



# Short Skip

Volume 68 Issue 9

September 2019

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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



Last month's meeting program presenter was Club member George Suprenant – N9GWS. The topic was a mix of; QRP, kit construction, and learning the Morse Code. Thank you very much George, it was terrific. We hope to hear more very soon.

Save The Date: Indiana Parks On The Air (INPOTA) and our 2019 Annual LCARC Picnic. Saturday September 7th- starting at 9:00am.

Bill Leaming – N4GIX has reserved the Tremont Shelter at The Indiana Dunes State Park and special event call sign W9D again. Club fence banners and antenna set up will be first, followed by radios, logging computers, then a mix of operating and brunch. We expect three operating stations.

The Club will supply main food like; burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, water, sodas, charcoal, plates, napkins, plastic wear, and grilling implements. Every family should bring along a favorite potluck item; salads are popular; taco, baked bean, macaroni, potato, pasta, or a desert item for sharing. As a guideline, in the past we had about 20 attend and are hoping for more.

Speaking of family – YES - yours is invited! If the weather turns against us or they don't want to operate a radio, there is the beach, trail hiking, State Park Nature Center, Indiana Dunes National Park Education Center, rental bicycles, downtown Chesterton shops with Farmer's Market, plus Michigan City and it's huge Lighthouse Outlet Mall.

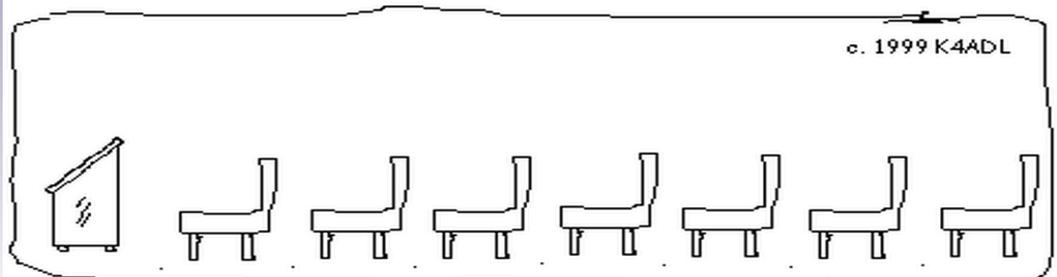
September 13th meeting: Friday @ 7:30pm at Tyler's Tender restaurant Schererville on US Rt30. Program topic "The Surprising ITU" a.k.a. International Telecommunications Union. The ITUs 5000+ voting members from nearly 200 world countries comprise most every name you have heard of involved with; radio, communications, cyber security, satellites, outer space orbits, frequency spectrum allotment, cellular 4G/5G standards, drones, the internet, and more.

Sacre Bleu - Yes - it's true, France has placed an item on the 2023 ITU agenda for vote that if it passes would allow sharing of our 2 meter amateur band with aeronautical mobile communications worldwide.

September 2019 Contests: North American ARRL RTTY Sprint on the 8th, ARRL VHF Contest the 14th & 15th, ARRL EME Contest the 21st & 22nd, North American ARRL RTTY Sprint on the 22nd, CQWW RTTY Contest on the 28th & 29th. For details visit ARRL.org

LCARC Information Net: Wednesday @ 7:00pm 147.000 or 442.075 pl 131.8. You do not need to be a Club member to check in.

Upcoming Technician License Class; I am seeking interested persons for a series of 7 no cost evening classes followed by a \$15 VE test for this upcoming fall 2019. The likely site will be Cabella's in Hammond off I-94 and Indianapolis Blvd. Please email me or call if interested: tim2020@sbcglobal.net



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TRUCKERS' CB-QRP CLUB

# MEETING MINUTES

August 9, 2019— Russ, KB9HO

Aug. 9, 2019

Introductions were made with 26 attending the meeting.

The minutes were read and accepted as read.

The treasury's report was read and accepted as read. Jim said he has 2 new members from which he collected dues and will be contacting them in regard that the first year of membership is free and either give back the money or apply the money to the next years membership.

The net is on Wednesday at 7:00PM

The club website has a list of Elmer's for the club.

518 people have viewed our website in the past week.

Bill has asked on a count of how many people will attend the INPOTA at the Dunes State Park.

Tim discussed about the 2-meter band to be taken away from the Amateur Radio for a proposal to use it for aeronautical service.

Tim will do a program next month about the ITU and what they do.

George presented the program on QRP radio kits and cellphone apps for Amateur Radio. Program started at 7:50.

Meeting adjourned at 8:02PM



## NEED HELP? CALL ON THESE ELMERS

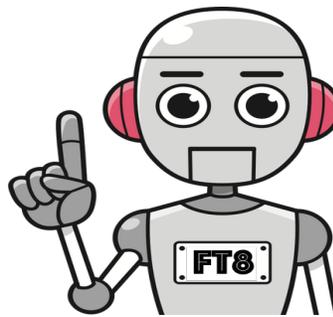
Tim N9CA  
Bill N4GIX  
Bill Young N9QLS  
Russ KB9HO  
Andy W9FXT.

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

# DXPEDITION TO USE FT8 ROBOT

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU



It's inevitable. At some point, machines are going to render humans irrelevant. It's been a recurring theme in science fiction since before I was born (1955), and there are numerous predictions of the Singularity, the point in time when machines will be smarter than human, occurring between 2030 and 2045.

It may happen in amateur radio sooner than we think. A couple of days ago, one of my readers, sent me a link to a blog post by John, AE5X: Automated FT8 "FoxBot" in upcoming DXpedition – confirmed. He wrote:

"A DXpedition to Tokelau will take place from 1 to 11 October and it will be your chance to work an FT8 robot operating in Fox/Hound mode.

"Stathis SV5DKL has been working on a "FoxBot" for some time now, is listed as a partner to this DXpedition and has confirmed that the DXpedition will be using his FoxBot."

John has since updated this post, noting "The SV5DKL logo has now been removed and the DX team will be in 'full compliance' with the mode." Full compliance meaning following the rules set up by the ARRL DXCC rules.

The ARRL is, of course, against the use of robots. A recent ARRL Letter noted:

"ARRL has incorporated changes to the rules for all ARRL-sponsored contests and DXCC, prohibiting automated contacts and requiring that an actual operator is initiating and carrying out a contact. These changes also apply to Worked All States (including Triple Play and 5-Band WAS), Fred Fish W5FF Memorial, and VUCC awards. The changes are effective immediately and affect the rules for both HF contests, and VHF/UHF contests as well as DXCC.

"A resolution at the July ARRL Board of Directors meeting pointed to 'growing concern over fully automated contacts being

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# SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Tim, N9CA will present a program on the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and what they do.

The International Telecommunication Union, originally the International Telegraph Union, is a specialised agency of the United Nations that is responsible for issues that concern information and communication technologies. It is the oldest among all the 15 specialised agencies of UN. [Wikipedia](#)



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directly to our web page  
[w9lj.org](http://w9lj.org)

# ENDING THE GREAT RADIO SILENCE AFTER "THE GREAT WAR"

ARRL LETTER FOR AUGUST 22, 2019



Practical wireless was still in its infancy at the turn of the 20th century and unregulated experimentation rampant. Chaos reigned on the airwaves. Given the technology of the day -- spark gap transmitters that emitted very, very broad signals -- interference was a problem. As Al Brogdon, W1AB, explains in "The World War I Shutdown," in the September 2019 issue of QST (p. 70), hams, passenger ships, and the US Navy were the main users of wireless, and the Navy went to Congress in an un-

successful effort to wrest control over radio and, effectively, abolish ham radio in the US. Radio amateurs opposing the bill had an ally in the Marconi Company.

When the US in 1917 joined the European conflict that became World War I, the federal government ordered hams to disassemble their stations, lower their antennas, and not use transmitters or receivers. Many hams who joined the military took their own radio gear along, because, as Brogdon explains, "the military didn't have enough radio equipment."

The end of the war did not mean the resumption of Amateur Radio. Hams were allowed to use their receivers again but not transmit. The Navy was still in charge of all US radio communications, and another bill introduced in Congress proposed handing over ongoing control of all radio to the Navy.

Publication of QST also ceased during the war, and many hams had let their ARRL memberships lapse for the duration. ARRL officers and key members dug into their own wallets to thwart the bill, mailing a "Little Blue Card" to members urging them to ask their congressional representatives to oppose the Navy proposal. ARRL President Hiram Percy Maxim went to Washington to speak against the bill, which died in committee.

It was not until 1919 -- amid another Navy effort to gain control over radio that was stalled by opposition from hams and others -- that the transmitting ban was lifted by an act of Congress. As Brogdon explains, "Maxim went to Washington again and found a sympathetic ear in Massachusetts Congressman William Greene, who ultimately introduced the successful House Joint Resolution 217, which asked the Navy 'to remove the restrictions on the use and operation of Amateur Radio stations throughout the United States.'"

Hams were back on the air by the fall of 2019 -- 100 years ago!

## BSA World Jamboree QSL

John, W9WY

Oh sure, the card I received recently is not rare DX, heck it is not even DX but I was happy to work the station at the World Scout Jamboree and give some prospective hams their first taste of talking on ham radio. Check out the QSL card I received below.

Some statistics on this event:

- 152 countries have Scouts attending and/or serving on staff at the 2019 World Scout Jamboree. Over 40,000 participants.
- The World Scout Jamboree takes place every four years in a different country. In 2019 it was at the Summit Bechtel Reserve, Mount Hope, WV
- Each participant pays a fee of \$975. How big is the reserve? 11,400 acres. The Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve is in southern West Virginia bordering the New River Gorge National River. Approximately 11,400 acres (46 km<sup>2</sup>) of the property are in Fayette County. The remaining roughly 2,600 acres (11 km<sup>2</sup>) are in Raleigh County.
- How many acres is Philmont Scout Ranch? 140,177 acres
- The Philmont Scout Ranch is a ranch located near the town of Cimarron, New Mexico; it covers 140,177 acres (219 sq mi; 567 km<sup>2</sup>) of wilderness in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of the Rocky Mountains. ( I was there back in the 1960's).

So not all contacts have to be rare DX. Sometimes it is fun to talk to a special event station and find out what makes that event so special and, in this case, to talk to folks from other countries.



NA1WJ confirms QSO with **W9WY**  
28-Jul-2019 17:35 on 20m 2xSSB RST 59  
73. visit us at [www.k2bsa.net](http://www.k2bsa.net).

More than 40,000 Scouts and adult leaders from 150+ countries attended the 2019 World Scout Jamboree hosted by the North American Team of Scouts Canada, Asociación de Scouts de México, and the Boy Scouts of America. The NA1WJ amateur radio operation provided amateur radio demonstrations, ARDF foxhunting activities, launched balloons with amateur radio payloads, along with satellite contacts including the International Space Station. Thank you for your QSO that helped us introduce amateur radio to thousands of Scouts.

Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve	Fayette County, West Virginia, USA	EM97
K2BSA Amateur Radio Association	2605 Valleywood Drive	<a href="mailto:jim.wilson@k2bsa.net">jim.wilson@k2bsa.net</a>
<a href="http://www.k2bsa.net">www.k2bsa.net</a>	Grapevine, TX 76051 USA	<a href="http://www.NA1WJ.net">www.NA1WJ.net</a>
<a href="https://facebook.com/NA1WJ.Scouting">facebook.com/NA1WJ.Scouting</a>	<a href="https://twitter.com/NA1WJ_Scouting">twitter.com/NA1WJ_Scouting</a>	

**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.

## OPERATION BY FT8 ROBOT

### Continued from 2

made and claimed' for contest and for DXCC credit. The rules now require that each claimed contact include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may either be local or remote."

As AE5X says, however, the use of FT8 robots in the future is a certainty. Sooner or later, some DXpedition is going to use an FT8 robot without saying anything about it. How is the ARRL going to know that a DXpedition is using robots if the DXpedition operators don't tell them?

I'm wondering when some DXpedition is going to give up on SSB and CW altogether. Why bother with those modes when you can make hundreds or thousands more contacts by just operating FT8?

Another thought just occurred to me. If the ARRL gets its way and Techs are awarded HF digital privileges, how long will it take for some enterprising Tech to make the DXCC Honor Roll using FT8 exclusively. Oh, the horror of it all!

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of the KB6NU amateur radio blog ([KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)), the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides ([KB6NU.Com/study-guides/](http://KB6NU.Com/study-guides/)), and often appears on the ICQPodcast ([icqpodcast.com](http://icqpodcast.com)). When he's not wondering when robots are going to take over the world, he likes to (manually) operate CW on the HF bands.

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*My 2 cents worth — Not my type of ham radio operation. While I am not a ludite when it comes to technology IMHO ham radio is about PEOPLE communicating with PEOPLE. I guess that is why I have not tried FT8. —ed.*

## FREE!!

Not a typo. No Charge. Jim wants to make room so he is giving away great "stuff"

If interested contact JIM, W9CTO at (219) 301-2015



Want to buy or sell "stuff". Checkout the club's website for great deals. <https://lcarc.weebly.com/for-sale>

Right now there are some GREAT deals on /\ Motorola Mobile and Portable (HTs) DMR radios.

**There is even some FREE stuff!!**

## HAM, 76, DYES PEACEFULLY AT HOME

By K5KVN, on the scene - <https://hamhijinks.com>



WAYNE'S RIVER, NH – Friends plan to celebrate the ham radio legacy of Arnold Leddington this weekend in his small hometown, where he transmitted the dots and dashes of Morse Code for more than 60 years.

"I'm really happy for him," said Fredrick Worthingshire. "He was a ham's ham. And, it's not often that you see a 76-year-old man begin a new hobby."

Leddington recently announced that he has been quietly dyeing various fabrics for about three weeks now.

"It's true, I've made my last QSO," said the ham. "But you're not rid of me yet!"

He plans to sell his hand-colored doilies, hats, and denim jackets at area hamfests.

## HAM RADIO NETFLIX SERIES IN THE WORKS

By K5KVN, on the scene - <https://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 electronics 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.

## 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](https://www.sigidwiki.com/wiki/Signal_Identification_Guide)