

General Meeting Minutes of Lake Amateur Radio Association March 16, 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. Steve KA6NZU for his endeavors to make Echolink live again & working on a DSTAR solution.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS: 1st reading. WA3TWJ Bob, K3DDA Bob, KE4AQE Martin, KB3TWW Chris, KN4JXU Jamey 2nd reading: AA8VX Michael

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 2019. Sun Trust checking \$3104.07, Sun Trust Savings \$1001.52, SKFund \$1957.93 Investment Account \$15,559.71, 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.

ENGINEERS REPORT: All systems we control are up and working. We had an issue with the backup generator that failed to start during a recent power failure. The issue was a dead 9 Volt battery in the exerciser controller.

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. We had a presentation of ICS 100, 200, 300 and 700, as well as the proper way to send and record messages by AI W4ALR. AI encouraged members to take the various ICS Courses.

QCWA: Echolink status - up and running. Worked well for the QCWA net this last Tuesday. Lunch meeting today at Olive Garden at 11.30 am

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. The SARnet covers most of Florida with about 30 some repeaters connected. 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.

DSTAR - Currently out of service. A problem with the FET (Field Effect Transistor) in the transceiver

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. This coming Monday is the normal Tri weekly net 3rd Monday simplex night. If you have a P-25 capable radio, it needs to be programmed on the local 4 repeater P-25 system here in Lake County.

SK COMMITTEE: - Good sales at Hamcation, over \$4000.00 in sales, WB4HV received a good attaboy for all his hard work.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

MONTHLY LUNCHEON -The LARA Monthly Luncheon is the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 11:00 AM at the Ichiban Japanese/Chinese buffet Highway 441, and Radio Road, in Leesburg, 8 were present at the luncheon this month. If you'd like to suggest another location that would be able accommodate 10 to 15 people, please let a board member know.

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.

DX and CONTESTING: You can find the current contests by looking at the ARRL website/contests 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.

MOD - Will be Saturday May 4th. As in past years it will be held at the National Training Center in Clermont. KT4YA Strait will be asking for volunteers to work the event. Event will run from 7 to 11 am. Plan on using 442.600 with offset of 103.5 for communications. LARA will provide communications and safety as well as call for any assistance needed as well as monitor the crossing points. Snacks and water will be provided.

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 co-chairman. It's never too early to start planning. So far we have a cook, and AI W4ALR will handle getting the County assets we may need. This year we plan to return to the basics, probably operate as 3A.

WEBSITE - Several errors have been corrected and some other updates have been made.

SUNSHINE REPORT: Don K3DRS is in the Advent Hospital in Apopka with back issues. Don has fallen again and fractured another vertebra. He was transferred to Orlando for additional surgery and rehab today. Jean KN4VF resting at home from back surgery.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER - Antenna PM is very important. I had an ongoing RF issue with my HF radios. I discovered a lot of corrosion on several coax connections. I replaced the corroded coax connectors with new connectors and the problem went away. Club Engineer Larry, is looking for volunteers to help with the Orlando Club event, we have helped with this event in the past. He also mentioned that you might contact your House and Senate

representatives regarding the pending legislation on distracted driving as there is no exemption for Ham Radio operators. KT4YA advised that the Mount Dora Bike Fest may come back and ask for our assistance this year for their event. The event this year will be held on October 4, 5, & 6.

45 members and visitors present.

50/50 drawing won by N2RXD and he graciously donated back to club.

Meeting adjourned at 11:18 am

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Submitted by WN4AMO Paul Secretary.