

General Meeting Minutes of Lake Amateur Radio Association April 20, 2019

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. Dean also is doing maintenance on the ARES trailer as well as giving it a good cleaning.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: 1st reading. KN4SQC Gary, KN4MDJ Ken, K6STS Douglas, KB3ZLO Lorrie. 2nd reading: KN4JXU Jamie, KB3TWW Chris, K3KKa Bob, KE4AQE Martin.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Was posted on the wall. Motion submitted for acceptance of the report, seconded and accepted. The following balances were reported for November 2017. Sun Trust checking \$4150.82, Sun Trust Savings \$1001.55, SKFund \$1000.00 Investment Account \$17379.11, Petty Cash \$50.00, PayPal \$82.08.

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.

Board note: - Mike Walker K9SSL has resigned from the LARA board due to medical reasons. The board has appointed Dave Templeton N4NG as an interim director to finish out Mikes term.

ENGINEERS REPORT: All systems we control are up and working.

ARES: W4ALR- The net operates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on N4FLA, 147.255 at 7:00 PM. Since there has only been one packet operator (NCS), the net has suspended packet operations for now. Frank KK4MBX is the ARES net manager. If you would like to train to be a net NCS and a net NCS backup contact Frank. You will be hearing different operators as we get into May. Because of illnesses, vacations etc, a different schedule of operators will call the net the next couple of months.

Jason K4AUS gave an AAR concerning Hurricane Michael in the panhandle.

QCWA: KM4JFM Rick advised that the normal lunch at Olive Garden has been canceled. Will meet next month. The local chapter will accept members with less than 25 years service.

ECHOLINK - Up and running currently off site. The LARA Board of Directors at its last meeting agreed to take over responsibility of the Echolink station (K4FC-R). Eventually the plan is to move it back to our repeater shed. Thanks to Steve KA6NZU for all his work in keeping our Echolink station alive. Larry N2HBX our Engineer and Steve are working on getting Echolink back here to our repeater shed and hard wired to the 147.000 Quantar repeater.

IRLP - The local IRLP node on 442.900 normally sits on IRLP reflector 9050 which is also known as the East Coast Reflector. Yes, you may use the repeater locally but remember when you use 442.900 you are talking to approximately 40 to 50 other repeaters from the state of New York to Florida and all points in between. There is another local UHF repeater available on 442.800 that can be used also. It is analogue with a tone 103.5.

SARnet - The SARnet is locally available from Clermont on 444.975 - 103.5 or Orlando on 444.075 A(103.5). It is an all an UHF system. The SARnet covers most of Florida with 33 repeaters connected and 8 more under construction. It was designed for emergency use throughout the State and was used extensively during hurricane IRMA and Michael. Yes, you may use it but try and limit QSO's to a few minutes. It is not intended for lengthily conversations. The system uses the Florida Department of Transportation microwave system to link all the repeaters. Go to www.sarnetfl.com for more information. Go to: www.sarnetfl.com for more information.

DSTAR - The KJ4TJD DSTAR repeater is up and running on low power. For those of you who use Paul K3NON's KK4KYK DSTAR repeater, it is out of service. The LARA Board of Directors has offered to take responsibility of the KJ4TJD repeater from Paul K2NON. That agreement has not been finalized as of yet. There is a DSTAR net every Monday at 8:00PM. It's on the KJ4TJD DSTAR repeater and reflector 37B.

P-25/simplex 147.420 - Currently when you talk on 147.420 simplex, your transmission is also heard on the local P-25 system. It works both ways, - P-25 transmissions are heard on the simplex frequency. Last Monday's net was the second time the 147.420 simplex frequency and the P-25 system were used together. It all worked well. At my QTH I heard all the stations on the net. Normally on simplex I can only hear about 1/2 of the stations.

KN4MDJ Ken gave a presentation of **the Boy Scouts** program earning the Ham Radio merit badge. He thanked the club for the donation of a 2 meter radio for the scouts to use. He asked if any of the members would volunteer to do testing as the scouts were ready to take the exam, several volunteered.

SK COMMITTEE: - We have stickers for you to place on your equipment so your spouse knows who to call when you become an SK. John and I picked up some SK equipment yesterday. The Club has some very good equipment available at excellent prices. Due to the expenses involved, the SK committee will start using a 70/30 split.

BUILDING MANAGER - Frank KK4MBX is our building manager. He, along with Lenny KD4MBN and myself have been working on getting the consoles operational again. The Amertron 811 amplifier has been upgraded and in working condition. The Kenwood TS-940 has been cleaned and is ready to go. This is a work in progress.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: Our membership chairman is currently going thru rehab at the Edgewater rehab facility art Waterman Village. John WB4HV is filling in for him keeping track of the "vetted" hours report. The current totals are 156 hours in March for a total in 2019 of 450 hours reported.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON -The LARA Monthly Luncheon is the 2nd Wednesday of each month. beginning with the May monthly luncheon we will be lunching at **The Haystax Restaurant** in Eustis on 441. There is a backroom that will accommodate easily 20 persons or so.

CLUB APPAREL - Any questions please see Frank KK4MBX - we now also have a T-shirt vendor separate from Striking Effects. That company is called Charles T's. Frank will take orders for new T-shirts.

K4NUN is cleaning out his shack and wants to give his extra items to club members that need them, please see him after the meeting.

DX and CONTESTING:

You can find the current contests by looking at the ARRL website/contests if you take a look at the current contests you will see that it's the contest season. Although propagation seems to be at an all time low on the HF frequencies, the bands seem to come alive with a contest. KT4Q advised that the Florida QSO party was next weekend.

MOD - Will be Saturday May 4th. As in past years it will be held at the National Training Center in Clermont. Strait will be asking for volunteers to work the event. The event starts at 7:00 am and runs for about 2 1/2 hours or so. KT4YA Strait advised that this is only a 3 mile walk all on sidewalks and will finish by 11 am. They will operate on the 442.600 repeater.

MDBF - It appears we will be welcomed back to the Mt. Dora Bikefest. Strait (KT4YA) and Ed (N4ZIV) will attend the early meetings with the MDBF folks. LARA had been a part of the MDBF for more than 20 years except for the last few years. We are planning some different innovative ideas to present to the MDBF folks. There is a planning meeting in May to work out details. Event is October 4, 5 & 6, this will require quite a few members to participate.

LARA Board - Please make your Amazon purchases via Amazon Smile. LARA gets a piece of the action when you make your purchases through the program. Tell all your friends about Amazon Smile and they can help us also. LARA recently received a check for \$56.00

Field Day -. Some initial planning has begun for LARA Field Day 2019. let me know if you'd like to be the Field Day chairman or a co-chairman. So far we have an expert chef Paul WN4AMO, and Al W4ALR our EC and government liaison who will handle getting the County assets we may need chairing those committees. There is a tentative planning/signup sheet circulating somewhere in the room. Please indicate what you can do for us. Our current theme is "back to basics" and we probably will operate as a 3A station this year. For all the new people in the club this is a good way to get to operate HF equipment and see what LARA can do. Over the past several years LARA has always placed in the top 5, if not better in its category. Field Day is way we exercise a lot of equipment. Field Day operations are all off the power grid, just like a major deployment would be. The dates are setup June 21, event takes place 22 & 23.

WEBSITE - Several errors have been corrected and some other updates have been made. Please look at the K4FC.org website from time to time. If you see errors, please contact me or Ed N4ZIV our webmaster to the errors corrected.

SUNSHINE REPORT: Don K3DRS is in Waterman Edgewater rehab.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER - LARA has a set of by-laws, a policy manual, and the Lake County(LCARES) op plan. The Board of Directors would like to review all those documents and update them. The committee will consist of 3 board members and 3 general club members. Board members who volunteered were Dave NP2MR, Frank KK4MBX, and Paul WN4AMO, general club members that volunteered are N4ILB Det, KC2ARX Bill, and K4CYA John. Remember there will be separate meetings, other than club meetings held throughout this process I'd like to have the review and proposed changes finished for the October board meeting. (October 10th). That way any changes can be voted on at the November meeting and have everything in place by the December election.

37 members and visitors present.

50/50 drawing won by N4NG Dave, he donated back to the club.

Meeting adjourned at: 11.51 am

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Submitted by

WN4AMO Paul Secretary.