



BACKSCATTER

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Volume 28 Number 3

On the web: <http://lakelandarc.homestead.com/>

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, P. O. BOX 792 EATON PARK, FLORIDA 33840

March 2004

THIS MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD March 1, 2004 at The Fellowship Hall of the Westminster Presbyterian Church on S. Florida Avenue between Riggins Street and Mosswood, Lakeland FL. at 7:00 PM, Talk in on 146.685, PL 127.3

The Prez Sez.

March



Thanks to all the folks who participated in the February 7th Picnic. It was a tad chilly but, that didn't dampen our spirits. We had lots of wonderful food thanks to all who provided it. Also we had some fun Fox Hunting thanks to Jack K4BYF. Some of our new hams were introduced to direction finding and what that is all about. We had some QRP activity as well as some demonstrations of portable antennas and portable stations. Rick, ND4Z, below shown with Fred (W2XN) and another gentleman I



can't identify, showed us the "BuddyPole" antenna and yours truly showed some dipoles made with an adaptor using a pair of "Hamsticks" and a vertical "Vacation" antenna with an "Outreach" antenna with an aluminum base.

Got an S5 report from a station in Seattle on 20 meters with the dipole and worked a Mexico City station with the vertical. Does anyone smell a Field Day approaching??



It looked to me like the LARC group was well represented at the Orlando Ham Fest. I ran into quite a few of our members in various stages of buying "goodies" and just kicking

tires. But, guess where I found most of them? You're right.. at the lunch wagon. Picture to prove it of Charles (KI4CRI) and Norma, plus Conrad (K1EC), and Ernie (KG4YNI).

Most of you have discovered by now that the Repeater has been moved. Much more on that later.

Just a reminder that we are PL toned at 127.3 now. Have lots of reports from users that the coverage is much better now. Talked to Jim, (KC5QWG) in the parking lot at McDill AFB as I was writing this.

There is a QRP event coming on Mar 22 that we might turn into another picnic. Here's the details. Let us know what you thing about this at the March meeting.

**Spring QRP Homebrewer Sprint--
CW/PSK31--sponsored by New Jersey QRP Club, 0000Z - 0400Z Mar 22. Frequencies: QRP CW and PSK31 frequencies on 80-10 meters, CW and PSK31 are considered separate bands. Exchange: RST + S/P/C + Output Power. QSO Points: Commercial Equipment--2 pts, Homebrew Xmtr or Rcvr--3 pts, Homebrew Xmtr and Rcvr or Xcvr--4 pts. Kits okay as homebrew. Power Multiplier: 0>250 mW = x15, 250 mW>1 W = x10, 1>5 W = x7, >5 W = x1. Score: QSO Points x S/P/C (counted once per band) x power multiplier. For more information: <http://www.njqrp.org/data/qrphomebrewersprint.html>. Logs due 30 days after the contest to n2cq@arrl.net (text format) or Ken Newman, N2CQ, 81 Holly Dr, Woodbury, NJ 08096.**

73 de Carl, N3TJ

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From the Secretary:

A reminder to all members: When renewing your dues, please be sure to update your member contact information. During the remainder of the year, members can update contact information whenever changes occur by emailing KF4TXO at kf4txo@arrl.net , or sending a postcard to Lakeland ARC; Attn: Rebecca Pirkle; PO Box 792; Eaton Park, FL 33840.

Rebecca KF4TXO, Secretary

EVENTS
April

Well we have at least one public service event in April. That would be the March of Dimes Walk. The walk will start at 8:00 AM Saturday, April 24th at the First Presbyterian Church on Lake Hollingsworth and will go around Lake Morton. We will need 7-10 volunteers to help with communications. We will also need a couple of vans or other vehicles to act as “sweep” vehicles in case there are problems needing immediate intervention. I’m letting you all know early so that you can do some planning. This is one event where we need lots of people to volunteer and *Everyone* needs to show up. There will be more details in the April Backscatter.

73, N3TJ, Carl Acting Events Coordinator

March Program

The March program will consist of a talk by Ben Holycross, the Polk County Emergency Communications Manager. Ben will have lots of interesting things to say about the Polk County Communications Program (PCCP) and the role of Amateur Radio in the county.

De Bob, N4DOA

Education Department Report

March

The Education Department saw one graduate of the February Technician class get his Tech license and shiny new call sign. Congratulations to Stan Doughman, KI4EDD. Stan is already working on his Element 1 and Element 3, not willing to wait to see if he can get a free ride to the HF bands. He feels that it will mean more to him if he goes the "right" route. Good for you, Stan, we look forward to seeing you on QRP CW!

Another previous LARC student, Geoff Bills, was successful on February 21 and passed his Technician Element 2 and is awaiting his call sign. Maybe soon, Geoff! Patrick O'Neil, KI4CDY, of Davenport, passed his Element 3 on February 21 and is hard at work on his Element 1. Patrick has his application in for LARC membership, has the required two meetings and now waiting for a vote approving his application.

Charles Gribble, KI4CRI, who graduated with Patrick from the most recent General course has also passed his Element 3 and is working on Element 1.

I have been busy providing textbooks, for Tech, General and Extra, to the folks that Conrad Sheldon, K1EC and Harold Detwiller, K8GJZ, have recruited. The Extra textbook is one that Bob, N4DOA, provided as a "loaner". It will be used by Roy Thompkins, KI4DNS, a co-worker of Conrad and Harold. My textbooks have been almost depleted.

That is about it, ladies and gents. And the beat goes on...

Do you need help with the General or Extra studies? Contact me.

73 es 88 de Joe, AD4IH

For further information contact me at ad4ih@arrl.net .***Joe Pirkle, AD4IH***

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March Birthdays



Mar 03	Robert Curry	N4DVX
Mar 05	Keith Laughlin	VE3OEE
Mar 06	Rebecca Pirkle	KF4TXO
Mar 12	Sarah Clark	K4EMT
Mar 20	Don Wozniak	W9KFW
Mar 21	Jay Hitchcock	K8YGH
Mar 23	Jeff Baxter	N4TKB

If your birthday is in this month and is not listed, contact the Editor at cjohns56@tampabay.rr.com to update the birthday roster.

The K4LKL Repeater Story

Talk about moving the repeater was first discussed nearly two years ago for installing on top of the City's Electric & Water building.

Actually, Jack Hathaway originated a conversation with the mayor about that. In the meantime, security issues were heightened and they City wasn't comfortable having us at the E&W building. At that point I suggested the possibility of using one of the two 7/8" feedlines that the Sheriff's Dept. had used for their UHF radio system prior to migrating to the new 800 system. Discussions with Ben Holycross were in favor of the plan but authorization from Department directors were needed as well as an OK from the City of Lakeland.

Once the authorizations were obtained ordering the necessary equipment would commence. In late 2003 the club purchased a new antenna and had it installed (picture). Also, a new TX/RX rack mountable duplexer was purchased to comply with the space limitations that were required for being in the City's equipment

shelter. The old Phelps Dodge duplexer was sold to offset the cost of the new set. The tower guy, pictured below is Josh Gosney with Clifton's Tower Service, Inc. of Orlando.



To comply with the Florida Repeater Council's policy the new coordination for the repeater to be moved to the new tower location requires use of CTCSS. The LARC repeater uses a CTCSS tone of 127.3 Hz to access the repeater. The repeater is open for all to use. The repeater also transmits a CTCSS tone of 127.3 Hz so that you can select tone squelch on your radio which will allow only hearing the LARC repeater. This is useful during localized band openings when other repeaters on the same frequency can be heard in our area.

Telephone interconnect is temporarily not available at the new location. A telephone line is being looked into for use at the new site.

In a subsequent note from Richard after the initial move, he said: "Well, the cheesy little Motorola DeskTrac repeater that I setup as a temporary repeater isn't cutting the mustard. It's actually just two mobile radios configured as a repeater system. The power is cut back but it still isn't enough. What's been happening is that during long repeater use the PA is cutting power (sometimes down to very low power). There is a fan in the chassis but isn't enough apparently."

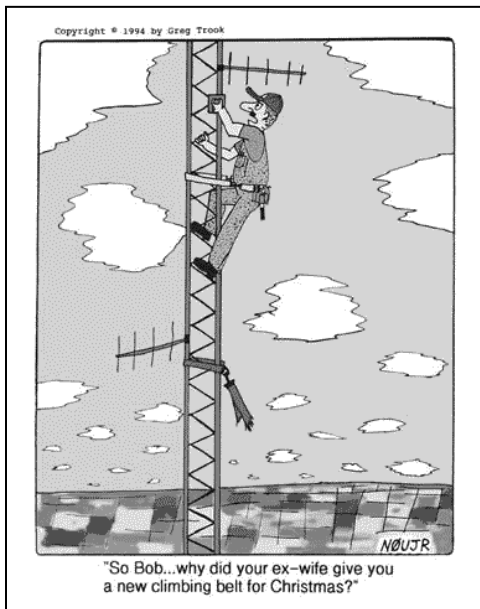
"I've since retrieved the Vertex repeater from the hospital and have configured it for tone access. Friday afternoon, on my way home, I setup the

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Vertex repeater at the new tower site. There's still some "house keeping" work that still needs to be done but for now the Vertex repeater won't die if used for long periods of time. At some point I'll need to switch back to the DeskTrac repeater while I mount the Vertex to a rack mount panel & install the firmware upgrade to the 7K controller. I'll try to plan this where I pull the repeater say on a Friday and then try to get it back online by the following Thursday for the net. "

Out thanks to Richard for a relatively seamless repeater switchover. All the hard work and fund raising has finally paid off.

A Little Tower Humor.



POLK COUNTY VE SESSIONS

ARRL VE Test schedule:

Third Saturday of the Month, 9:00 AM (ARRL-VEC) (January, March, May, July, September, November)

No walk-ins

Lake Wales Family YMCA

1001 Burns Ave, Lake Wales

Info: Richard Brannen, KA3JCA 863-676-4463 (home) or 863-294-5941 (work)

Email: <mailto:ka3jca@arrl.net>

Please register at least one week before test dates.

Polk VE Team Test Schedule:

Polk VE Team will conduct testing on the 3rd Saturday of every other month

at 9AM at the American Red Cross Building, 147 Ave "A" NW Winter Haven.

Feb 15, Apr 19, Jun 21, Aug 16, Oct 18, Dec 20, Pre-Registration is required; no walk-ins

Contact Chet Carruth, <mailto:ab4xk@arrl.net> or 863 / 294 - 6243 (Home)

FLORIDA HAMFESTS

March

Ft. Walton Beach – Mar 20 – 8:00 Am to 3:00 PM. Admission \$5.00. Okaloosa Country Fairgrounds, 1958 Lewis Turner Blvd, (State Rte 189). **Contact K4OQ** c/o PARC Box 873, Ft Walton Beach, FL 32549 (850) 243-4315. parcfest@w4zbb.org, www.w4zbb.org.

Stuart – Mar 20 – 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, Martin County ARA, Martin County Fairgrounds, 2616 SE Dixie Hwy. Fairgrounds on left. Talk In 145.15. Admission free. Contact Peter Lynch W1MNY, 7003 SE Cutler Trail, Stuart FL 34977. (772) 288-1048: w1mny@arrl.net.

New Port Richie – Mar 27 – Gulf Coast ARC, Admission \$6.00. Ridgewood High School 7650 Orchard Lake Rd. Talk in on146.67. Contact Donald Patee AA4EK, 4811 Rowan Blvd. Apt 401, New Port Richey FL 34653. (727) 372-3811. aa4ek@arrl.net, www.gulfcoastarc.org.

Plantation – Mar 27 – 8000 W. Sunrise Blvd. Go W. Cy Harris W4MAQ Memorial Free Flea. Talk In 146.79. Contact Richard Block KG4CHW, 5080 SW 64th Ave, Apt 201, Davie, FL 33314-5214, (954) 275-0652. kg4chw@arrl.net, www.geocities.com/bcepn/freeflea.html.

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Wednesday Luncheons

Join us for lunch at the South Florida Ave.
Golden Corral at 11:00 and at Lings on 98 North
on the last Wednesday of the month.

AMATEUR RADIO IN POLK COUNTY

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P.O. BOX 792
EATON PARK, FLORIDA 33840
(<http://lakelandarc.homestead.com>)
(k4lkl@arrl.net)

AMATEUR RADIO CLUBS:

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meets
1st Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the
Westminster Presbyterian Church, 730 South
Florida Avenue, Lakeland, FL

LAKE WALES REPEATER ASSOCIATION...

Meets second Thursday of each month at 7:30
PM at the Lake Wales Y.M.C.A., 1001 Burns
Avenue.

POLK HAM CLUB...

Meets the third Thursday of each month at 7:30
PM at the Bartow Air Base EMS Operations
Center

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS

ASSOCIATION...

Meets the third Saturday of each month at
11:30 AM at Ryan's on Lakeland Hills Blvd,
Lakeland, FL

TWO-METER REPEATERS...

Lakeland ARC - 146.685- (tone 127.3)
Lake Wales Rptr Assoc - 147.330+
Polk Experimental Group - 146.655- (tone 127.3)
*N4KEG - Privately Owned - 147.375+ (tone 127.3)

Note Frequency Change Below

**Polk County EOC - 146.985- (tone 127.3)
Primary SKYWARN - 146.985- (tone 127.3)

70-CM METER REPEATERS...

**Bartow Polk County EOC - 444.950- (tone 127.3)
Dundee Privately Owned - 444.625+
Lakeland -Privately Owned - 443.900+ (tone 82.5)
*Lakeland -Privately Owned - 444.775+ (tone 127.3)
* Located on same tower
**Located on same tower

WEEKLY NETS AND SCHEDULES

Monday 7:30 PM

Lake Wales Repeater Association -147.330+

Tuesday 7:30 PM

ARES/SKYWARN 146.985+ (PL 127.3)
PCCP Net 146.985 + (PL 127.3)

Thursday 7:30 PM

Lakeland Amateur Radio Club - 146.685--

Thursday 12:30 PM

Quarter Century Wireless Association 14.235 MHz
"Snowbird Net"

Saturday 09:00 AM

Quarter Century Wireless Association - 7245 kHz.

Daily 6:30 PM

"Turtle Net" - (Local NTS Traffic Net)
147.375+ PL 127.3 (Alternate: 146.685- No PL)

A Snippet From the ARRL Web Site

Attention All Amateurs...

FCC Issues Proposed Rules for BPL

Systems (Feb 23, 2004) -- The Federal
Communications Commission released a *Notice
of Proposed Rule Making* this afternoon on
Broadband Internet delivery over power line
systems, commonly known as BPL. The *NPRM*
proposes rules concerning BPL systems (ET
Docket No. 03-104) and a possible amendment
of Part 15 rules regarding new requirements and
measurement guidelines for BPL (ET Docket
No. 04-37). According to the introduction of the
document, the FCC is "cognizant that the
possibility of widespread operation of Access
BPL raises interference concerns and that we
must protect licensed radio services from any
harmful interference that might occur." The
NPRM can be viewed on the [FCC site](#), or
downloaded in [Microsoft Word format](#), or as an
[Adobe PDF file](#).

Several folks at the picnic asked for the recipe
for **Ann's Veggie Pizza** – Here it is.

Veggie Pizza: 2 tubes crescent rolls – spread out
on a cookie sheet (cook according to box &
cool) Mix together: 2 – 8 oz cream cheese, ½
cup mayo, ½ tsp dill, ½ tsp garlic powder.
Spread on cooled crust. Top with: green onions,
red peppers, broccoli, ripe olives (or any other
vegs). Top with cheddar cheese. Cut in squares
& serve.



BACKSCATTER

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Board Of Directors

Executive Board

President	Carl Johnson	N3TJ
Vice President	Bob Herring	N4DOA
Secretary	Rebecca Pirkle	KF4TXO
Treasurer	Conrad Sheldon	K1EC

Board Members

Jack Falkenhof	K4BYF
Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
Patricia Prikle	WD4BEK
Richard Sharp	KQ4KX
Mike Holland	KI4BPR

Committee Chairpersons

Education	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
Events	Vacant	WD4BEK
E-Mail Reflector	Fred Kalt	W2XN
	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
Field Day	Vacant	
Hospitality	Martha Gochin	
Publicity	Vacant	
LARC Net	Becky Prikle	KF4TXO
Newsletter	Carl Johnson	N3TJ
	Conrad Sheldon	K1EC
Program	Vacant	
Repeater Trustee	Richard Sharp	KQ4KX
Sympathy	Martha Gochin	
Webmaster	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH

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