

Key Clicks

A Club of Motivated, Knowledgeable Hams That Share in its Camaraderie & Fun

The Official Newsletter of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club Inc. W2SO

April 2011

President's Message

Joe discusses our record setting hamfest, orienteering, and this month.

Page 1

Club Updates

Did you know we have a



live scanner feed of the repeater?

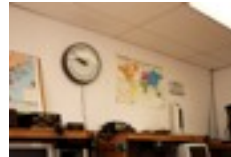
Page 2

This Month at W2SO

April is Digital Month

Page 6

Extra License Class



Page 5

WNY/S. Ont. Nets

Pages 7

Directory

Page 8



President's Message

Hi, everyone, starting off the this month I want to send out a BIG thank you to everyone who came out and helped with the hamfest. Thanks to all of you and your efforts, the hamfest went very smoothly and the best news of all is: we made some money.

As many of you may know by now we've had a couple of large donations in the form of gear. I can't say enough how much our club appreciates these donations, they will greatly enhance the operating enjoyment of all the club members. One of the best pieces is an Icom 746 Pro that was donated



Joe, WV2NY, has been introducing little games into club meetings.

by the family of the late John Fuchs, WE2Y. We've been needing a new HF rig for some time and this acquisition to our radios will be enjoyed by all.

As you can see by checking out the club's web page under "Club News," we've got a busy April coming up and I hope to keep that kind of momentum running throughout the

summer. When warmer weather arrives, I hope to get everyone outside for some GPS, Foxhunting, and mapping programs at the local parks.

I would like to say thanks to Pam, AB3PW, for setting up the Orienteering Class last month. Everyone who came out had a great time. Pam picked an excellent program/event for the club. It would be great to see more of you guys following in her foot steps. Find something you think we all would enjoy, set it up and git 'r done.

I hope to see you all at the next General Membership meeting and Thursdays at the clubhouse. It's your club- It's your hobby- be a part of it.

--73 de Joe, WV2NY



Announcements and Going-Ons

As the PREMIER amateur radio club in Western New York, we boast our very own CLUBHOUSE, open EVERY Thursday evening, with MANY activities, and the BEST company around...

Hamfest, Hamfest, Hamfest



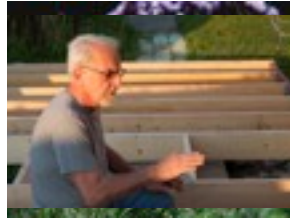
Hams came from all over Western New York, Southern Ontario, and Northern Pennsylvania to catch the bargains and a cup of coffee with old-time friends at our hamfests held at the Ismailia Shrine Center in West Seneca.

When the Weather Strikes



When the weather turns bad, don't forget to tune your radio to any of the W2SO repeaters. Our repeaters feature live weather updates and bulletins from the National Weather Service and in the event of a severe weather emergency, a weather net may be called up. Stations in various areas across Western New York will be able to provide accurate weather reports and assistance to any stations that may need it. Remember, amateur radio is a hobby, but it is also an emergency communications service. Be vigilant.

Join Us



Looking to join? Contact Don Czapla, KC2IUO. The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club offers three types of membership: Regular (\$30), Student (\$15), and Just Licensed (FREE). Dues are payable online using PayPal or the good old fashioned way. Check out the website for more details.

Traveling this Summer?



Many of you will be traveling on family vacations this summer. While you are away you can listen to the club's repeater via a scanner feed online. Just checkout larc.hamgate.net for the live feed. The delay is about 45 seconds, but its great to just listen. Heck, listen while at work.

If you travel somewhere that there is an IRLP node, dial up 4908 and talk to us here back in western New York.

The Net



Kevin, K9KVN, or Dave, N2BND, can be heard every Monday evening at 7:30 PM hosting the club's net on the repeater system. Check-ins are always welcome and needed.

Please check-in for club announcements, trivia, a few good laughs, and weekly discussions on different topics. Sometimes, following the main net, Bill will hold a simplex net on 146.400 MHz to see who can hear whom. Please check-in to the net and let these men know that you are there listening.

Key Clicks is the official newsletter of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club. Stories are edited for grammatical, liability, and space concerns. The editor strives to provide the most up-to-date information in the highest quality possible. If there are any questions, comments, or you wish to be published feel free to contact the editor.



The W2SO Repeater System...

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club maintains WIDE-COVERAGE repeaters on multiple bands for the local, INTERNATIONAL ham community to use and enjoy.

The Repeater Team



Steve Piotrowski, KC2QZF
Chris Drzewiecki, AC2AM
Wally Carriero, N2LYJ
Ron Gilson, WA2WWK
Gerald Godfrey, N2QLS

6 Meters



52.15/53.17 - 107.2 CTCSS

One of the few six meter repeaters in the area. It operates as a standalone repeater and enjoys lots of activity during band openings.

2 Meters



147.255 + - 107.2 CTCSS

The flagship of the repeater system, the two-meter repeater provides excellent coverage throughout all the counties of Western New York and Southern Ontario. The repeater has two voters: Chestnut Ridge and UB Amherst's Furnas Hall.

1.25 Meters



224.640 - 107.2 CTCSS

The 220 repeater is another unique offering of the Lancaster Amateur Radio Club. The repeater is linked in with the two-meter and 440 repeaters.

70 Centimeters



443.850 + - 107.2 CTCSS

The 440 repeater is linked in with the two-meter and 220 repeaters. It provides good coverage of Erie County.

At this time the six meter and 220 MHz repeaters are not linked. Users are advised to turn off CTCSS and only use tone encode as the repeater is not transmitting a tone back. Users are also welcomed to listen live to the repeater via a brand new webstream that can be found on the club's web site.

W2SO Orienteering Class

W2SO club members met at Chestnut Ridge Park on Sunday, March 27th, for an orienteering session. A 30 minute presentation on topographical map reading, compass usage, symbols, terminology, and more, led into an outdoor excursion. Teams took their maps and went on a waypoint finding mission, trying to locate several hidden markers. Some made it through the trails with ease, and, fortunately, the rescue dogs were on hand for those that got off the beaten path.

March's General Meeting

The March general membership meeting at the Lancaster OEM was held March 1. Final announcements were made about the hamfest and other activities. Jim, AC2EA, presented to the club his experiences with a DXPedition up to the Adirondacks. He covered many topics in detail, from the beginning of the trip to the end. Everything from securing and packaging all equipment, preparing vehicles, coordinating travel, to portable power, hygiene, safety, and, radio equipment and antennas was covered. Some time was spent discussing wilderness preparation and survival safety, making for an excellent program which captivated the many members in attendance.

April is Digital Modes Month

A lot of you have been playing with various digital modes lately, and we thought this would be a great time to have some fun with at the clubhouse. So, make a plan to come on out and see what everyone else has been doing with digital modes. For those of you who haven't been playing with digital modes, here is your chance to see them in action and find out more.

Tuesday, April 5th: General Membership Meeting, 7 PM at OEM

Program: SATELLITES - Here is a great opportunity to learn about how to talk around the world without using HF or IRLP.

Thursday, April 7th - Open House

Morse Code at the clubhouse, bring your key, your computer Morse Code program, but at least bring yourself. We will have some fun discussing and playing with Morse Code that evening. We'll set up a station and take it from there. This isn't a program, it's just something to do on a Thursday.

Thursday, April 14th. - ARES Meeting

At the clubhouse, we will be doing SSTV. So bring a picture and we'll send it from here to there. During emergencies ARES uses SSTV to send pictures of the affected area back to the OEM. Here is your chance to learn about this mode and how it can be useful for fun or an emergency.

Thursday, April 21st. - Open House

RTTY/PSK31 night at the clubhouse. Once again, this isn't a program, it's just a Thursday night where we come together. We'll set up a station and run some RTTY and PSK31 and have some fun checking out the mode and talking about it.

Come on out to learn about various digital modes. Bring your knowledge. Bring your questions. Bring a friend. Bring yourself!

May Bash 2011

May Bash is a annual club event where members come out to the clubhouse to prepare the club's and personal gear for upcoming summer events. This year, May Bash will run

from Friday, May 20th starting at 7 PM until Sunday, May 22nd wrapping up in the morning.

Bring out your portable setup and give it a try, stop by with your car and get your mobile antenna checked, or just hang out with guys for awhile. No Pressure.

The event was only about 4 hours long when originally started, and it has since turned into a full day and half. We will be camping both Friday and Saturday nights, so bring your sleeping bag and get out of the house for a couple of days or just stop by for a few minutes, your choice. Can't wait to see you there.

Articles

Do you have an idea for an article? Do you participate in an interesting facet of amateur radio? Do you like reading the articles in *Key Clicks*? If you answered yes to just one of those questions, we need you.

The staff at *Key Clicks* is looking for articles on anything ham radio, computer, or scanner related. We are really looking for some articles on camping for the May issue, especially camping with radios. The club has at least three major camping trips planned out for the summer. Not everyone has camped with radios before. If you have, let's hear it.

Don't be shy or embarrassed about writing. Send SOMETHING along and one of the editors will clean it up and polish it.

If you've done any camping with ham radio, or been somewhere cool to sleep under the stars, we want to hear from you!

Extra Licensing Class To Be Taught

This is to announce that I will be giving a preparation course for those wishing to gain their Amateur Extra Class license. This class is open to the general public, but seats will be given to LARC members first. If you wish to take this course, please let me know by replying to this message (Please place "Extra Course Enrollee" in the subject line so I can sift through the spam easier). I am limiting the class size to 12 people - the first 12 qualified by e-mail date/timestamp is enrolled.

** Make sure that your phone number and call sign is listed in your reply. **

I will keep a stand-by list if someone drops out or if the room can handle more people. Only reply if you are General or Advanced currently and wish to take the course - this is for current General- and Advanced-class license holders ONLY. If you know of a person who is interested and qualified, please let them know about this and to have THEM contact me. If they don't have e-mail, please have them call me at (716) 404-W2JM [(716) 404-9256]. Same first-come first-served applies to telephone contacts. I will be contacting each qualified enrollee within two weeks of the first class via e-mail, if you don't hear from me by then, please let me know (I have lost email in the past due to various reasons).

While I don't require that you purchase a copy of the "ARRL Extra Class License Manual," it would be helpful to have since I will be teaching the course based on that book - it is also a good reference for your shack! This in not to be confused with the "ARRL Q&A Manual," which only gives the questions and answers - not a reference at all and I DO NOT recommend it! Any Extra Exam License manual will give the same questions and answers, so if you already have a different manual, that's okay. Manuals will NOT be provided to attendees, but I will distribute the question pool in electronic form to each student and we will go through them and

answer questions and explain why the answer is what it is. It is the student's responsibility to print the question pool and insert into your own 1/2" (half-inch) 3-ring binder.

We will meet for two (2) hours per session (7-9pm), two (2) days per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays). We will meet in the former OEM building (next to the clubhouse on Pavement Rd.) The dates for the course are as follows:

Session 1: 19 Apr 2011
 Session 2: 21 Apr 2011
 Session 3: 26 Apr 2011
 Session 4: 28 Apr 2011
 Session 5: 5 May 2011 *
 Session 6: 10 May 2011
 Session 7: 12 May 2011
 Session 8: 17 May 2011
 Session 9: 19 May 2011
 Session 10: 24 May 2011
 Session 11: 26 May 2011 (review)

* - 3 May 2011 is the LARC General Membership meeting for May, no class.

The exam is scheduled for 31 May 2011 at 7pm at the LARC clubhouse (at 525 Pavement Rd; Lancaster, NY). Remember, only you will know if you are ready for the exam. The ARRL exam fee is \$15.00, payable on the night of the exam.

Good luck and study!

73,
 -John W2JM

Refrigerator Page

April 4 - 7:30 PM Net on LARC Repeaters

April 5 - 7 PM Meeting on Satellites at OEM

April 7 - Open House/Morse Code Demonstration

April 11 - 7:30 PM Net on LARC Repeaters

April 14 - Open House/LARES Meeting/SSTV Demonstration

April 18 - 7:30 PM Net on LARC Repeaters

April 21 - Open House/RTTY & PSK31 Demonstration

April 25 - 7:30 PM Net on LARC Repeaters

April 28 - Open House/Board Meeting

A Note on Editing...

You might notice that *Key Clicks* has picked up a new, yet familiar appearance again. *Key Clicks* now is in the tender loving care of two hams instead of one: Adam, KC2YQF, and Bill, N4NJJ. The latest issue follows a format similar to the one that Bill used during his tenure as editor - this is because Bill will be doing the layout and design of the newsletter while finalizing the grammar. Adam will be collecting and editing articles, rounding up pictures, and hounding y'all for submissions of any type in any length.

Why, you might ask, are there two editors instead of one? Having two editors will expedite the process of bring you the most accurate and up to date information about your club and hobby. While *Key Clicks* is not the ARRL's *QST*, *Key Clicks* has held a tradition of being one of the most complete and thorough newsletters for amateur radio in western New York. The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club has been growing in size and involvement as is *Key Clicks*.

As always, we are looking for articles. Next month's issue will focus on camping with amateur radio. The club has camping excursions planned for the summer starting in May with May Bash, Field Day in June, and the Dunkirk Lighthouse in August. Some of you might not have camped since you were in Boy Scouts where electronics aren't permitted (though the days were probably pre-cellphone and Gameboy) and the food was undercooked by scouts picking their noses. Camping with LARC isn't like that. Let's hear from you: favorite memories, what to/not pack, how you get your dipole up in a tree. Let's hear it. You even got three decent suggestions.

General Reminders...

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 PM in the Lancaster Office of Emergency Management located at 321 Columbia Drive in Depew, New York. Meetings are open to all members and those interested in joining.

Our clubhouse is open every Thursday evening beginning at 7 PM. We invite you to stop by, take a look and check us out. If you enjoy amateur radio, and all it has to offer as much as we do, then we are the club for you.

We sponsor a net every Monday evening at 7:30 PM. The net is run by Kevin, K9KVN; Dave, N2BND; Bill, N4NJJ, when he's around, or another member and is one of the most attended nets in the area. Check-in for weekly topics, question and answer sessions, and emergency preparedness.

John Maxwell, W2JM, is the exam coordinator for the club. Test sessions are held the last Tuesday of odd numbered months except July. The cost is \$15. Contact John at w2jm@arrl.net.

SEND YOUR STORIES TO:

Bill Freeman, N4NJJ, at n4njj@yahoo.com or Adam Pawlowski at ajp26@buffalo.edu.

Western New York Net Schedule



Sunday

- 1900 Erie County ARES/RACES
- 2000 Lockport Amateur Radio Association
- 2030 Lockport Amateur Radio Association Swapnet
- 2130 Western District Traffic Net

Monday

- 1830 Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
- 1900 Radio Association of WNY
- 1930 Lancaster Amateur Radio Club
- 2130 Western District Traffic Net

Tuesday

- 1830 Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
- 1930 Genesee Radio Amateurs
- 2130 Western District Traffic Net

Wednesday

- 1830 Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
- 2000 BARRA Tech Net
- 2130 Western District Traffic Net

Thursday

- 1830 Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
- 2000 Amateur Radio Association of the Tonawanda's
- 2130 Western District Traffic Net

Friday

- 1830 Niagara Peninsula Amateur Radio Club
- 2130 Western District Traffic Net

Saturday

- 2130 Western District Traffic Net

Officers, Board Members, Ex-Officio

The Lancaster Amateur Radio Club has many volunteers and is always looking for more... help your club out today!!

Officers

Joe Gearhart, WV2NY - President
 Steve Piotrowski, KC2QZF- Vice President
 Luke Calianno, N2GDU - Secretary
 Chuck Curtin, W2EM - Treasurer

Board of Directors

Kevin Retzer, K9KVN
 Chuck Lawson, KC2BLH
 Jay Thompson, KC2NVL
 Karl Hutchinson, W2KTH
 Bob Delameter, AA2ZW

Ex-Officio

Adam Pawlowski, KC2YQF - Key Clicks Editor
 Bill Freeman, N4NJJ - Key Clicks Editor and Public Relations
 Kevin Retzer, K9KVN - Monday Night Net Director
 Don Czapla, KC2IUO - Membership Chairman
 Luke Calianno, N2GDU - Budget and Internet
 Jim Glor, N8GXR - Turn Key
 Joe Gearhart, WV2NY - Trustee

LARC CLUBHOUSE ADDRESS

Lancaster Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
 Lancaster Town Center
 525 Pavement Road
 Lancaster, NY 14086

INTERNET ADDRESS

<http://larc.hamgate.net>
 Email reflector:
larc@larclist.hamgate.net
 IRLP: 4908

DUES INFORMATION - YEARLY

\$30 Regular Membership
 Includes all family members.
 Dues run from Jan. to Dec.

