, Valparaiso, IN 46383

MAY PROGRAM

Tim, N9CA will be presenting a program on our local SkyWarn nets.



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



**Are you fully prepared in case of a disaster?
Want to learn more about what to do?**

Bring the family to the Lake County Fairgrounds (889 S Court St, Crown Point, IN 46307) to learn what to do in case of an emergency!
Red Cross Blood Drive; Citizens CPR Classes; Stranger Danger Lessons;
Bug Out Bag program (Kids); Climbing Wall; Smoke House Escape;
Emergency Vehicle Static Presentations; K-9 Demonstrations and more!
You will also see your local Scouts engage with First Responders
in a real life disaster scenario!
Concessions will be available!

Event Hours: 9:00 AM—3:00 PM

Event Cost: \$10.00 per person

Get in free if you Donate Blood!

**Lake County Fairgrounds:
Enter at Gate G4 or Walk-
In at Gate G2!**

**Saturday
May 18, 2019
9:00 AM — 3:00 PM**

The LCARC will be manning indoor tables at this Drill Saturday May 18th from 9:00am until 3:00pm. [CLICK THIS LINK FOR FLYER.](#)

Your help is needed either to physically join me at the event operating and displaying Ham Radio for the Scouts OR monitoring and standing-by on Club repeaters 147.000 and 442.075 (pl 131.8) to speak with Scouts when we "shout out" so they can experience talking on the air. These Scouts are hoping to earn radio merit badges. They are part of the future - our future - of ham radio.

The time spent will be rewarding, fun, and a chance to show off our HR hobby to local Scouting kids..

The event (Trauma Rama) is setup as a simulated tornado with actors that the older Scouts have to "save" by utilizing their; first aid, search-and-rescue, and emergency preparedness skills.

Plan on being inside of the Industrial Building for your equipment. I will be bringing HF/VHF/UHF radios and various antenna. Please feel to bring your radio(s). HTs are just fine to use plus show-and-tell. We will have 120vac. Bring a chair cushion. We will have HR hand out flyers and a raffle for kits.

Enter through the southeast gate (G-4) drive and park at the Industrial Building.

Participating Club members working the event should then go to Registration (at the 4-H building) to register and get their wristband. No entrance charge for those manning the event.

Arrive between 8:00 - 8:30 AM to get set up and registered. There will be food concessions on-site.

Please contact me. We need your help on this positive local event tim2020@sbcglobal.net (219) 769-0673 73, Tim/N9CA LCARC President 2019

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.

Technology: FCC Asked to Allow All Digital Transmissions on AM Band from Apr 25, 2019 ARRL Letter

According to Radio World,

a prominent advocate for the Standard Broadcast Band (AM band) has petitioned the FCC to allow stations to use all-digital transmissions in the US. In March, Bryan Broadcasting Corporation asked the Commission to initiate a proceeding to authorize the MA3 primary all-digital service mode for any AM station that chooses to do so. Bryan is the licensee of four AM and five FM stations (and six FM translators) in central Texas.

All HD Radio receivers in the market that have AM functionality would be able to receive such all-digital signals, the article explains, but legacy AM receivers would not.

Since last summer, WWFD in Frederick, Maryland, has had special temporary authority to broadcast in all-digital. The Bryan petition appears to be the first to seek all-digital authority. The petition said the broadcast industry's experimentation with an all-digital approach "could be accelerated by actually allowing stations to fully switch to MA3; actual experiential knowledge by stations that elect to switch will provide economic proof-of-concept for stations that delay in order to see how others fare."

The petition also noted discussions that the AM band has "become so overwhelmed by interference and impulse noise that the resultant audio product is rendered unacceptable to modern listeners." The petition said the noise floor generated by unlicensed devices and affecting the AM band "has been noticeable -- and increasing -- for years." According to the petition, Bryan has tried to quantify the noise floor increase, but that studies have not been undertaken in the US. The petition said experience in other countries suggests a rise from anywhere between 10 dB and 40 dB between the 1970s and the early 2000s."

FREE!!

For LCARC members,

I was cleaning my shack the other night (it needed it!) and found an unopened/sealed package of #564 ink cartridges.

These are for an HP scanner/printer/copier that I no longer own.

If you can use a set of #564 HP (color/b & w) ink cartridges, let me know.

They're free/gratis/on the house/ or "nothing down and nothing a month."

Bill, N9QLS



The FCC has announced a position opening that may be of interest to a radio amateur. The Commission seeking a **telecommunications specialist** to work at the High Frequency Direction Finding Center (HFDFC) in Columbia, Maryland. This is a full-time position. The person holding this position performs "watch duty" and serves as a technical authority providing technical assistance and guidance to communication systems users to resolve radio interference complaints and problems. The telecommunications specialist uses radio signal analysis equipment deployed throughout the US to collect, correlate, and analyze characteristics of radio signals involved in interference problems, distress or safety-related signals, or other radio signals involved in other high-priority activities such as law enforcement or national defense, to include HF, VHF, and UHF. See the **position announcement for full details**.

ARRL'S NEW CEO TO CALL QRZ ON MAY 13

From ARRL News

Now here's a contact to try for: Howard Michel (MICKULL) WB2ITX is no radio rookie but he is a relative newcomer to the post of chief executive officer of the American Radio Relay League. As such, he's hoping to get to know the world's radio community a little better in the most appropriate manner possible: going on the air - in this case at the ARRL's Maxim Memorial Station W1AW in Connecticut. He'll be looking for hams to work him on 20 meters SSB on Monday, May 13 at 2 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time in the United States. The event has been organized by the ICQ Amateur / Ham Radio Podcast where he had been a guest in March. Yes, there will be a commemorative QSL card for successful contacts.



Did You Know?

Ever wonder why some of the text in Short Skip Articles appear in a different color and are underlined?

Well, these are **HYPERLINKS**. If one is reading the newsletter on a computer, all one has to do is click on these links and be taken to more information about that topic

-- ed