



The  
**BACKSCATTER**

Newsletter of The Lakeland (FL) Amateur Radio Club

Editor: [Joe Pirkle](#)

November 2005, Vol. 29 - No. 10

Publisher: [Pat Pirkle](#)

The LARC MEMBERSHIP MEETING is held on the first Monday of each month at The Fellowship Hall of the Westminster Presbyterian Church on S. Florida Ave between Riggins Street and Mosswood, Lakeland FL. at 7:00 PM. Talk in on 146.685 MHz. PL Tone 127.3 Hz.

**THE PREZ SEZ**

Pat Pirkle – WD4BEK



Welcome winter visitors and summer travelers. Our November meeting will be Election Night – come and make your wishes known. Throw your hat in the ring! We will need a board member nominee to replace Bob, KE4ECW, who had to withdraw due to his health. Please consider having someone nominate you from the floor.

The Kathleen Heritage Festival was fun and interesting. I think our club was well represented by Ernie (KG4YNI), Kevin (KI4EFN), Joe (AD4IH), Wayne (KG4TCJ), Scott (KI4KUS), and Pat (WD4BEK). Others dropped by to see what was going on and to chat with interested passers-by.

70/88 de Pat – WD4BEK

**LARC 2-Meter Net**

This past month has been great on the LARC 2-meter net. Not only have we had good numbers checking in and excellent performance by the net control stations, we have had several friends from the past return to say “Hello!” It does a heart good to know that we are remembered. .

**Kathleen Area Fall Festival**

Joe Pirkle, AD4IH

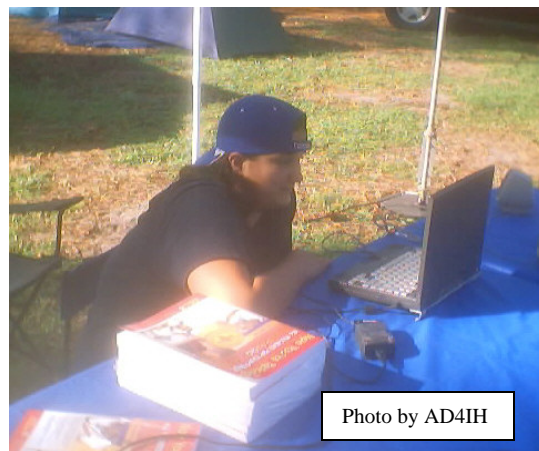


Photo by AD4IH

The Kathleen Area Fall Festival was a blast! Pictured above, Amanda Rimmer, age 14 and a student at Lake Gibson High, views the ARRL production of “Ham Radio Today” narrated by Walter Cronkite. She later talked to Stuart, 2E3YNI, in Chesterfield, England on EchoLink.

The result of our participation in the Fair was a few citizens signing up for a 3-consecutive Saturday Technician Class that is scheduled for October 28, November 5, and November 12. Perhaps we can bring a few more people into the ham ranks.

Please make plans to participate in the Spring Festival this next year. It will be bigger and better with your participation.

**WANTED**

Qualified club member is needed to take over the Editor position of the LARC Backscatter.



See any Club Officer to volunteer for this job. The December issue will be the last issue by the current editor.

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### ARRL Toy Drive

The ARRL is again sponsoring a toy drive for the children affected by this year's hurricanes. The need this year is much greater than last year due to the number of hurricanes and to them being so severe.

New, unwrapped toys for age 0 to about 14 are needed. They can be brought to the November club meeting. KR4TU will take care of getting them shipped to the collection point in Memphis, TN. There is a need for cash donations also if anyone would care to do so. These will be used for shipping costs and to purchase gifts for special needs children.

PLEASE INCLUDE A QSL CARD WITH YOUR GIFTS!

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**HAPPY  
Birthday**

### November

WB8VLR	Ruth Hodapp	Nov 08
KG2G	Bert Onachila	Nov 27
KC4TFZ	Greg Spivey	Nov 27

If your birthday was omitted, please contact the editor at [ad4ih@arrl.net](mailto:ad4ih@arrl.net) to correct your database profile.

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### OUT OF THE CLEAR BLUE SKY

#### Anatomy of a Lightning Strike

Phil Dentler – K4BHE

The day started out good. I did not have to be anywhere until later that evening since I had worked the night before until 1:00 a.m.. The usual coffee and go down stairs to the shack to check the emails and see how my eBay stuff was doing. Left the radios off this time around on the first visit to the shack. A little later the XYL and I had some bleakest and sat down for a little TV. The day's weather seemed to be turning out pretty well, had the windows open because there was a nice breeze coming through.

A couple of hours went by and we were watching the pre game show for the Bucs coming up on TV. Noon had passed and it was getting toward the 1:00 p.m. time for kickoff, still a near picture perfect day of cool breeze blowing (in Florida?) And mostly blue skies and sunshine. The XYL and I decided to get some lunch a little after the 1:00 p.m. time and were taking a few minutes to make. Time was getting toward the 1:30pm time and we were doing a little chat while watching the game and cooking some lunch. About that time we heard the game announcers on the tv comment that it was raining at the game in Tampa. I did not think much of it as I was looking out the window to see how the weather was doing on this side of the county in Plant City. Still had blue skies and sun with a breeze. Serving up lunch and about to set down, when all of a sudden, what sounded like a Howitzer went off in my kitchen, ears rung, TV stopped working, stereo hooked to TV went full blast, sub woofer smoking all the while sounding like a fog horn going off in the TV room and satellite



receiver smoking, wife screaming and the old man here just about to get his senses to back!

About this time reality kicked in and about six or seven seconds had passed, I ran to the TV and unplugged everything, ripped the wires off the satellite receiver and had the wife through it outside, yelled to her at the same time to go outside and run around the house because I just knew it was on fire. We both are in hyper mode now because we knew we were just hit by a direct hit of lightning, but where? I find myself running, falling, tripping down stairs to the shack, each step was getting uglier and uglier. A highly pungent, electoral smell was growing as I was getting closer to the end. But wait, it could not have been my Ham gear because it was off and some grounding switches were on, no such luck, the lights were out in the shack and smoke filled the air. I ran to the breaker box and flipped on the breaker, ran back in and looked in dismay what physically had happened. Smoke coming from the power supply, the coax switchers blown apart, the grounding side fuses all blown to black charcoal, a dead 2/440 rig, meters in line, the 706ll. But wait, where did it come in, I ran out to the tower looked up and started to count, oh no! My eyes got to the top of the antenna stack and saw there was no more 2/6/440 diamond stick up there. However, where was it . . . I ran around the back yard and could not find it; I was looking for an antenna that fell off the tower from the strike. This was when reality came in again, the wife came in when the strike occurred, stated something had flown past the window. Looking around some more, I noticed a small fiberglass piece here and there. That was all that was left of the antenna - it had vaporized!

All of this so far took about three minutes to start to draw a picture of the just happened and to fully understand that I was in big trouble. 8000.00 dollars later and finally a check from the insurance company, no not the full amount, are you kidding, I am just starting to get ready to

rebuild my antenna system and get all the electronics replaced . . . about 20 different pieces in all from the 15.00 boxed fan to the 46-inch big screen . . . but my dream is coming thru after this nightmare . . . I finally am going to get that ICOM 746 PRO I ALWAYS WANTED ALL OUT OF A CLEAR BLUE SKY

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## FLORIDA HAMFESTS

November /December 2005

5 Nov	North Brevard Amateur Radio Club <b>Talk-In:</b> 145.490 - (PL 100 Hz)	Titusville
19 Nov	Free Tailgate Swapfest Flamingo / U of Miami ARC <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.865 -600 (PL 103.5)	Coral Gables
26 Nov	Okeechobee ARC <b>Talk-In:</b> 147.09 (PL 100)	Okeechobee
3-4 Dec	Florida State Conv. Tampa Bay Hamfest <b>Talk-In:</b> 145.190 (-)	Palmetto
10 Dec	Silver Springs Radio Club <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.61 (PL 123.0)	Ocala

Check the ARRL Web Site [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for more information.

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## **Board Of Directors**

<b>President</b>	Pat Pirkle	WD4BEK
<b>Vice President</b>	Ernie Haynes	KG4YNI
<b>Secretary</b>	Gillian Murray	KC5TEN
<b>Treasurer</b>	Marvin Johnson	KI4CDZ

<b>Board Members</b>	Jack Falkenhof	K4BYF
	Jim Murray	KC5QCW
	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
	Bob Pendleton	KE4ECW
	Richard Sharp	KQ4KX

## **Committee Chairpersons**

<b>Education</b>	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
<b>Events</b>	Patrick O'Neil	KI4XΔΨ
<b>E-Mail Reflector</b>	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
<b>Field Day</b>	Jim Murray	KC5QWG
<b>Hospitality</b>	Open	
<b>Publicity</b>	Joe Morrell	KR4TU
<b>LARC Net</b>	Kevin Smith	KI4EFN
<b>Membership</b>	Gillian Murray	KC5TEN
<b>Newsletter</b>	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
<b>Publisher</b>	Pat Pirkle	WD4BEK
<b>Program</b>	Ernie Haynes	KG4HIN
<b>Repeater Trustee</b>	Richard Sharp	KQ4KX
<b>Sympathy</b>	Open	
<b>Webmaster</b>	Joe Pirkle	AD4IH
<b>Silent Key</b>	Bert Onachila	KG2G

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(Backscatter is the monthly Newsletter of the Lakeland Amateur Radio Club)

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