



SHORT SKIP

Volume 64 Issue 11

November 2016

From The Parade Stand

by Tim, N9CA, LCARC Vice-President

OFFICERS

Marv, WV9O, President
 Tim N9CA, V President
 Jim, KE9FX, Treasurer
 Russ, KB9HO, Secretary

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Young, N9QLS
 John Gianotti, W9WY
 Ken Brown, KE9TC
 Joe Kundra K9JKK
 Andy Finick W9FXT

OTHERS

Red Cross Liaison
 Bill, N9QLS
 Trustee, Marv, WV9O
 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.



The excellent October LCARC program presented by expert Bill McKay while uncomfortable told us what we need to know if the unthinkable happens. The points I took away were: Don't walk away - RUN! - stay low - hug the walls - call 911. When authorities arrive - no sudden moves - show them your empty hands - share what you saw.

On a lighter note, local weather continues to shine on us. Cubs fans are very happy. I like it!

Upcoming ARRL contests;

5-7 Nov. Sweepstakes - CW — 19-21 Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone — 19-20 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz. An eye popping list of upcoming contests can be found at "WA7BNM Contest Calendar" internet page.

LCARC Contest

Speaking of contests, LCARC will be holding our own VHF/UHF contest: "The WACM". WACM stands for Worked All Club Members. A BIG THANKS to Jim/KF9EX our Treasurer who came up with it.

Our WACM contest will focus on contacting as many LCARC members as possible in a given time frame and exchange information; year first licensed, favorite operating mode, spouse's name, last Club meeting attended, and what type of Club programs you are interested in. Sadly shoe and hat sizes will be optional this year.

Prizes will include a printed WACM wall certificate and a to be announced tier of handy prizes for top WACM scores. Details to be announced very very soon.

New LCARC Technician License Class

The LCARC Ham Radio Technician License Class running 5 consecutive Tuesday nights begins November 8th ending December 6th from 6:30-8:00pm at the Lake County Public Library Merrillville Branch off US Rt. 30. Meetings are downstairs in room "C" and handicapped accessible. A VE test in Valpo will be available on Saturday December 10th.

Besides theory and regulations, the class will cover; on air protocol and conduct, modes of operation, equipment, and building a station.

If you know someone interested, have them contact Tim McGillen/N9CA at: tim2020@sbcglobal.net who will be asking various Club members to stop by to share a few minutes.

US Senate Radio Parity Act Vote

On another matter, have each of you sent an email asking our US Senators asking to pass the Radio Parity Act? The ARRL has been working over 2 years on our behalf in Washington to have HR 1310 The Radio Parity Act passed! The House of Representatives just voted "AYE" September 12th.

Now is the time for all Hams to get involved and make our voices heard politically!

- If you want to have effective outdoor antennas but are not currently allowed to do so by your Home Owner's Association, SEND THESE EMAILS TODAY!!
- You already have outdoor antennas, but want to support your fellow hams, SEND THESE EMAILS TODAY!!
- If you want to preserve your ability to install effective outdoor antennas on property that you own, SEND THESE EMAILS TODAY!!

This has been made ridiculously easy to do. Please copy and paste the below address into your browser window. It's just takes a minute to send and I guarantee you'll sleep better too.

<https://arrrl.rallycongress.net/ctas/urge-senate-to-support-amateur-radio-parity-act>

Meeting Minutes

October, 2016

The meeting started with calling the meeting to order at 7:00PM and went straight to active shooter program.

The program ended at 8:00PM with Gary McKay giving out items for the work place which were posters and mouse pads reminding us what to do in the event of an active shooter in the area.

After that Tim raffled out prizes. Congratulations to Cassandra O'Brien who won the LCARC raffle top prize. A \$100 Gift certificate from our friends at DX Engineering.

After the handing out of prizes we adjourned the meeting.

14 People attended the meeting not including the speaker Gary McKay and Jodi Richmond.

Internet Scam Warning

by Russ, KB9HO

I thought it might be good to also warn everyone about emails with attachments like the one I got from the IRS with a FAX attachment?

Since the IRS uses snail mail, this was not expected.

The article in the QST talked about Ransomware being installed on computers by opening up these attachments and now you have to pay the sender money to get your computer back, or at least be able to open up the files.

My E-mail server stops most of the bad E-mails but sometimes a few get through. REMEMBER DO NOT OPEN attachments unless you know who they are from and that you are expecting the files.

Should U.S. Ham Tests be Given Abroad?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a reader who wanted my opinion about a thread on the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list. The e-mail that started the discussion was a message from an American living in Italy who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. In her e-mail, she told of her troubles finding a test session, and then when she did find one, what she perceived as "irregularities" in the testing process. Reading the thread was a little disconcerting, and I blogged about this issue (<http://www.kb6nu.com/u-s-amateur-radio-license-exams-given-outside-u-s/>).

I understand why foreign national go to the trouble of taking the U.S. license exam. Some of them even buy my study guides. About a year ago, for example, I swapped some e-mail with a guy from Malaysia about why he purchased my study guide and why he wanted a U.S. license. He said that it was because a neighboring country offered reciprocal operating privileges to U.S. licensees, but not Malaysian licensees! He mentioned that he tested for the license in Thailand.

Basically, my Malaysian friend was using the U.S. licensing process to circumvent the Malaysian licensing process. Australians seem to do this, too. Apparently, according to one of the VKs who commented on the thread, getting a U.S. Tech license is easier than testing for an Australian Foundation license. So, some Australians get a U.S. Tech license first, then get the Australian government to issue them a VK Foundation license based on the reciprocal operating agreement between the U.S. and Australia.

Another reason that some outside the U.S. obtain U.S. amateur radio licenses is the challenge. That's the reason Martin Butler, M0MRB/W9ICQ, of ICQPodcast fame, gave when I spoke to him about this recently.

Are these reasons "good enough" to continue this program of licensing non-U.S. citizens? My first reaction was that no, it's not good enough, and I questioned whether or not the ARRL VEC should sanction non-U.S. VEs and whether or not the FCC should even allow testing outside of the United States.

I didn't see the need for conducting these test sessions or the desirability (to the U.S.) of licensing foreign nationals. I reasoned that not only was there a greater possibility of test fraud, this program could lead to foreign authorities claiming that the U.S. was meddling in their affairs.

This post garnered a lot of comments. Several of them took me to task for voicing this opinion and were in favor keeping the current licensing program in place. There were a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons in favor of using the U.S. licensing process is that in many countries, amateur radio license exam sessions are not very frequent. Another is that they often are quite expensive. This creates an artificial barrier to getting an amateur radio license. Using the U.S. licensing system breaks through this barrier and allows many more to enjoy amateur radio.

Of course, for everything to be on the up and up, the foreign authorities would have to condone the use of U.S. license tests. Apparently, this is the case in Thailand and Australia. I

don't know about Italy, but I'm guessing that the authorities there don't really care about Italians obtaining U.S. licenses.

Perhaps the best comment came from Thida, HS1ASC/KH6ASC. He noted that the tests in Thailand were administered very strictly, and says, "The U.S. may lose some call signs, but what the U.S. and U.S. hams get from us is goodwill, very positive feeling. Everyone who gets U.S. license is so proud, and others look at them respectfully." Since Part 97.1(e) lists as one of the purposes of amateur radio, "Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," I'm now all in favor of offering U.S. ham tests abroad.

=====
=====

Dan, KB6NU, 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. When he's not pondering the vagaries of the U.S. licensing system, you'll find him working CW on the HF bands.

