



Short Skip

Volume 68 Issue 11

November 2019

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 Bill, N4GIX, Vice President
 Jim, KF9EX, Treasurer
 Russ, KB9HO, Secretary

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Red Cross Liaison
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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.

FROM THE PARADE STAND

by Tim, N9CA, LCARC President



LCARC NET MOVING: Beginning November Wednesday November 6th, our information Net will be moving from a 7:00 PM time slot to 8:00pm

CLUB MEETING: The next LCARC Meeting will be Friday November 8th @ 7:30 at Tylers Tender restaurant in Schererville on US Rt. 30. Food and refreshments available. PROGRAM: presented by Andy/W9FXT and Pat/N9FXT. This is part 2 of their program: "Radio... The Early Days".

HAMFEST: November 16th Saturday and the 17th Sunday. Fort Wayne Hamfest and Computer Expo, AND ARRL Indiana Section Convention. Visit: ARRL.org Put on your cruise control and take Rt 30 due east.

FUN CUBESATS INFO: about 4" per side. For perspective, the size of a Kleenex Boutique tissue box. Typical weight... 3 pounds. They are boosted into space as extra payload on another rocket missions. As many as 12 CubeSats have been launched from one rocket. Once in space, they are flung or hurled out via a kind of mechanical arm designed by engineering students at MIT into a Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

The minimum orbital LEO height is about 100 miles altitude. A CubSat with a LEO of only 100 miles altitude would orbit about once every 90 minutes and travel at a speed of 17,400mph! Due to atmospheric drag, it would have a short life of 3-4 weeks after which it would fall back to earth and burn up. LEO range is from 100 to 1200 miles altitude. High altitude LEO CubeSats can survive for decades. Few CubeSat orbits are circular, most are elliptical.. especially the Russian ones.

For comparison the International Space Station has a typical orbital height of 254 miles and every so often must perform a rocket burn to save itself from a decaying orbit due to atmospheric drag. The Gemini 11 mission set the record-to-date of a manned LEO mission at 853 miles altitude.

CubeSats have been around since 1999, but what made CubeSats capable of high levels of science and engineering is Smart Phone technology. A programed smart phone inside makes complex experimental missions possible and affordable. Most Cubsats have Ham Radio capability. Engineering colleges around the world are building CubeSats.

Cubesat Costs: Launch cost... about \$40,000. Prices have been dropping to build a CubeSat from \$100,000 just a couple of years ago to \$40,000 today. So about \$80,000 total. A variety of companies are offering Cubesat kits and one has a - I KID YOU NOT - \$500 off coupon if you order before 2020. Various companies offer kits, AND launch dates into space as a package deal with a package deal price.

FYI: My Google search for "CubeSat" revealed that AMAZON has "Low Prices on Cubesats" ! See you at the meeting! 73, Buzz/N9CA

CARRYING THE MESSAGE OF THE WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL

for Amateur Radio Newline, this is Andy Morrison, K9AWM

Amateur radio operators in the Kansas City, Missouri region are continuing their observance of World War I's centennial by operating special event station WW1USA on Saturday the 9th of November at the National World War One Museum and Memorial. The radio operators, who will be set up in the West Lobby, are hoping for contacts around the world. They invite any licensed amateur radio operator visiting the memorial on that day to step up and serve as a guest operator. Hams who do so will receive a special amateur radio operator's certificate. Hams are also hopeful for an active day of global contacts. According to the museum website, more than 5,000 amateurs around the world have received contact certificates from WW1USA. According to the station's page on QR Zed dot com, the station has made more than 25,000 contacts with amateurs in every U.S. state and 98 countries since June 2014, when operators at the museum began marking the centennial.

MEETING MINUTES

October 11 2019— Russ, KB9HO

Meeting called to order at 7:30PM and Introductions were made with 21 attending meeting

Minutes & Treasurer reports were read from last meeting and accepted as read.

Net report Tim stated that the board has decided to move the net to 8:00PM for the first week in November. The Pod cast W5KUB is on every 2 weeks on Tuesday night.

Tower is to be inspected soon by Bartronics. The last inspection was in 2013. Bartronics will inspect hardlines, antennas and lighting arrestor as well as the tower.

John has said the club website has had 41 visitors last week.

Tim will have a Technician class in November with a VE test following the classes.

Mark has kept up the club Facebook account. He has had to change the Facebook account due to Marv having the password for the old account.

Club officers will need nominations in November. Jim KF9EX has said he will accept nominations for treasury. Tim has said he will keep on as President for next year.

Tim has spoken about club activities and the need for the club to have not only field day and other activities but also help with scouts, school programs about Amateur Radio, and other community events in the area. Paul has asked to have the club help the Boy Scouts to get a patch about radio communication. Volunteers would also have to take a simple web site test which after passing would be able to attend and help on the course.

Mark has spoke about a balloon Launch at Illiana Christian High school on November 6. The teacher that did the launch from Hobart has move and now is at Illiana Christian School.

Andy has the program for tonight about old time radio.

Tim has made a request for new programs the club might have.

Meeting request to adjourn by Bill N9QLS, seconded by Bill N4GIX. Meeting adjourned at 8:45PM

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

FROM NASA TO BACK HOME ON EARTH for Amateur Radio Newline, Graham Kemp VK4BB

In Australia, a long and fruitful relationship between one ham and the U.S. space agency. For more than three decades, Tony Hutchison VK5ZAI, has let his head and his heart travel far beyond the clouds as someone the U.S. space agency NASA could rely on. He has had a long involvement with Amateur Radio on the International Space Station and indeed, many of the astronauts and cosmonauts themselves.

His attention is about to become a bit more grounded, however. At the end of this year, Tony, who is 80, is stepping down from his role operating his telebridge ground station for the ARISS programme from his South Australia home. It's been a long flight for Tony. His first contact with a space traveler came in 1992, as cosmonaut Anatoly Solovyev floated high above the earth aboard the Mir space station. That led to further on-air chats, including some with another cosmonaut, Aleksandr Serebrov. When NASA astronaut Andy Thomas KD5CHF/VK5MIR arrived on board Mir, NASA asked Tony to assist the new arrival - a native of Australia - with space station communications. Tony had become part of the team to connect Amateur Radio on the International Space Station with schools. He said in a recent interview with ABC.NET in Australia that believed he has spoken with more than 100 astronauts over the years.

He told ABC.NET that, at least for now, he wants to spend more time with his wife, Jill. He also wants to do some traveling of his own - right now, right here back on earth.

And as an aside to this story, back here on earth I just happened to be on vacation in Hong Kong a week or so back and confined to the hotel because of demonstrations and rallies I took refuge in the Sports Bar, as you do, when low and behold the entire VK5ZAI ABC story played out on the big screens at the conclusion of a football game.

Small blue globe we live on indeed!

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

It will be a surprise! You will have to come and see!!



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

FCC LISTENING UP

By WBØRUR, on the scene

TEMECULAH, California – The Federal Communications Commission today formalized a program to assist amateur radio operators in achieving better operating practices. The “UP Monitor” program will pair each DX radio operator working “split frequency” with one official representative of the U.S. federal government.

The representative’s duties are to constantly monitor the DX station’s transmit frequency. If an operator – hoping to work the DX – accidentally transmits simplex, the “UP Monitor” will announce “HE’S WORKING SPLIT! HE’S WORKING SPLIT!”

“We closely examined current operating procedures,” says FCC Field Agent John Ranklestein.

Based at the FCC’s California bureau, Ranklestein says, “We have recordings of hams who were rude, crude and downright obnoxious when someone accidentally transmitted simplex. In fact, the list of obscenities would fill a binder the size of most ham’s log-books.”

Ranklestein adds the FCC opted to provide the service as a means of cleaning up the bands and eliminating crass language and QRM.

For a small fee, U.S. hams may request an “UP Monitor” be assigned when they activate special event 1×1 call signs (and operate split).

A spokesman for the National Radio Retransmission Legion (NRRL) says they support the program, but are concerned about what all the hams now performing this function as volunteers will do with their time.

“Removed from their police duties, we doubt seriously they will make actual QSOs,” says the agency.

Ranklestein says the “UP Monitor” program is open to both CW and SSB DX operations, but is not available to QRP operations, since “no one can actually hear those signals anyway.”

hamhijinks.com



NO ONE NOTICES LOCAL HAM'S POST ON FACEBOOK

By WBØRUR, on the scene

By WBØRUR, on the scene
GRIDIRON BAY, Michigan — Self-proclaimed social media enthusiast Angus Clayhorn says he’s terribly dismayed that no one “liked” his recent post on a Facebook ham radio page.

Recently, the 18-year-old hipster posted an image of himself in front of his home brewed 6 meter repeater made of linked Wouxun handheld radios.

Now Angus says the lack of feedback left him feeling empty and alone. Friends say the 18-year-old moped around for days.

“He expected a comment or two. Maybe 5 or 6 ‘likes.’ But he got nothing,” says next door neighbor Wanda Martin.

Clayhorn says he will share the image on SSTV for additional feedback before making any decisions regarding future use of social media platforms.

HamHijinks.com



80 METER NET WORKS TOWARD 'WORKED ALL STATES'

by Jim Damron N8TMW, Amateur Radio Newsline

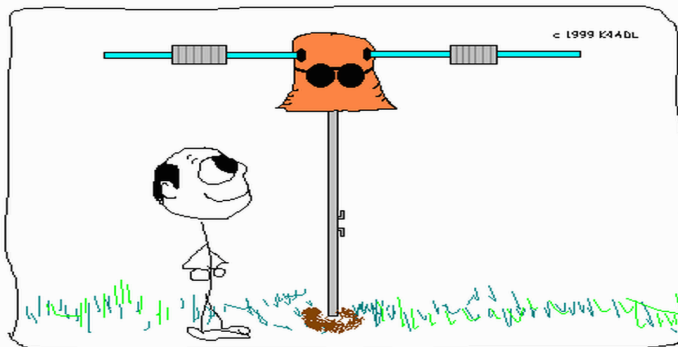
If you're an Extra Class amateur with the goal of earning your Worked All States award on 80 meters, an old friend is back to help - its formal name is the Greetings Extra Radio Amateurs Tired of Operating Lately net. Its short name is the GERATOL Net - that's spelled G-E-R-A-T-O-L, not to be confused with the elixir once advertised in American TV for people of a certain age. Kevin N1KL has posted on the QR Zed forums that the net has resumed meeting, as of October first, and the action gets under way on 3.667 MHz starting 0100 UTC, plus or minus QRM.

The goal, beyond fostering fellowship, is to help Extra Class amateurs log new states toward the big award. In the meantime, to keep everyone motivated, the net offers a number of other awards along the way. If you're interested and are ready to fire up the rig on 80 meters, visit geratol dot net to find out more. Again, that's spelled G-E-R-A-T-O-L..

SIGNAL IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

Ever hear a signal on the radio and you don't know what it is? Check out this website for audio files of over 377 different digital signals, both amateur and commercial. Most interesting.

https://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Signal_Identification_Guide



WARREN REALLY DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE CONCEPT OF A "DISGUISED FLAGPOLE ANTENNA."

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.

WEATHER CHANNEL CITES "OLD SCHOOL TECH"

AS STORM RESOURCES

By ulio Ripoll, WD4R from ARRL Letter



Julio Ripoll, WD4R, Amateur Radio Assistant Coordinator of **WX4NHC** at the National Hurricane Center (**NHC**) explained Amateur Radio's role during severe weather situations to interviewers from The Weather Channel (**TWC**). In a September 16 segment headlined, "Using Old School Tech

During a Storm," Ripoll -- seated at WX4NHC -- told Weather Channel interviewers Rick Knabb and Mike Bettes, that information NHC forecasters receive via Amateur Radio volunteers and spotters "sometimes fills in gaps they can't get from satellites or reconnaissance."

Knabb recounted an occasion when he was trying to pin down information about a storm system in Central America. "The only way I was able to accurately document what happened with that system in Central America was because of data through the ham radio operators that relayed it," he told Ripoll.

Ripoll cited the WX4NHC volunteer staff of approximately 30 radio amateurs who gather and essentially screen information gathered via Amateur Radio for weather data that may be of use to forecasters.

Over the weekend, Ripoll expressed appreciation to WX4NHC, Hurricane Watch Net, and VoIP Hurricane Net volunteers for the time they donate during hurricanes and the reports they send to WX4NHC.

"Sometimes, we sit for hours listening to static. Sometimes, we receive many reports that are unremarkable. Sometimes, we receive very few reports. But then there are those times that one or two reports make a difference," Ripoll said. He noted that NHC Hurricane Specialist Stacy Stewart cited Amateur Radio in a Hurricane Humberto **advisory**.

The advisory noted, "An Amateur Radio operator at Ports Island near the southern end of Bermuda reported a sustained wind of 75 MPH and a gust to 104 MPH during the past hour. An Amateur Radio operator in Somerset Village recently reported a sustained wind of 70 MPH and a gust to 89 MPH." -- Thanks to Julio Ripoll, WD4R

Radio Theory Causes Commotion

By WB0RUR, on the scene — [Ham Hijinks.com](http://HamHijinks.com)



GOLDEN SPIKE, MONTANA – Buttery biscuits were thrown and voices were raised in anger at last month's meeting of the Gold Diggers Amateur Radio Club. According to witnesses, the proceedings turned tense after the Treasurer's report as Club president Lou Rodden's brother-in-law presented the monthly program.

Visiting from Square Butte Township, Nebraska, Mike Yunes told the group he has developed a technique which will "revolutionize radio broadcasting."

The amateur geologist and ham radio operator says he's come up

with a way to ionize the Earth's molten core of magma and use it to send radio signals to the far corners of the globe.

As members lunched on braised beef tips and unlimited onion rings, Yunes raised the question: "Why go around the earth... when you can go through it?"

He describes his technique as a "cross between spark gap and digital," but declined to elaborate due to what he described as "very costly and ongoing patent infringement issues which must be resolved at great expense."

Yunes stated emphatically that ham operators thousands of miles away will be able to communicate "...using nothing more than common grounding rods."

As the hams looked on, club member Junior Brown bolted from his chair yelling, "You're a liar!" and shaking a fist while throwing a basket of cloverleaf rolls at the presenter with the other hand.

Brown – who makes a comfortable living selling HF antennas made from recycled lawn chairs – says Yunes is only trying to collect money for his GoFundMe account and has no credible facts to back up his ionized magma core theory.

Dodging the rolls, Yunes yelled, "I've had a number of heated exchanges about this topic in online forums, BUT I KNOW I'M CORRECT!"

Brown claims Yunes and Rodden want the GoFundMe money to pay for their next trip to the Dayton Hamvention in the spring.

—
The Golden Spike Amateur Radio Club meetings on the third Thursday of the month in the private dining area of the Golden Corral on East Winchester Street. The public is invited to attend.

WEBSITE OF INTEREST

Click on the highlighted links to go to the website

Check out the West Mountain Radio Website at <http://www.westmountainradio.com/pdf/Quarter-2-2019.pdf>. Lots of good information not just on their products but ham radio topics as well.

Interested in DX? Join (FREE) the NWI DX Club and/or read the monthly newsletter. See them on the web at: <http://nwidx-club.weebly.com/>

SOME POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD WITH SHACK RFI

6 October 2019 | by Mike VE9KK

I have had some positive moves forward with regards to my RFI in the shack. I am the kind of person who has to sit back and just think things over, go on the internet and step back and have a good look around. Over the past few days that is what I have been doing. I have had great feedback from my blog readers and it has cause me to think and search out ideas. This was the first time I had ever had these types of issues in the shack but then again I have never used an Endfed antenna before. With regards to my internet adventures I came to the understanding that the Endfed antennas that uses the coax as a counterpoise there can be expected issues of RFI in the shack. My Endfed antenna from W1SFR does not have a separate counterpoise connection. On their website the purchaser is informed the coax is the counterpoise. With regards to my W1SFR Endfed antenna I have contacted the owner Steve many times via email with my questions. His support has been great and Steve has been very willing to afford me as much of his time as needed.

I am the kind of person that things just don't click right away and I need time to mull things over. One thing that came to mind was my monitor issue I was having. I was using an HDMI feed from my PC to the monitor as I always have in the past BUT in the past I was not faced with the RFI issue. Chameleon Loop antenna and I remembered the coax that came with the antenna had a set of RF chokes on the coax. The reading that I have been doing the the comments on my blog all backed up the fact that with Endfed antennas there is a very strong possibility of RF on the coax if it is being used as a counterpoise. I was able to add the coax from Chameleon to my setup with the RF choke section of coax connected to my radio. I did some testings and found my capacitive touch keyer no longer locked up, my SWR was no longer speratic and I have not

as of yet checked my electronic washing machine to see if it stops but that will be when the next load of laundry goes in.

I replaced the HDMI cable with a DVI cable that had RF chokes at either end. This solved my monitor issues of it waking up from sleep mode on it's own and characters showing up on the screen.

I did on Friday end up ordering the Balun Designs 1115 Balun and it should be arriving within the next week or so. My positive tests using the RF choked coax tells me that the purchase of the Balun was a good choice. My next step will be to try out a counterpoise that is 25 feet long secured at the PL-259 that feeds the W1SFR Endfed antenna and see what this step produces. I am hoping with the new Balun, the counterpoise and changing the monitor cable will solve the issues I have been experiencing.

It now the next day and my experiment with the separated 25 foot counterpoise have been completed. I stripped one end of the 25 foot piece of wire and attached it to the outside of the PL-259 using a screw clamp similar to the clamps you see on automative rad hoses....but much smaller. I checked the SWR on 40m, 30m, 20m and 18m and it really did not change much but what did change was the amount of RFI what was showing up on my waterfall on the 7610. I then removed the counterpoise and the offending RFI was gone. So that was good enough for me I am going to keep the Chameleon coax with the chokes in place until the Balun from Balun designs comes in.

Mike Weir, VE9KK, is a regular contributor to AmateurRadio.com and writes from New Brunswick, Canada. Contact him at ve3wdm@hotmail.com.

HAM RADIO NETFLIX SERIES IN THE WORKS

By K5KAC, on the scene — HamHijinks.com



LOS GATOS, Calif. — Netflix has greenlit an uplifting series about the life of a three legged dog who successfully runs his own booth at hamfests.

“The pilot episode was a touching tale about this dog overcoming his limited physical capabilities to become a reputable dealer of 256 MB RAM,” said Andre Trespiernos, director of niche programming for Netflix. “By the end of the episode, we were all in tears.”

Based on true events, the series details the dog’s struggles with finding replacement parts for an IBM Thinkpad 360C, battling the military surplus radio vendor for booth space, and facing his fear of suspended men (a dog’s eye view into species politics.)

“Those watching will be hit with a nostalgia for obsolete elec-

tronics and a new respect for small business owners who also happen to be canine and missing a fourth leg,” notes Trespiernos, who is also juggling the production of a harrowing documentary highlighting the plight of grandchildren lost at hamfests.

The project is slated to hit the streaming network next Spring in order to coincide with the beginning of peak hamfest season.