

General Meeting Minutes of Lake Amateur Radio Association January 16, 2021

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.

Carlos, KC4FER, John, WB4HV, and John, K4CYA, for working to get selected SK equipment posted to the website and hopefully sold.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

1st reading

Ray Nichols, KA4RAY

Ray is a Technician from Eustis and his interests include ARES, Skywarn, and Field Day.

John (Mike) Ward, WA9VIQ

Mike is a General from Tavares and his interests include Equipment for HF, UHF, VHF, and D-Star. He enjoys companionship is a previous member of the Royal Harbor club, WX4RH.

Rob Patton, KE4GLA

Rob is a Technician from Longwood. He is a prior member from the 1990's and getting active on DMR and other things.

Daniel Unsworth, KJ4VOD

Daniel is a Technician from Umatilla. He did not list any interests.

Fred David Lazerson, KO4KMV

Fred is a Technician from Tavares and he is new to Ham Radio and is interested in finding an Elmer and getting involved in our ARES group.

Joseph Halegua, KO4BAX

Joe is a Technician from Paisley and his interests include ARES/Races, volunteer work, and net repeater set up.

2nd reading:

Bret D Barker, K4MXW

Bret is a General Class from Tavares, and his areas of interest include HF, DMR, and ARES

TREASURER'S REPORT - Dave, NP2MR

The following balances were reported for December 2020.

SunTrust checking	2,215.87
SunTrust Savings	1001.76
Investment Account	16,314.27
Petty Cash	50
PayPal	120.80
SK Fund	1,000

If you paid your dues by PayPal we have receipts available. Contact Dave, NP2MR if you need one.

Motion submitted for acceptance of the report, seconded and accepted.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Jay, N4KXO

December Minutes were emailed to all members by Jay, N4KXO

Motion submitted for acceptance of the report, seconded and accepted.

VEC report – Dave, N4NG

In January we held testing at the LARA Clubhouse for 6 candidates
5 passed all technicians.

The demand for in-person training is great and we have a waiting list.

This month registrations for testing were done through Hamstudy now, simplifying the setup paperwork. Starting next month, we will run testing through Hamstudy further simplifying the process.

As we move toward testing on-line, we will need 6 computers, laptops, or tablets to access the internet programs. If you have a device you no longer use and can donate it, please contact Dave, N4NG.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Larry, N2HBX

The 442.600 repeater at South Lake Hospital is off the air due to a failed power supply. Jason has located a replacement and he and Larry will work on getting it installed.

All other LARA repeaters are up and running without issue.

WINLINK Introduction

Presentation by Dean, KM4QMB. The handout from that presentation follows the minutes.

Apparel – Frank, KK4MBX

Last month members indicated an interest in purchasing a t-shirt to commemorate our excellent Field Day performance. We worked with a local vendor to develop the shirt that is a light blue color and will cost \$15. You can sign up for the shirts today or email me at TWFRANK111@aol.com by the end of next week. We plan to deliver them at the February Meeting. We ask that our pre-pay for the shirt's, so we have the money to pay for them as they are made.

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)

ARES Meeting and Training,

This year we will be holding Quarterly Meetings for the ARES group. The first of these meeting will be at the EOC, on Thursday, February 18 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

We will need to provide adequate social distancing so we will follow the same protocol for reserving seats and provide a dial-in as for our club meetings.

The ARES team has a leadership position available for planning, if you are interested in this opportunity please contact AI at W4ALR@arri.net.

Volunteer Certification and Hours Jay, N4KXO

In December 135 LARA Volunteer hours were reported. A total of 2089 Volunteer hours have been reported for 2020.

We encourage everyone to become part of the ARES team and secure a county badge. See, AI, W4ALR, to sign up. We continue to follow up with the county on the badges for those who have completed the training.

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 December we averaged 20 participants on each net and had no SKYWARN nets,

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 QCWA meeting for January is cancelled. Hopefully, the meetings will resume in February.

SK COMMITTEE – John, WB4HV

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

The SK Team is working to get selected equipment from the SK Inventory posted to the web site so that we can generate some interest in it and hopefully get it sold. Check out the SK section of the website.

BUILDING MANAGER – Frank, KK4MBX

Our sign out by 473 needs to be replaced or updated. It is in poor shape especially when you approach from the south. The sign was purchased from Graphics Direct in Clairmont. So far there has been no progress on this project.

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 holds an informal rag chew net on 147.255 starting at 11 AM. In January, 10 people joined the net.

I expect that we will continue the Rag Chew nets into the second quarter.

LARA Events

We are looking forward to a number of events this year. As in 2020, some of the schedules are quite fluid and there may be continued restrictions and cancellations.

HAMCATION 2021

OARC has decided canceled the 2021 Hamfest.

The 2022 event, which will now be the 75th annual.

The HAMCATION team is providing some virtual seminars and presentations. Details can be found at HAMCATION.com.

Dayton HAMVENTION 2021

The 2020 Hamvention has been cancelled.

Winter Field Day

This year, WFD will take place for 24 consecutive hours from 2 PM

Saturday January 30th to 2 PM Sunday January 31st, 2021.

You can get more information for the contest at <https://www.winterfieldday.com>

March of Dimes

The March of Dimes event typically happens in early May. Last year it turned into a virtual event and it is not clear what the event will be this year. We will continue to monitor the planning for it and update you as additional details emerge.

Field Day

Field Day 2021 is the last full weekend in June. That is June 26 and 27.

We are starting the advanced planning and hope to be able to return to the Institute for Public Safety this year. We will be looking for folks to help with the planning for this event soon.

Mount Dora Bike Festival

So far there is no activity in planning for the 2021 event. Glenn, AA4UC, continues to stay close to the organizers and will provide updates as they emerge.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

JOTA is a scouting event that promotes Ham Radio. In the past we have had a small group supporting this activity. This year we would like to expand our presence and support for the activity. Expect updates from Dean, KM4QMB, as they year goes on.

Hearts for Our Hospital

The bike event in The Villages occurs in early November. Ed, N4ZIV, will provide updates in late summer.

Holiday Party

We are planning the party for December 10 and are hoping to return to the Lakes of Mount Dora clubhouse this year. Expect updates from Dave, NP2MR later in the year.

New Membership Chairman Appointed

Many thanks to Don, K3DRS, for his many years of service to LARA as Membership Chairman. This year we are expanding the role to include a more active role in Receiving the Applications for Membership, contacting them and discussing the club's goals and objectives, and their need and talents. The chairman will present the candidates during the LARA monthly meetings and conduct the member vote for acceptance. He will also assist the new members in assimilating into the group. Please join me in welcoming Dave, KE7BMG, into this role and support his efforts to assist and develop out new members.

Member Accomplishments, Events and Updates:

In 2021, we would like to bring more content to the club meetings. If you have a topic you would like to learn more about, or present to the membership, please contact a Board member with your suggestions.

Glenn, AA4UC, discussed a new app, DROIDSTAR, available to Android Phone users that allows you to access and communicate on DMR with your phone. It connects to the Brandmeister system and you have access to all the talk groups contained there without a DMR Radio.

You will need to have a DMR ID. If you do not already have one that app will guide you through getting one. The app is not available to iPhone users.

On Tuesday, January 19, Dean, KM4QMB, will address the Paisley Association at 7PM on Ham Radio capability. He plans a demo on the 146.895 repeater. If you can, please monitor the repeater and support Dean's efforts.

Wrap Up

We expect that the January meeting will be at the EOC in a similar format.

28 Members and guests attended in person or via the conference bridge.

The 59/50 drawing was win by Larry, N2HBX, who returned the winnings to the club. Thank you, Larry.

Meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM

Submitted by Jay, N4KXO, Secretary



Introduction to Winlink Global Radio Email

What is Winlink?

Winlink is a network of amateur radio volunteers that operate VHF or HF nodes that provide full featured emails using a radio path to the internet. It is widely used by ARES groups and is capable of sending emails with attachments, position reports and weather information. Support for the system is provided by the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc.

What can I do with Winlink?

The Winlink Express software is a modern looking email client and much like your Gmail or yahoo account that lets you exchange emails with anyone with an email address (does not have to be an amateur radio operator). You can send small attachments, use the extensive list of premade templates or create and save your own, send position reports or even request a weather forecast. Winlink Express also supports peer to peer communications.

So how does it work?

Once set up you can request a list of nodes you are likely to reach in the software or check out the map under tools on the WjnlLKgcg website. When you launch Winlink Express you are ready to post an email to your outbox and open a Winlink session.

Sessions can be opened using many different modes such as Packet, Pactor, Winmor, Ardop, Vara and more but for now we will focus on VHF packet. After your session is open you then choose your connection type (direct or via a digipeater) and specify the node you wish to use. Now you are ready to start your session and send your message via rf to the node where it is gated to one of Weblink's Central Message Servers. This is also when your station will retrieve any mail you have waiting for you.

Let's talk about equipment for VHF packet.

Your current 2 meter or dual bander will work but you will need a way to connect it to your computer. There are many different interfaces available, such as the Signalink sound card, Kantronics KPC3 TNC, Mobilinkd bluetooth TNC and Bionic Tiny Trak being some of the more popular choices with lots of support information available. Some transceivers like the Kenwood TM-D710GA and TH-D72A have full TNCs built in and TH-D74A has a KISS TNC which makes connecting to the Winlink software a breeze. If you like Raspberry Pis there is a TNC Pi hat available. For software you will need to download Winlink Express from [Wjncq.com](http://www.wjncq.com) and if using a soundcard, you will need a software TNC, I like UZ7HO Soundmodem available at <http://www.uz7ho.com/ualpacKetradLQ-htm>. No equipment yet? That's ok because Winlink Express supports a Telnet connection where you can familiarize yourself with the software using your home internet connection.

LARA supported Node.

Preparations are being made for LARA to sponsor a node located at the clubhouse. Details are still in the works but adding this node will give radio email access to many amateurs across Lake County especially those in outlying areas where home internet can be somewhat unreliable. The LARA ARES team is also exploring Winlink so that it can be utilized providing interoperability with the many ARES groups in Florida already using it. The goal is not to stop with VHF but also to train and take advantage of the HF Winlink modes adding more tools to the EmComm toolbox.

Wait there is more.

The equipment we just put together is not just for Winlink. Did you know that LARA has a Bulletin Board System on 145.010 where you can leave messages for your friends or a bulletin for the group and do not forget about APRS or SSTV? There is lots of fun to be had using VHF packet.