

Lakeland Amateur Radio Club
Board meeting March 11, 2019

Officers: Matthew Stevens, Bill Johnson, Patrick O'neil

Board members: Jim Stewart, Glenn Culler, Aimee Holzer, Geoff Schuck, David Zdanowicz, Dave LaFave, Mike Oliver

Absent: Kevin Rought, Mike Shreve, Richard Kennedy, Stephanie Hildreth

- Matthew started the meeting with a reminder that the speaker for April will be Mike Lunsford, KB4FHP. Mike will present the basics of DMR radio.
- Matthew then reviewed Mike Shreve's results from the survey he ran at the March General Meeting. Mike is tasked with the job of picking relevant speakers to address our club members. This survey was an attempt to discover where the club's interests lie. In other words should we have more programs addressing HF or VHF and UHF? Mike's report is attached to these notes.
- Bill reported that show and tell is slowly gaining momentum. It will take a while before club members become familiar with it, and hopefully, actively participate with something of their own. Summaries of the first two show and tells can be found on the blog with links to documentation on the club's website.
- Bill stated that he recently took delivery of nine badges, each representing a new club member.
- Bill announced that there was a successful audio sound quality test performed using the soon to be available EchoLink and Allstar capability for the LARC repeater. Rich N4ESS is awaiting one last piece of hardware. Once it arrives and is checked out it will be given to Jim Stewart who will host our hardware and software. Jim Stewart added that everything was in place on his end.
- Matthew let the board know that it is not too soon to start thinking about Field Day, and in particular those who will make up the Field Day Team. So far Fred, Bill, Rich, and Jim have volunteered. We are in need of few more volunteers to take care of things like antenna setup and take down, food and safety to name a few. Members interested should contact Matthew. On the subject of Field Day food, Rich told Bill, in a phone conversation after the meeting, that we are awaiting word back from the board of the Kathleen Heritage Society to learn if they would be willing to cater the event with a spaghetti dinner. The fallback will be barbecue.
- Matthew reminded the board that we have a picnic coming up on March 30, 2019. He suggested that we encourage members to bring something of amateur radio interest to show to the newer members. It doesn't have to be anything major. At the very least, a conversation starter. This is a radio club picnic, so radios are also encouraged. Bill will promote the event in both the blog and through email.
- David Zdanowicz has graciously offered to handle refreshments for the months of April and May while Sam and Charlotte are on sabbatical. Anyone wishing to help Dave with this effort should contact him directly.

- The March for Babies and the Citrus Bike tour occur on the same date. We are confident, however, that our club will be represented at both events.
- Aimee expressed concern over distractions and side conversations during testing. In the future the testing area will be off limits to anyone not a VE and not taking a test. A sign will be posted on the door of the testing area to this effect.
- Jim Stewart mentioned that the next ARES VHF test will be held Saturday, March 23rd. Information about this event has already published on the blog. All club members are encouraged to participate.
- There was discussion about our bylaws as they relate to elections. According to the bylaws, club members are to be presented with ballot one month prior to the election. One month prior to that the club will request nominations for the board. This will eliminate write ins on the day of the election, and give all members more time to consider if they would like to serve. In the future an email will be sent to all members two and one month prior to the election. The first email will request nominations. The second email will be the final ballot.
- Finally, Patrick gave the finance report. This was approved as read.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Johnson Secretary



Finance Report January 31st to February 28th, 2019

Cash in Checking Account per Bank Statement January 31st, 2019 \$7,811.14

Add: Receipts

Account Title	Amount
Membership: Renewals	\$450.00
Membership: New	75.00
Donations (AT&T, Amazon)	71.99
Total Receipts	\$ 596.99

Total Beginning Bank Statement Balance and Receipts during Period \$8,408.13

Less: Expenditures

Club Event: Monthly Meeting	\$ 27.59
SunBiz	61.25
Web Services	119.40
Total Expenditures	\$ 208.24

Cash in Checking Account per Bank Statement February 28th, 2019 \$8,199.89

 

Patrick B. O'Neil
Treasurer
Lakeland Amateur Radio Club

Results of Mike Shreve's Survey

LARC Board Members:

- There were 43 respondents surveyed.
- QRZ was, by far, the most frequently visited website, followed by the LARC Blog.
- Of those that use QRZ, 54% use it more than once a week.
- Of those currently using the LARC Blog, 67% use it at least once a week.
- 62% of the respondents use DXSummit, and 37% of those users visit the site more than once a week.
- Half of the respondents use Ham Alert, but only one more than once a week. 80% once a month or less.

The survey was designed to determine, by frequency of use and website selection, the general preference between VHF/UHF and HF ham radio activities. A secondary goal was to evaluate the general level of ham radio related computer use within the group. Obviously, significant overlap exists and care must be taken not to read too much into this study. Although a percentage balance is cannot be accurately drawn from this date, it is safe to say that at least half the respondents are active primarily on VHF/UHF and operate HF infrequently or not at all.

Most of the respondents did not seem to mind participating, but I'm not sure how they would react to more frequent surveys of this type.

I would be very interested to know how many are regularly active in digital modes, for example. Maybe we can do some "show of hands" data gathering with a single, simple question and a b or c responses and with quick count. There is apparently some stigma attached to who operates what and where, so while this might be easy data collection, it may not produce the most meaningful sampling.

Sorry to miss another board meeting, but family responsibilities will have me in South Carolina on Monday evening. I trust this email will suffice for my report.

73,
Mike, N6MRS