

General Meeting Minutes of Lake Amateur Radio Association August 21, 2021

Meeting was called to order at the LARA Clubhouse by President KK4MBX at 10:00 AM.

Check in for members and guests:

Monthly Service Honor Roll:

Dean, KM4QMB AND Tim, K9BAW for keeping the grass at the clubhouse under control.

Jay, N4KXO, for negotiating an improved internet agreement with Comcast.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS:

Thomas P Sheehan,

Thomas is a prospective Ham from Clermont and his interest include DXing.

Johnne Lee Ables, W1YB

Johnne is an Extra from Summerfield, and his interests include Rag chewing, CW, PSK, and RTTY.

Russel W. Cook, KK5E

Russel is an Extra from Leesburg, and his interests include Field Day, ARES, CW, HF, 220 and 440.

The members present voted to accept all as a LARA member pending dues payment.

TREASURER'S REPORT - Dave, NP2MR

The following balances were reported for July 2021.

SunTrust checking	3284.98
SunTrust Savings	4001.82
Investment Account	18254.96
Petty Cash	50.00
PayPal	262.11
SK Fund	1000.00

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Jay, N4KXO

June Minutes were emailed to all members by Jay, N4KXO

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

VEC report – Dave, N4NG

In August we held testing at the LARA Clubhouse for 3 candidates, 2 techs and 1 extra all passed.

ENGINEERS REPORT – Larry, N2HBX

All installed LARA repeaters are up and running without issue.

The IRLP node at the clubhouse (442.900) is down due to equipment problems. We are working on getting it back on the air. The link at the South Lake Hospital (442.600) remains on the air. And you can reach IRLP on DMR Talk Group 3129973.

August Presentation – Nick Murabito, WA3GTU

NanoBeam demonstration

NanoBeams can be used to send a WiFi signal a great distance, without the need for wires. The signal is secure, and reliable. Set-up is simple and quick with minimal equipment.

During an emergency, could be of great value to provide a WiFi signal where wires are down.

NanoBeams use a parabolic dish to concentrate a wireless signal in a relatively narrow beam between two units. Deploying the beams requires some forethought and attention. Wireless connectivity via the NanoBeams is a great solution to use as a bridge when running Ethernet cables is too long or poses a hazard.

We have tested these beams about ¼ mile through a number of buildings of cinder block, with marginal/acceptable reduction of performance. There was no reduction in performance when the ¼ mile was line of sight.

There are two NanoBeams. One is designated as “Master” and configured with Access Port “on”. The other unit is the “Remote” unit. Labels are on the back of the NanoBeams to designate Master and Remote as the units are physically identical.

Master Unit: This unit will connect to the source of the internet connection.

Remote Unit. This unit will be located at the location where the access point (AP) will be sending WiFi to the users.

For Florida Baptist Disaster Relief, we mount the “Master” on the roof of our communication trailer (with satellite capability) and point it wherever we need a WiFi signal. This would be the location of the “Remote” unit. Admin and personnel are the primary users of this service.

Apparel – Frank, KK4MBX

The information for ordering LARA apparel is in the K4FC web site. If you have questions please contact FRANK, KK4MBX, at kk4mbx@outlook.com

ARES – AI, W4ALR (EC), Glenn Cassleman, AA4UC

Trailer Repair

Thanks to an anonymous donor, and the Sheriff's office matching the donor for the other, The ARES trailer now has two new optima blue top gel cell batteries. Jamey W4CGX installed the new batteries that are under warranty and should last us a long time.

Reorganization at the EOC

Recently, Lake County reorganized its structure Part of the reorganization created a Public Safety Department. As such, Tommy Carpenter was promoted to the position of Public Safety Director. The following County Offices are now part of the Public Safety Department: Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Fire Rescue, Public Safety Support, and Probation.

Ms. Megan Milanese was promoted to the Director's position in Emergency Management. Megan has been with Emergency Management as the Deputy Director since May of this year. Megan came to the County from the Florida Department of Health in Lake County (DOH-Lake). Megan spent five years with the DOH-Lake as their Planner. She has a Master's in Public Health from the University of South Florida. Please join me in congratulating Megan as she moves forward in her new role as the Emergency Management Director.

Our ARES Team looks forward to working with Tommy and Megan in their new positions.

Volunteer Certification and Hours Jay, N4KXO

In July 140 LARA Volunteer hours were reported. A total of 1410 Volunteer hours have been reported for 2021.

We encourage everyone to become part of the ARES team and secure a county badge. See, AI, W4ALR, or Glenn, AA4UC, to sign up.

Lake County is working to replace all the old ARES IDs with the current issued version. If you applied for a new or replacement ID card at Field Day the IDs are available today, you can turn in your old one and receive your new one. If you have not signed up for a new card, please let us know so we can get your ID updated.

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 July we averaged 16 participants. About the same as May.

Also, we had no SKYWARN nets in July. We are now amid hurricane season; we need to stay alert for severe weather and join the SKYWARN nets as they are called.

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 monthly Luncheons are suspended until October.

SK COMMITTEE – John, WB4HV

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

MONTHLY LUNCHEON – Frank, KK4MBX

The LARA Monthly Luncheon August 11, at the Oakwood Smokehouse in Leesburg had 6 people attending. We look forward to seeing you at our next luncheon on September 8th.

LARA Events

Mount Dora Bike Festival

Glenn, AA4UC, continues to work with the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce in preparing for the upcoming event October 8, 9, and 10. This year will be a smaller event than in previous years with three road rides on Friday and Saturday and two on Sunday with a smaller number of rest stations. We will need a few people to help support the event. This year, you will be provided a lunch for the days you serve.

If you can help, please contact Glenn, AA4UC, to sign up.

National Night Out in Clermont

The city of Clermont is doing their National Night out event October 5th at Waterfront Park from 4-9pm. This event features many service organizations clubs and Public Safety entities and draws thousands of attendees.

To get promote LARA and our ARES group in the county and especially in the growing part of South Lake we would like to have a contingent from LARA to attend alongside LCSO, Fire rescue and the other entities.

Jason, K4AUS, reserved a space for our ARES trailer to set up for display alongside of the LCSO command vehicle.

We need a few members to show up potentially discuss with attendees about our club and the functions that we provide. ARES SKYWARN etc. and have some demonstration radios setup.

Please contact Jason, K4AUS at Jason Matthews
jasonmatthews.rf@gmail.com if you can help with this event.

Jamboree On The Air (JOTA)

JOTA is a scouting event that promotes Ham Radio. 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, indicated there some new folks involved with the event but they will be needing assistance from LARA members to support the event. We expect more details by the next meeting, so stay tuned...

Christmas 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.

Hamcation 2022

After a year off in 2021, Hamcation returns to Orlando on February 11-13, 2022. This year is significant as it will also host the 2022 National Convention. As you might expect the Orlando Club is looking for volunteers to help in many areas. Volunteering for this event has many benefits to you and to LARA. For 4 hours of volunteering, you get a free ticket to the event. For 8 hours you get a meal. At the end of the event LARA receives a contribution from the Orlando Club proportional to the hours LARA members volunteered,

Those wishing to volunteer should go to hamcation.com. Under the "Event Info" tab is a link to the Volunteer signup area. There they will find the various committees they can sign up to assist, and what days they would like to help.

Member Accomplishments, Events and Updates:

Bob Hinkle, WA3TWJ, thanked the LARA members who helped him last month when his car had a dead battery following the LARA meeting. They stayed with him for several hours while he waited for a tow truck and even brought lunch.

Cliff, KO4QPK reminded everyone that they need to obey the speed limit entering the LARA clubhouse parking lot. Speeding into our lot really bothers our neighbors.

Jay, N4KXO, stated that anyone can call a Skywarn net when one is warranted. Lake County is very large and weather conditions across the county can be quite different. Anyone who needs a copy of the preamble for the Skywarn net can obtain one from Jay.

Wrap Up

25 Members and guests attended in person.

The 50/50 drawing for \$36 was won by Cliff, KO4QPK, who returned the winnings to the club. Thank you,

Meeting adjourned at 11:13 AM

Submitted by Jay, N4KXO, Secretary