

## **General Meeting Minutes of Lake Amateur Radio Association April 21, 2018**

**Meeting was called to order by President N4KXO at 10:00 AM**

**Club recited the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Introduction of members and guests:**

**Monthly Service Honor Roll:** As always Dean KM4QMB for being our yard bird. Phil KC4LGC, Bill KN4BIT, Richard W4KBX and of course Strait KT4YA for all their work on the antenna trailer. Also Jim Kimball K5AUP who is assisting and the trailer team is using Jim's facility.

Dean KM4QMB, Fred NF2F, Dave KF4LRN, Chris KM4RNR, Teresa KN4CFJ and Frank KK4MBX for their help in installing the storage container roof.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:** 1st reading: Ron, W5RRP; 2<sup>nd</sup> reading: none.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Was posted on the wall. Motion submitted for acceptance of the report, seconded and accepted. The following balances were reported for March 2018. Sun Trust checking, \$1,907.59; Sun Trust Savings, \$1,001.40; SKFund, \$1,941.60; Investment Account, \$19,252.79; Petty Cash, \$50.00; PayPal, \$162.08.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Was posted on the wall as well as emailed to all members; Motion submitted for acceptance of the report, seconded and accepted.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:** See attached.

**ARES:** W4ALR- The net operates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on N4FLA, 147.255 at 7:00 PM, and Packet on 145.01. All are welcome to join us. Frank KK4MBX is the ARES net manager. There has been a noticeable increase in net attendance this so far this year. The net manager is looking for some operators to become NCS trained. Also Frank and I are working on a major revamping of the net script and preamble. Hopefully by May we'll have a new product. Also hurricane season begins June 1st. We always need vetted personnel to be shelter radio operators. We also need people to join the nets from home to pass information to the shelters and EOC from outside sources like SARNET and Hurricane Net, this way all members can get involved and participate in the net. See Frank KK4MBX if interested in becoming a Net Control station. ED N4ZIV, the EC for Sumter county reported that ARES will be the county shelter backup radio operators for Sumter County.

**QCWA:** Because the 147.000 repeater is still off the air - Fred NF2F and Paul K3NON are working on a temporary solution so the QCWA can utilize a Echolink connection for their net which will be active on 147.255 Tuesdays only. Lunch at the Olive garden this Saturday with a presentation on WJST suite operations.

**SK COMMITTEE:** - Sales after the meeting if interested.

**MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:** Don K3DRS. Don reports that 212 service hours were recorded for March 2018. 686 hours have been recorded for the year 2018. Only those members that have taken the required Incident Command System courses and have been vetted by Lake

County, and receives a badge have their volunteer service hours recorded. See John WB4HV for an application.

### **DX and CONTESTING:**

You can find the current contests by looking at the ARRL website/contests  
This club's facility can be made available for members to participate in contests.  
Does anyone have any recent DX contacts of interest? Nothing

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Grid Square Contest Update-** The ARRL grid square contest began January 1, 2018. So far there are a little over 31,000 participants. All grid square totals will be kept by LOTW. **(Yes you would have to use LOTW)** If you as a club member participate, the club winner will win a lifetime membership to LARA. 2nd place will get paid dues for a year. "Total Grid Score" will be the determining factor for the club winner. So far in the lead from LARA is Steve KT4Q ranked 340 with 1758 grid squares recorded. In comparison I'm ranked 8,997 with a score of 198. Bill KN4BIT is moving up fast. He's ranked 9109 with 195 grid squares. (As of Saturday morning) How many of you are participating?

A reminder that the Florida QSO party is next weekend. See <https://floridagsoparty.org/rules/>

**The LARA Monthly Lunch** - There were 18 people at this month's luncheon which is now at the Ichiban Buffet 10301 US Hwy 441, Leesburg in front of Lake Square Mall on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month.

**CLUB APPAREL** - Any questions please see Frank KK4MBX - we now also have a T-shirt vendor separate from Striking Effects. Frank will take orders for new T-shirts. Frank will also be taking orders for Field Day T shirts.

**Technician class** - Still in the planning stage. Hopefully we can get it done this year.

**LARA Board** Always looking for fund raiser ideas. Please use Amazon Smile if you are an Amazon user.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**STORAGE CONTAINER** - The new roofing was installed Saturday March 31st.

**Field Day** -. At this point have Al W4ALR, Strait KT4YA and Fred NF2F as the co-chairs. Field Day will be June 23rd and 24th this year. Fred NF2F is looking for station captions. Coffee and donuts Saturday and Sunday morning and lunch Saturday and Sunday provided by LARA. Station captains will be checking antennas to make sure they are complete. We will try for a 5A class.

**WEBSITE** - If you have any questions or corrections to the K4FC website let me know and Ed and I will get the corrections made

**Antenna trailer** - Is now at Jim Kimball's. There have been several work parties. Now in painting stage and coming along nicely. I've seen the pictures of the work. The antenna trailer will be in excellent shape when done. We do plan on using it for Field Day. A few more work

sessions and it should be done. Strait KT4YA was able to get a donation from Walmart for new tires and rims for the project.

**1000 Feet of coax** - A new reel has been constructed by our neighbor Andy for the 1000 feet of coax project. Work party is scheduled for May 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am at the clubhouse to install coax connectors.

**MOD EVENT** - This year we will again support the March for Babies event. It will be held at the National Training Center in Clermont. This is the same place we've been for several years now. We will use Emil's UHF repeater on 442.600 +5 103.5 PL. It is a short event - lasts about an hour to an hour and a half. This is scheduled for May 5<sup>th</sup> and personnel are requested to be at their assigned station by 7:00am.

**Facebook page** - Ann Keller KM4BVH has taken over the day to day LARA Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/Lake.Amateur.Radio.Association/>

**Dipole antenna** - was replaced March 28th with a donated Carolina Windom by Fred NF2F. We need to make an adjustment to it to make it better.

**Propane tank** - A new propane tank and some valves were replaced yesterday by our propane vendor. During that changeover it was discovered the solenoid that allows the propane to run the generator has a leak. So the gas company red tagged the generator. Still waiting for parts.

**SUNSHINE REPORT:** Member Richard Neely K4SON was killed in a head on collision on Wednesday April 4th. In lieu of flowers the family requested that donations be made to LARA. Steve WA2ENT having serious knee and back issues.

**Does anyone have anything for the good of the order?** A request was made to have a Skywarn class in Lake County. We would need to get enough people interested to have the NWS in Melbourne to schedule it. A check for \$137.38 was received from Hamcation for club members volunteering at the event.

32 members and visitors present.

50/50 drawing of \$13.00 was won by Emil WA2UPK and donated back to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am.

Submitted by Emil, WA2UPK Secretary.

## **Engineer's Report April 21, 2018 de NF2F**

Royal Harbor UHF – Up and running on analog.

N4FLA/147.255 Up and running on the main repeater. We have been hearing some type of interference on the machine. It is being investigated.

K4FC/147.000 – The repeater and duplexer is at Motorola for tune up. Parts on order.

EchoLink - The Club purchased a Rigblaster audio interface. Planning to install it in the repeater building after today's meeting.

K4FC/442.900 – The repeater in service with IRLP.

Camera System –. The system is currently running with four active cameras.

Upcoming project will be to configure the 1,000 feet of coax for Field Day on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully Submitted,