



The Long Wire

September 2007



PUBLISHED BY THE LIVERPOOL AMATEUR REPEATER CLUB

Thank you to all who have renewed your memberships!

Weather Radios Recalled

Suggested by Walt Bordett, N2IK

Over 66,000 weather radios and personal weather stations from Oregon Scientific have been found to be faulty. The problem? They can't pick up severe weather alerts! This defect has sparked a recall by the manufacturer of the following models:

- All Hazards Portable Weather Alert RadioWR103NX
- Portable Public Alert RadioWR108
- Public Alert Weather Station WRB308
- John Deere Public Alert Weather StationWRB308J

These problem units were sold between December 2005 and June 2007, for between \$30 and \$150.

Consumer Contact: For additional information, contact Oregon Scientific at (800) 203-4921 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www2.oregonscientific.com

Vanity Call Sign Fees to be Reduced

Suggested by Walt Bordett, N2IK

With a move that should please the amateur radio community, the FCC will lower the fees for vanity call signs from the current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This change will take effect on September 17, and more details can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/08/31/105/?nc=1>

The government reducing fees? Holy smokes! But then again, these are the same guys and gals that think BPL is going to save the world...-KC2IYK

Reminder to LARC Members- the accuracy of your information is your responsibility!

Lee Badman, KC2IYK

Please help LARC by periodically verifying the details of your club-related personal information. Updated your call sign? Let the club membership chair know (currently Sam Coffey-KC2IQM). Same goes with name spellings, email addresses, etc. LARC officers and functionaries are volunteers that are glad to donate time and effort to making LARC great, but we do need your help in this regard. Thanks!

About Those Repeaters to the South...

Lee Badman, KC2IYK (input from Andrew Slaugh, KC2LUV)

LARC as an organization has a great working relationship with our radio neighbors to the south, in Cortland County. Earlier this year, Cortland's Skyline club (SARC) joined LARC for very successful Field Day activities, and several hams travel between the Syracuse and Cortland areas for their daily work commutes. Among these: KA1EIX, Al Meeker; KC2BQZ, Pat Dunn, and KC2DWW, Paul Osinski

Here's a quick glimpse into voice repeaters you might like to try in the Cortland area, our thanks to Andrew Slaugh, KC2LUV:

147.180 (+) - Skyline Amateur Radio Club - No PL - serves as the ARES / Skywarn / Emergency repeater for Cortland County. Home of the Skyline Amateur Radio Club Tuesday Evening Net at 7:00 PM on Tuesdays. All are welcome. "This Week in Amateur Radio" program runs on Tuesdays at 8:00 PM. Open Autopatch. Battery backed-up. Not linked in to any other system.

145.490 (-) - KB2LUV - PL 71.9 - not linked to anything and no special features. A nice local rag-chewing repeater open to all hams. Battery back-up.

147.225 (+) - KB2FAF - PL 71.9 - linked to the 147.000 (Auburn), the 145.330 (Remsen) and the 145.315 (Verona) for ten-county coverage. Contact Chris Perrine KB2FAF kb2faf@arrl.net or Jack Smith W2QYT for more information on this great working linked system.

442.850 (?) - KB2FAF - PL 71.9 - IRLP and Echolink both available on this repeater. Contact Chris Perrine KB2FAF for information on this UHF system.

And a packet repeater in Cortland, which is part of a linked system to Stamford and eastern, NY: **145.730**

Read more about SARC going on at <http://www.skylineradioclub.org/>

RAGS Fest Tradition Continues-September 15!

Lee Badman, KC2IYK

(Reprinted from the September 2, 2007 *Syracuse Post-Standard Stars Magazine* by author):

The Radio Amateurs of Greater Syracuse (RAGS) club will host its annual Hamfest at the Pompey Hill Fire Department. The RAGS event is a favorite with local operators, and typically appeals to technical non-hams as well with a variety of items for sale. The typical Hamfest flea-market features tools, computer hardware, technical reference books and magazines, radio gear and components, and much more.

This year's Hamfest will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 15. There will be an American Radio Relay League (ARRL) forum at 10 a.m., and license testing at 11 a.m. for those interested in getting or upgrading an amateur radio license (walk-ins are welcome). Breakfast and lunch will be served 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., provided by the Pompey Hills Fire Department Auxiliary.

For those interested in selling at the indoor/outdoor flea market, tables can be had for \$10, or bring your own table (up

to 10 feet) for \$5. It is recommended that reservations be made for flea market spaces, as they can go fast. To reserve a spot, send a note to Hamfest, Box 88, Liverpool, NY, 13088. Setup for the flea market is 4 to 9 p.m. Sept. 14 or 6:45 to 8 a.m.

The Pompey Hills Fire Department is in Pompey, off Route 20, on Academy Street (in the old Elementary School). The fire department can be reached at 677-3212 or online at www.pompeyhillfd.com. RAGS has been active in Syracuse's amateur radio community for more than 50 years. To find out more about the Hamfest, or RAGS, go to www.ragsinreview.com.

KC2UT and Crew Invite All to a Gathering on the St. Lawrence!

On September 21, 22, 23 (Fri, Sat, Sun) come on up to a little ham radio get-together at Kring Point State Park, near Alexandria Bay on the St. Lawrence.

This event was started by Tom KC8QGJ of Chardon, Ohio about 5 years ago and is open to all.

The get together is based on the fellowship of bunch of great operators found on the HF bands, namely

- *the 72 Ragchew (7272 khz)*
- *Nightwatch (7193 khz)*
- *the 1721 group (1872 khz)*

Last year we had around 40 people show up.

So why not make it up for the day or a couple of days and enjoy the end of summer and camaraderie.

*Thanks,
Jerry KC2UT*

Slight Change of Venue For LARC Meetings- Please Note

Bob Jackson, WB2BJW

LARC meetings will be at the Roxboro Middle School instead of the Roxboro Elementary school from now on. It is on the left side of the circle instead of the right side as you face the two buildings.

WN8Z Goes Solar

Lee Badman, KC2IYK

If you have the pleasure of running across Pat Browns, WN8Z, of Granby either on the air or in person, be sure to ask about his exploits in the area of solar energy. Pat has a stated goal of running his shack "off the grid" and has a background in solar efforts from years of living out west.

Talking with Pat just might get your own wheels turning about potential use of alternative energy sources. Hmmm-maybe a topic for a LARC meeting?

Name the Rig:



Icom IC-281H 2M Mobile (440 RX only)

September Meeting Presentation: Satellite Tracking

Dan O Shea, N2MRE

Michael Owen, W9IP, of Jamesville, NY is scheduled to give the presentation at the September meeting.

He is going to speak about the satellite tracking program he wrote. Details on the software and Dr Owen's credentials can be found at <http://www.nlsa.com>.

Greater Buffalo Hamfest in October- New Location

Dave Moon, N2RGU

The Greater Buffalo "Harvest" Hamfest will be held on Sunday- October 14, 2007. There is a new location- the Ismailia Shrine Center, at 1600 Southwestern Blvd., West Seneca, NY 14224. (Rt 20 - 2 miles south of the Aurora Expressway RT400, near Rich Stadium.)

The Greater Buffalo "Summer" Hamfest-/WNY ARRL Section Convention- was previously held at Main Transit fireman's grounds in August.

The Fest is sponsored by Lancaster Amateur Radio Club- for complete info see: <http://gbhamfest.hamgate.net>.

September LARC Board Meeting Minutes

Carrie Williams, KC2OPF

Minutes of the September 3, 2007 Board Meeting of the Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club, submitted by Carrie Williams-KC2OPF, Secretary.

The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm by Walt Bordett-N2IK. Present were: N2IK, WB2DVE, KC2IQM, KC2OPF, KC2CZH, KB2VSJ, WB2BJW, WA2DGC, and N2MRE.

Old Business:

Secretary –

The minutes of the August 6, 2007 Board Meeting as recorded by KC2OPF were corrected as follows:

Under Old Business, Membership,

suggestion # 2 should be removed, and

the remaining suggestions renumbered.

The minutes were approved as corrected on a motion by KC2CZH, seconded by WB2DVE.

Treasurer –

KC2CZH reported that recent expenses included \$503.00 paid to Travelers for insurance, \$57.60 paid to WA2DGC for the August LongWire, and \$150.00 paid to Northeast Site and Tower for the removal of the 224.12 repeater. Funds to be deposited include \$55.00 from sales of 11 raffle tickets and \$69.00 of dues and a guest's payment for the picnic. A transfer from the savings account (repeater fund) needs to be made to cover the payment to Northeast Site and Tower. Once this is complete, the balance in the checking account will be \$637.23.

KC2IQM submitted a bill of \$134.67 for picnic costs and postage for mailing membership cards and picnic reminders.

With LongWire printing and mailing costs averaging \$60.00 a month for a total of \$720.00 a year, the club will be facing a shortage of funds this year. KC2CZH recommended asking the

membership to vote next year on whether to raise the subscription fee from \$5.00 to \$12.00, eliminate the printed option entirely, have less issues published, or other possibilities. In the meantime, suggestions were made to push raffle ticket sales, raise the Christmas party cost, and find a less expensive picnic site (DeWitt town park or Bill Pomeroy's RAGS Field Day site were suggested, though the DeWitt site would not allow antennas).

KC2CZH also raised the issue that a portion of the dues has not been set aside for the repeater fund, as it should be.

N2IK donated the fee for a table at the RAGS Hamfest to sign up members and sell raffle tickets. KC2IQM will bring a table and set up/tear down.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted on a motion by WB2BJW, seconded by N2IK.

Repeaters –

146.91 – working properly.

147.21 – working properly. WB2DVE reported that the 2-bay antenna has been repaired and is ready for installation. This should be done before inclement weather could cause problems; Veterans' Day weekend was suggested as a possible time.

224.12 – presently at the home of N2MRE, who reported that the fuse is blown, but the repeater is otherwise unharmed. He will replace the fuse and test its functionality. The board has a decision to take to the membership; given our financial situation, the repeater can be placed at the Burt St. location with the 147.21 for no cost, or the

members will need to support the cost of placing it at a different location.
443.30 – working properly.

Membership –

The club currently has 92 members, including 16 life/complimentary members, leaving 54 who have not renewed. The list of non-renewed members was reviewed, and with a few exceptions due to extenuating circumstances, a non-renewal letter will be sent to these members reminding them that we have no record of their renewal.

KC2IQM drafted a new membership form. Suggestions were made to include W5YI/ARRL after the question "Are you a Volunteer Examiner", and to change "If you submit this application after 12/31..." to "For new members who submit this application after 12/31". KC2IQM will submit the form to N2TKX for the web site after the changes are made.

KC2IQM also made blank membership cards and raffle tickets available to those who could use/sell them.

Web Site –

A suggestion was made to have an additional liaison to our web site host, and to inquire with N2TKX about when the cost of hosting will come up, and what the cost will be.

Newsletter –

N2MRE submitted information about the September meeting to KC2IYK; WB2DVE submitted information about November's 911 center tour.

WA2DGC needs an accurate count of members receiving the hard copy of the LongWire from KC2IQM so as not to have too many made at the printer.

Programs –

September - W9IP is confirmed to present a program on his satellite tracking software. N2MRE will follow up with him regarding any A/V needs he may have.

October – N2MRE and possibly N2TKX will give a program on the telemetry obtained from the launch of the MoST's rocket. They may need a video projector that interfaces with a computer. A suggestion was made to ask in the LongWire for donation of such, or for someone to provide one at all meetings.

November – Tour of the Onondaga County 911 center, one week early on the 15th.

December – Christmas Party at Twin Trees Too in Solvay on Saturday the 15th.

January – Auction.

Picnic –

27 people signed in at the picnic, with a few more attendees (family members) not signing in. The number of contacts for the special event station is unknown. Board members were unsure whether QSL's will be sent to all contacts, or only those who send one.

UNYREPCO –

N2MRE needs to supply information to N2IK so the paperwork can be completed.

Meeting Location –

For the 2007-2008 year, the club will be returning to the Roxboro Road Middle School for meetings, rather than the elementary school. WB2BJW will contact KC2IYK to have this information included in the September LongWire.

Field Day –

The consensus among the board was that the club would like to participate with Skyline Amateur Radio Club for Field Day again next year. The only drawback is the driving distance. A suggestion was made to encourage those willing to drive to bring a sign up sheet to the meeting prior to Field Day, and those interested in a ride to attend the meeting and arrange to carpool.

N2MRE explained that SARC would be unable to confirm details on the location until approximately January 2008. If they were

unable to obtain a location, LARC would need to explore other options at that time.

Christmas Party –

The form to send in with payment should be published in the October LongWire. N2MRE will forward a copy of the form to N2IK.

New Business:

147.21 Repeater Access-

N2MGU received a report from WA2U that he is unable to access the 147.21 repeater and believes the access codes have been changed. WA2U is concerned that the repeater identifies with his call sign, yet he is unable to access it. KC2UT has indicated that he has NOT changed the codes, and is checking to see if there are any other issues that could be causing the problem. WB2BJW and N2MRE will talk with WA2U to try to determine if there are issues on his end that could be preventing access. If the difficulty cannot be resolved, the club may need to look for another trustee.

Constitution –

WB2DVE and N2IK are forming an ad hoc committee to oversee a review and update of the club's constitution. WB2DVE will e-mail a copy of the constitution to all board members, who will have until next board meeting to make suggestions for changes. WB2DVE or N2IK will collect these suggestions, which will be reviewed at the next board meeting before being brought to the membership.

Those willing to serve on this committee are encouraged to contact WB2DVE or N2IK as well.

The September Club Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 27th at 7:00pm at the Roxboro Road Middle School.

The October Board Meeting will be held on Monday, October 1st at 6:30pm at the Pitcher Hill Community Church.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Mark Your Calendars- Visit to Onondaga County 911 Center on Nov 15- more to come!!

Mr. Hamby Needs A Few Good Operators- Pumpkin Patrol Time Fast Approacheth.

From Bob H, W2WRH:

Well, It's that time again folks....Pumpkin Patrol! What you say, it's only September!!! I'm actually a little late this year. I should have had this in the August Longwire. But hey I'm a busy guy...suffice to say that it is time and while I do have a core of regulars that work my bridges, I can always use more folks. Ideally there should be more than one person on a bridge. I know that most of my heros would feel better if they weren't alone out on some dark deserted bridge in the evening hours. If you don't know about Pumpkin Patrol let me explain a little...For two nights at the end of October, we sit on some 19 bridges in Onondaga county. We serve as eyes and ears for the NY State Police. If we see or hear of any wrong doing (ie: Ne'er do wells throwing most anything over the side and onto the thruway) we call net control who in turn calls either the State Police or 911 and report it. Pretty much all we're doing is baby sitting bridges, making sure nothing bad happens and the bridges don't up and disappear. This year we'll be operating on Tuesday night the 30th and Wednesday night the 31st. We'll be on the air from around 6-6:30 ish until 10-10:30 ish or so, depending on the amount of foot traffic across my bridges! So what do you say folks? What better way to have a little fun and also keep your emergency communication skills sharp in a net type of environment! If you'd like to help out or would like more information,

feel free to contact me in the following ways:

E-mail: rhamby1@twcnny.rr.com

Phone: 622-1068

If you call, please leave a message with your name, call back number, and when is a good time to call you back. Most of you know I work crazy hours and it helps if I know when it's best to call you back.

Also it saddens me to ask this of you folks, but I've been at the helm of Pumpkin Patrol for a number of years now. I've also been part of it even longer! I find myself being stretched thinner than I'd like to be. **I therefore am asking if someone would like to take over the reins of Pumpkin Patrol.**

If there is someone who'd like to try their hand at it, by all means contact me at the above mentioned outlets. I'm not giving up in the project, rather I'm stepping back to be a worker bee again instead of king of the mountain. I'm not looking to just dump this into somebody's lap, I will work with whoever comes forward until they're comfortable with the position. I will also hand over to them all my notes and information that I've collected over the years. Believe me folks it's not hard...I mean look at who's running it now! How hard can it be??? So give it some thought, trust me when I say that running the Pumpkin Patrol is an experience that I will cherish for the rest of my life!

TNX
73,Bob,W2WRH

Bob- you 'da man! Thanks for your years of helping to keep things safe for our families- Lee, KC2IYK

NO CALENDAR THIS MONTH!!!!

The LongWire September 2007

Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club

Web Page:

www.LiverpoolAmateurRepeaterClub.org

Club Call: W2CM

Club Officers and Directors

President John Rockdashil-WB2DVE,
457-2139

1st Vice President Jerry Monroe-KC2UT, 234-7901

2nd Vice President Sam Coffey-KC2IQM, 673-1828

Secretary Carrie Williams-KC2OPF, 451-5231

Treasurer Linda Jackson-KC2CZH, 458-9685

Director of the Board Walt Bordett-N2IK, 445-8161

Sergeant at Arms Earl Dewey KB2VSI, 457-1671

Repeater Trustees

146.31/146.91 Ed Schultz-KC2AWD, 668-9206

147.81/147.21 John Storsberg-WA2U

222.52/224.12 Art Bronstein-W2YPP, 445-1637

448.30/443.30 Bob Jackson-WB2BJW, 458-9685

Committees and Chairs

Membership Sam Coffey-KC2IQM, 673-1828

Technical Committee Jerry Monroe-KC2UT, 234-7901

LongWireEditor Lee Badman KC2IYK 689-2175

LongWire Publisher John Soergel-WA2DGC, 437-5805

The LongWire is published monthly by LARC, the Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club. Permission is granted to other radio clubs to reprint material from The LongWire, provided that LARC is identified as the source of the material. Material published in The LongWire that is credited to other sources, may only be reprinted with the permission of that source. A sample copy of the LongWire, in PDF format via e-mail, may be requested by sending an e-mail to a club officer. Material for The LongWire should be sent to: lbadman@syr.edu or

Lee Badman
82 S. Hamilton Street
Jordan, NY 13080

Material may be submitted electronically to any of the club officers through the club web site. Articles may be on any subject of general interest to radio amateurs. The deadline is generally about the end of the month. This allows us to meet our goals of having the electronic edition to members by the end of the first week of the month with the hard copy edition following within a week.

The October deadline is September 31

THE LONGWIRE - September 2007
Liverpool Amateur Repeater Club
PO BOX 5623
SYRACUSE, NY 13220-5623

Stamp

First Class Postage