



BACKSCATTER

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Volume 28 Number 7

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

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

July 2004

THIS MONTH'S MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD July 5, 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.

July

Greetings to the membership of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club, from your new President, Bob Herring, N4DOA.

Well, I guess most of you are aware that Carl, N3TJ, resigned as President of the LARC at the last meeting. Carl just got fed up with the lack of involvement from the membership in the Club, and threw in the towel.

Carl's frustration with this lack of involvement is understandable.

Speaking as the former Vice-President, the Presidency now falls to me, in his resignation. First of all, I would like to say that I (and I know many others) appreciate his service to the Club. Carl, you did a fine job as long as you could reasonably manage it. Thank you. You did advance the Club's objectives and tried, successfully, to bring organization, enthusiasm and leadership to our Club. Thank you again. I will be counting on your advice from the sidelines as I do my best to keep the wagon rolling for the remainder of the year.

We had a Board meeting on June 21st at the Church. Turnout for this meeting included N4DOA (myself), KF4TXO (Becky, our Secretary, welcome back!), K4BYF (Jack, former President), AD4IH (Joe, always a principal), WD4BEK (Pat, another mainstay), KQ4KX (Richard, our Repeater Trustee), KI4CRI (Charles), KG4TCJ (Wayne), N3TJ

(Carl), KF4JED (Ron), KF4TKY (Lenore), KR4TU (Joe), K1EC (Conrad, Treasurer). At this meeting, we tried to define where we are currently at with respect to being an amateur radio club, and what kind of activities and functions are realistic given the level of membership and interest that we have.

First of all, we have filled some needed positions as follows:

Jack, K4BYF, was nominated and seconded to be the new Vice-President. Jack, thank you for filling in.

KI4CRI, Charles, was nominated and seconded to the Board of Directors. Welcome Charles, we appreciate your involvement.

KR4TU, Joe, was also nominated and confirmed to the other vacant seat on the Board of Directors. Joe has also agreed to chair the Publicity committee. Thank you for helping us out, Joe.

KF4JED, Ron, will take over from Carl as Backscatter Editor. Carl is going to help in the transition process, thank you Carl, and thank you Ron.

We decided to have a very abbreviated, informal Field Day this year. There was just not enough involvement and advance planning in time to pull off a successful Club Field Day. My alternative idea, presented at the meeting, was to get together a few members and execute a drill with Polk County EOC and school shelters during Field Day. After discussion with our main contact at Polk County EOC, Mr. Ben Holycross, we concluded that such an exercise would take more advance planning. We will let this one go for a month or so, and there will be more discussion on this exercise. The Polk County Emergency Operations Center is in need of trained radio operators, and this would be public service at its best. When the big one hits,

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we need to be ready. This comes through training and exercises.

So the good news is that there were no Field Day expenses for the Club. The bad news is that there was no Field Day for most of us. A few hams gathered down at the SNCP (Shelter Net Control Point) and joined with others for some Field Day activities. Wayne (KG4TCJ) operated a GOTA station on behalf of ARES. There were several others present, mainly non-LARC members. All joined in setting up antennas, moving equipment, and operating. Final tallies are not known.

I think if we want to have a Field Day for next year, we should begin planning for it early on. Let's decide if we want to do this at all. If we do, then we need to get started on it many months in advance. There is a lot of work and planning involved in a successful field day. I think we should have a Field Day Manager and many others who are willing to jump in, if we are going to do this.

There was a thought raised at the meeting regarding the Christmas party, even though that seems like a long time away. Why not have a covered dish affair for the Christmas Party? We could save serious money and probably eat much better. Let's talk about this at future LARC meetings.

Other news: we talked about going to a more electronic Backscatter. Many members would opt out of a mailed copy, saving us postage and printing. Maybe we need to poll the members and see who would prefer to just go on line and read the Backscatter. More discussion on this to come.

See you at the meeting on Monday July 5th at the Church.

73 de Bob, N4DOA

From the Secretary:

During the remainder of the year, members can update contact information whenever changes occur by sending a postcard to Lakeland ARC; Attn: Secretary; PO Box 792; Eaton Park, FL 33840.

De Rebecca KF4TXO, Secretary

EVENTS

July

None Scheduled for July

73, Pat, Wd4BEK, Events Coordinator

July Program

No Program is scheduled for July

De Bob, N4DOA

Education Department Report

July

With the exception of the VE Testing at the June meeting and the Field Day event, there was no activity by the Education Committee. Even though the VE testing cannot truly be called "education", some of the applicants had been mentored by LARC members, including the Education Committee chairman. We now have two new General Class hams (Ron Smith, KF4JED, and Kevin Smith, KI4EFN) on our club roster.

The Field Day event held north of Lakeland for the benefit of some inexperienced hams was a success. With the able mentoring of Conrad (K1EC), Ernie (KG4YNI) and Kevin (KI4EFN), set up and operated SSB on a homebrew 12-volt generator. That station was also operated full-power from a 12-volt battery that was charged by the generator.

Joe (AD4IH) operated the CW station when Murphy would allow him to do so. Seems that the antenna loved the ground more than the sky. I think it was trying to get away from the lightning strikes that were popping everywhere. Joe started late with his operation and closed down early and

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watched Kevin operate in the other tent.

Thanks to Charles (KI4CRI) and Pat (WD4BEK) helping with the set-up of the CW operation.

Like I said, this may not have been "Education", but several people, including myself learned quite a bit on June 26 and June 27.

73 es 88 de Joe, AD4IH

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

July Birthdays



July 9	Floyd Young	WB2ODC
July 24	John Spark	W4LHP
July 24	Jim Macri	KC4TRS

If your birthday is in this month and is not listed, contact the Editor at smith1316@yahoo.com - to update the birthday roster.

Editor's Note:

This will be the last Backscatter produced by yours truly and the last word I will have to say to the membership at large.

It's a shame that things turned out the way they did. When I accepted the Presidency I naturally assumed that the membership would step up to fill the vacant committee and board positions. Well I waited for *eight months*....I stated the vacancies at each general meeting and in the Backscatter. Only two people stepped up and only then at the June meeting. Positions of Program Chairman and Events Chairman were still open as well as a board position. (I was still

getting complaints that the meetings were dull without organized programs)... Well DUH...! No Program Chairmen...= No programs.!

I didn't sign on to the President's job to do a solo and neither should anyone else! The average committee chairman will spend about 2-3 hours per month in connection with club duties. Out of 65 paid members we can't seem to find 8 or 10 that are willing to support the club with a few precious hours of their time! The exceptions are those who have done it before and you all know who they are.

Now the Presidency has fallen to Bob. It is my earnest hope that you will support his efforts. As you can see the "old faithfuls", with three exceptions, who have done the Committee and board work before are doing it yet again. I would ask the membership this: What's going to happen to your club when these faithful servants are entirely burned out?? Will there still be nobody who can spare 2-3 hours a month to support this club?

I belonged to another club in Maryland before I moved here. There were few retired members. Everyone worked eight hours a day with a one to two hour commute to boot. Those members always found time to support the club. More than enough members stepped up to share the work required to keep the club going. I belonged to several other clubs along the way. There was never a shortage of people to do the club's work.

So what's the trouble with this club? Well I don't know what's going to motivate the membership but, I will tell you this; If the present people burn out and no one gets off their dead a—to help out, the club will die from lack of interest and that would be a shame.

I wish each of you good luck & good DX in the years to come.

73, de Carl N3TJ - SK

Wednesday Luncheons

Join us for lunch at Lings on 98 North on Wednesdays at 11:00 AM.



BACKSCATTER

LAKELAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Board Of Directors

Executive Board

President	Bob Herring	N4DOA
Vice President	Jack Falkenhof	K4BYF
Secretary	Rebecca Pirkle	KF4TXO
Treasurer	Conrad Sheldon	K1EC

Board Members

Jack Falkenhof	K4BYF
Charles Gribble	KI4CRI
Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
Patricia Pirkle	WD4BEK
Richard Sharp	KQ4KX
Joe Morrell	KR4TU

Committee Chairpersons

Education	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
Events	Pat Pirkle	WD4BEK
E-Mail Reflector	Fred Kalt	W2XN
	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
	Bob & Conrad	N4DOA, K1EC
Field Day		
Hospitality	Martha Gochin	
Publicity	Joe Morrell	KR4TU
LARC Net Mgr.	Kevin Smith	KI4EFN
Newsletter	Ron Smith	KF4JED
Program	Bob Herring (Acting)	N4DOA
Repeater Trustee	Richard Sharp	KQ4KX
Sympathy	Martha Gochin	
Webmaster	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
Silent Key	Bert Onachila	KG2G

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