

General Meeting Minutes of Lake Amateur Radio Association September 19, 2020

Meeting was called to order at the Lake County EOC and on Conference Call, by President KK4MBX at 10:00 AM.

Check in for members and guests:

Monthly Service Honor Roll:

Dean, KM4QMB, and Tom, KO4ETV, for keeping the grass at the clubhouse under control.

Jason, K4AUS, for securing this facility to allow in-person meetings.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

1st reading

Natalie Jodie Wells, WB4LKQ

Natalie is a Technician from Clermont.

Frederick Scott West, KG4VWD

Frederick is a Technician from Leesburg, and his interests include ARES.

Robert D, Wright, KF4DYN

Robert is an Extra from Mount Dora, and his areas of interest include Fishing and Guitars.

Chris Israel, KN4JKF

Chris is a Technician from Minneola, and his areas of interest include ARES, Summits on The Air (SOTA), and Parks on The Air (POTA)

Scott Grossenbacher

Scott is from Eustis and passed this technician class exam today.

Randy Robinson

Randy is from Astatula and passed his technician class exam today. He is new to Ham Radio and interested in learning more about its possibilities.

2nd reading:

None

TREASURER'S REPORT - Dave, NP2MR

The following balances were reported for August 2020.

SunTrust checking	2677.82
SunTrust Savings	1,001.70
Investment Account	13,218.53
Petty Cash	50.00
PayPal	82.08
SK Fund	1,000.00

We recently received a check from Amazon Smile for \$52

Motion submitted for acceptance of the report, seconded and accepted

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Jay, N4KXO

August Minutes were emailed to all members by Jay, N4KXO
Motion submitted for acceptance of the report, seconded and accepted.

VEC report – Dave, N4NG

In September we held testing at the LARA Clubhouse for **4** candidates. All passed.

We currently are the only group in central Florida doing in person testing. There is a good bit of activity around in person testing and it is something that Dave has been involved in. To implement it for LARA would require an investment in training, and technology but may be of long-term benefit to LARA. Dave will continue working it the technology and will make a recommendation for as the online testing approach matures.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Larry, N2HBX

New DMR Site

The repeater will be located at Advent Health Waterman to serve the central portion of the county.

Apparel – Frank, KK4MBX

The information for ordering LARA apparel is in the K4FC web site. If you have questions please contact FRANK, KK4MBX at twfrank111@aol.com

ARES – AI, W4ALR (EC)

We are looking into setting up an ARES specific group on the internet for communications with those LARA members that are committed to ARES without bogging down other communication vehicles meant for general interest to all LARA Members. Expect more on this exciting project in the next couple of months.

Emergency DRILL and Training Exercise, Jason, K4AUS

This event has been cancelled as none of the required resources are available to us. Instead, W4LAR will have an ARES specific meeting in early November at the Lake County EOC. AI will forward the information to all as the plans firm up.

Volunteer Certification and Hours Jay, N4KXO, AI, W4ALR

In August **147** LARA Volunteer hours were reported.
The total of **1585** Volunteer were hours reported for 2020.

For the the past several months Volunteer applications have been in limbo for everyone. We are sorry that we could not get the applications approved for our members that completed the requirements. We will be staying on top or the situation and get updates to you as they become available. Be assured that your volunteer hours are being counted and reported to the county.

SKYWARN Training

The National Weather Service is offering SKYWARN Spotter Basic On-Line Training on October 15 and 28. An advanced class is offered September 23. To register for these classes, go to <HTTPS://go.usa.gov/xvH9a>.

There are other in person classes available that are some distance from our location. The information can be found at the same web site.

LARA Information Net - Frank KK4MBX (Net Manager)

The net operates every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday on the N4FLA repeater, 147.255 at 7:00 PM.

In August we averaged 23 participants on each net. We hope that this trend continues throughout hurricane season. In August we held no SKYWARN nets, but I want to remind everyone that these nets are part of the services we provide to the county and our communities. When we call a SKYWARN net response to a severe weather warning, I encourage all of you to check into the net so we can be sure that the weather information is reaching our membership and we can relay significant information to the NWS.

Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA) – Mike, K9SSL

QCWA meets Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on 147.000 and ECHOLINK K4FC-R, and on Friday mornings at 10:00 AM on 443.150.

The next QCWA Lunch/Meeting will be on Sat. Oct. 17th 11:30 at the Olive Garden in Leesburg

SK COMMITTEE – John, WB4HV

If you are looking to add gear to your shack, shop our SK Trailer first.

BUILDING MANAGER – Frank, KK4MBX

AL, W4ALR, removed and inspected the toilet and it appears to be in good shape and working properly. Earlier we verified that the sinks in the clubhouse drained OK. Our assessment at this point is that there is a clog in the trap for the toilet and we need to rent a snake to clear any clogs before reinstalling the toilet.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON – Frank, KK4MBX

The LARA Monthly Luncheon normally on the 2nd Wednesday of each month has been suspended. In place of the net LARA held an information chat net on 147.255 starting at 11AM. In September, **15** people joined the net.

As events in our community continued to be cancelled, will continue the Rag Chew Nets in place of the monthly luncheon for the remainder of the year.

LARA Events

Mount Dora Bicycle Festival – Glenn, AA4UC

This year, the Mount Dora Bicycle Festival will have a different format. Instead of three day of formal rides throughout the area the event will be a month of informal rides and other activities in the town. As a result, there will be no role for LARA this year. We remain committed to the event and look forward to next year.

LARA Holiday Party – Dave, NP2MR

Our Holiday Party for 2020 is scheduled for December 11.

The Board of Directors will discuss the holiday party in their next meeting. We may not be able to use the Lakes of Mount Dora Clubhouse, but an alternate venue was offered. We will have more details next month.

Scout Merit Badge Even – Ken, KN4MDJ

We are currently working on 300 virtual radio merit badges; we held our first weekly class and seems to be going well.

In October we will need help in running several stations and educational displays. We have about a 1/2 acre of area to setup for 5 stations, everything is spread out, each station is on its own table, with a tarp tent giving shade. If we get enough interest and support, we may be able to get the EMCOMS to setup so we can invite more scouts for a daytrip.

We will have over a dozen CW practice keys, goal is to process groups of ten, every 10 minutes.

One non-ham thing we are looking for a glass locking tower display case, about 2ft x 2ft x 6ft tall so we can sell items at Treasure Mart on SR19. This is just to help us get an income stream so we can continue to buy radios for new licensed scouts. Our eBay store has been doing well selling off donated lcd monitors. They can sell items and we do not have to staff it; we will put a few video frames that show what we do.

If you can help with any of this, please contact Ken at kn4mdj@gmail.com

LARA Officers and Board Elections

Nominations for LARA Officers and Board Members open in October and will close with the November Meeting. The elections will be in the December meeting. If you would like to run or nominate someone for any of these positions you need to notify the Secretary, N4KXO, between October and November meetings.

We will reserve time in both the October and November meetings for you to address the membership in the October or November meetings in support of any candidate.

Our By-Laws require that the election of officers and directors is done by those attending the December Membership Meeting. With the events of this year and concerns over the pandemic, the Board will Consider an exception for this year to offer more flexibility. Mail in ballots, and a Website Page for members only to vote were suggested. Anyone offering suggestions for handling the voting this year are invited to submit those suggestions to the board. During the meeting I incorrectly stated that you could send your suggestions to Board@K4FC.ORG. As it turns out, that email is not available to all, Please send your suggestions and comments to Frank, KK4MBX, at twfrank111@aol.com and I will forward them to the Board and copy you.

The next Board Meeting is October 8. You are welcome to attend but please let me know if you intend to come so we can be sure we have adequate space for social distancing.

WEB SITE

Carlos, KC4FER, has been working for some time updating and refreshing out website on a new platform. He is nearly done with the updates and we expect to bring it live soon. The new website will offer greater flexibility for LARA to maintain specific data and eliminate the single point of contact we have now. For example, the ARES or SK groups will be able to maintain their pages as needed on their own.

Carlos will be sending out a link to you all so you can preview the new site. Have a look and send any comments to Carlos.

Member Accomplishments, Events and Updates:

One of our new members indicated that there are a few folks in his immediate circle that are interested in learning more about Ham Radio and working for their license. We have in the past held such training classes and will discuss the possibility of hosting one for this group in the next board meeting.

Wrap Up

30 Members and guests attended in person or via a “conference bridge”.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM.

Submitted by Jay, N4KXO, Secretary