10 METER ROUNDTABLE
WEDNESDAY NIGHT @ 2030 HRS
28.450 MHz.
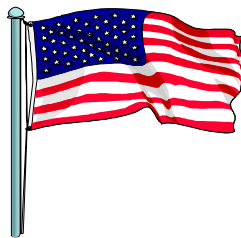
LCARA TWO METER NET
THURSDAY EVENING @ 1900 HRS.

LCARA WEB SITE
wwwlcara.org

The LCARA Patch

Volume 40, Issue 2   *FEBRUARY 2018*

The PATCH
Published by the Lake County Amateur Radio Association
P O Box 868
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February's meeting is at Tri-Point Medical Center
Physicians Pavilion (Lower Level)
7590 Auburn Rd., Concord, OH 44077
http://lakehistorycenter.org/

Meeting @ 7:30 pm on February 7th
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FEBRUARY ISSUE OF THE PATCH

MINUTES FROM JANUARY 3rd MEETING

NO MEETING

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

NO MEETING

From the Corner Office of the VICE PRESIDENT, LARRY K8LPC

Greetings Everyone ☺

February has arrived. I hope that everyone kept warm during the deep freeze and also enjoyed the thaws. Since we still have some "Inside Time" before spring so let me take some time to promote our two weekly nets. Joe N8JKO and I alternate as the Net Control Stations for the Lake County ARES Net on every Monday evening at 7 PM, we also have our Thursday evening net at 7 PM where Bill N8IJG is the usual host. Please consider taking some time to check into the nets, they are held on our 147.210 repeater; please make sure to have your radio programmed with a PI tone of 110.9.

As of right now, we have no scheduled Public Service events, but keep your HT's charged up and your Safety vests handy because we'll be pulling our Communications Trailer out for duty before you know it. I'm sure that Mike WB8ZGH will be giving us an update soon in regard to our schedule for this year.

We canceled our January meeting due to the deep freeze. We will start 2018 with the announcement of the 2017 "Ham of the Year" at the February meeting.

I'd like to remind everyone that the February meeting will be held at our winter location, we will be meeting in one of the meeting rooms located on the lower lever of the Tri-Point Medical Facility located at 7590 Auburn Road in the Physicians Pavilion.

We are collecting 2018 dues through March. Please see Rick W8QL or any Board Member to keep your membership current.

Our next VE testing session will be on Saturday February 3rd at 12 noon at the Kirtland Library. We do entry level testing and also upgrades. Please arrive a little early so you can fill out the required paperwork before the exam begins.

The next LCARA Board meeting will be at the Tri-Point Facility on Wednesday February 14th in the Board room at 7PM.

Our February breakfast meeting will be on Tuesday February 20th at the Perkins in Painesville.

We are always looking for Guest speakers or ideas for presentations. Please contact Joe N8JKO or myself if you have any ideas.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the Tri-Point Medical Facility on Wednesday February 7 at 7:30 PM, bring a friend ☺

73 de Larry Caskey K8LPC

LCARA Vice President

K8LPC@ARRL.NET

FEBRUARY Backscatter 2018

136 Years Ago: Thomas Edison is issued a patent for an improvement to the telephone, a carbon microphone. He put a finely divided conducting material, carbon, between metal cups mounted on arms is attached to the mouthpiece diaphragm. Sound waves at the mouthpiece move the diaphragm; the arms change the pressure on the carbon button which in turn varies an electric current passing through the carbon button. Changes in the current correspond to the instantaneous amplitude of the sound wave.

35 Years Ago: Mike, WD8IVL coordinates a joint Field Day team, with LCARA joining the now defunct LGARC (Lake Geauga Amateur Radio Club) for a major effort to be tops in the county for our class.

The FCC appears ready to implement a no-code license within the next few months. The ARRL asks for an 18 month delay in order to develop the Volunteer Examiner program, which is still in the planning stage.

30 Years Ago: In a low news month, a page of The Patch is dedicated to the 40th anniversary of the transistor, born in 1947. Now, in 2018 it's 70 (my Lord, it's as old as I am!), so let's all sing together…. Happy Birthday to You, Happy Birthday to You Dear Transistor …..

25 Years Ago: Czech your countries list, as Czechoslovakia officially split into Slovakia (OM) and the Czech Republic (OK) on January 1st.

20 Years Ago: AES is sold to Wisconsin businessman Phil Majerus! Effective January 1st, the chain, founded in 1957 by Terry Sterman, W9DIA changed hands, with new management stating that most employees will remain in place, and it's "business as usual".

15 Years Ago: The annual club dinner is planned for February 8th at the Perfect Match, er, Blue Tip, er, Fourk.

10 Years Ago: A new one! Swain's Island, KH8/S is declared a new entity. Not to be confused with Swain's Island Newfoundland, it is an atoll in the Tokelau chain. It is administered by the United States as part of American Samoa.

5 Years Ago: The March meeting will be held at the EOC on Garfield Road. Members are cautioned to "WATCH your SPEED 25mph ENFORCED".

"Mike WB8ZGH report(s) that nothing   important is going on".

LCARA Historian

Scott KO8O

DX ALERT FEBRUARY 2018

3Y – Bouvet Island - *This #2 most wanted entity should be QRV early February as 3Y0Z for about two weeks. Startup date depends on weather during the two-week voyage. Don't miss this one!*

YN – Nicaragua - *WB2REM, Jim, and WY1G, Mark, will be operating from Granada, Nicaragua with special call H7DX from February 26 to March 6. Listen for them on SSB, CW and FT8.*

5A - Libya - *5A1AL, Abubaker, likes 30 Meters FT8 (10.136 MHz) in the 1900-2200Z time frame.*

CE9 – Antarctica - *LU1ZAB has been QRV on 40 Meters SSB between 0000 and 0400Z. The station is located at the Argentine Antarctic Matienzo Base located in Graham Land (AN-016).*

IS – Sardinia - *In celebration of the 80th anniversary of the First Class CW Operators' Club (FOC) IS0AFM, Simone, will be operating with special call IR0FOC through 2018.*

P4 - Aruba - *During the ARRL DX CW Contest, February 17- 18, AE6Y, Andy, will operate as P49Y in the SOAB category*

PJ2 - Curacao - *K8ND, Jeff, "will be at the Signal Point PJ2T station January 18 to February 5". He and W8WTS, Jim, plan to operate in the CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW Contest "for the ninth time as PJ2T". Outside the contest look for Jeff to be focusing on the low bands with his PJ2ND call.*

Happy hunting!

Jim, AA8OY   Thanks to Weekly DX and ARRL DX

SKYWARN TRAINING

Skywarn Training will take place at Lakeland Community College on Monday April 23, 2018. The location is room T-129 at 18:30. Please be there prior to class to register. Look forward to seeing many of you there in April.

VE TESTING IN LAKE COUNTY

Exams are held every other month.

The Lake County Amateur Radio Association will be holding its **2018** Amateur Radio license exams at **the Kirtland Library**, 9267 Chillicothe Road, on the following dates:

Saturday, February 3	Saturday, August 4	Saturday, April 7
Saturday, October 6	Saturday, June 2	Saturday, December 1

This bi-monthly schedule is the first Saturday of every even-numbered month (e.g., February being the second month, etc.), and will be held at the Kirtland Library, 1.7 miles south of I-90 on Route 306 (Chillicothe Rd). The library is on the left, just beyond the Marathon gas station. The tests will start at **12 noon.** Please arrive a few minutes earlier.

To register, you will need the NCVEC 605 Form, which will be available at the test. If you would like to complete one ahead of time, be sure it is the Sept 2017 version or later. You can find it at **www.arrl.org/files/file/ncvec605-3.pdf**

Be sure to bring **the underline original and a copy of both your license and any CSCEs you may have to the exam.** The cost is $15.00, and if you wish to pay by check, it should be made out to the ARRL/VEC. Identification with your picture is also necessary, such as a driver's license. If you have any questions, please contact Scott Farnham, KO8O, at (440)256-0320, or scottfarnham@roadrunner.com

Breakfast Date for FEBRUARY 2018

Mark your calendar the next meeting of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Group is at the Painesville Perkins on **Tuesday, February 20th** at 8:00 a.m. Breakfast orders start being taken at 8:30 am. This group averages 10-15 people from all counties, and it provides a great opportunity to meet other Hams, sell and trade your spare equipment. This is not a club event. Please encourage any Hams or Non-Hams, to bring your significant other, or a friend, to breakfast. It is a fun gathering.

LCARA BOARD MEETING

The January Board meeting will be at the Tri-Point facility on February 14th @ 7pm, in the Tri-Point Board room.

To find the Board room, simply continue walking past the regular meeting rooms down the hallway. The Board room is located on the left from the main elevators.

All members are invited

FOR SALE OR SWAP

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE: BY BILL, N8IJG (CALL) 440-943-1703

1. Heathkit DX-60A AM/CW Transmitter with HG-10 VFO, Asking $150.00
2. MFJ 8268 Digital SWR/Wattmeter/Freq Readout, Asking $140.00
3. Drake 2-B Receiver w/2-BQ Q Multiplier and Speaker, Asking $350.00
4. Icom IC-756 Pro 3 Transceiver, Asking $1300.00
5. Icom IC-820H 2/440 Base Dual Band Transceiver All Mode, Asking $600.00
6. Icom IC-275H 2 meter All Mode Transceiver, Asking $600.00
7. Swan 350C w/117XC PS, Asking $300.00

FUTURE DATES

May 18, 19, & 20, 2018
May 17, 18, & 19, 2019
May 15, 16, & 17, 2020

hamvention.org

Mark Your CALENDAR

Event	Contact	Location	Date
ARES	WB8ZGH mgoffos@ymail.com	147.210 MHz	MONDAYS 19:00
Two Meter Net	Bill N8IJG n8ijg@arrl.net	147.210 MHz	THURSDAYS 19:00
Ten Meter Roundtable	WB8ZGH mgoffos@ymail.com	28.450 MHz	WEDNESDAYS 20:30
LCARA Meeting	Larry K8LPC@arrl.net	Tri Point Medical	2/7 19:30
LCARA Board Meeting	Larry K8LPC@arrl.net	Tri Point Medical	2/14 19:00
Breakfast	lcara.org	Painesville Perkins	Tuesday 2/20 08:00
VE Testing	Scott, KO8O, at 440-256-0320	Kirtland Public Library	2/3 12:00 PM
HAMRADIO PRESENTATION	Bob, K8QXO, k8qxo@arrl.net	LCHS	3/15 7:00 PM

The following articles by Dan Romanchik KB6NU are sent out monthly and I have found to be interesting, if you enjoy them I will put more of them into future issues of the PATCH.

Catalogs are about possibilities

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When I was a kid, I used to regularly get catalogs, such as the Allied Radio and Lafayette Radio catalogs shown below, and pore over them for hours. Even if I couldn't afford to buy the latest Knight-Kit or Lafayette shortwave radio, I could imagine what it would be like. These catalogs were chock full of possibilities.
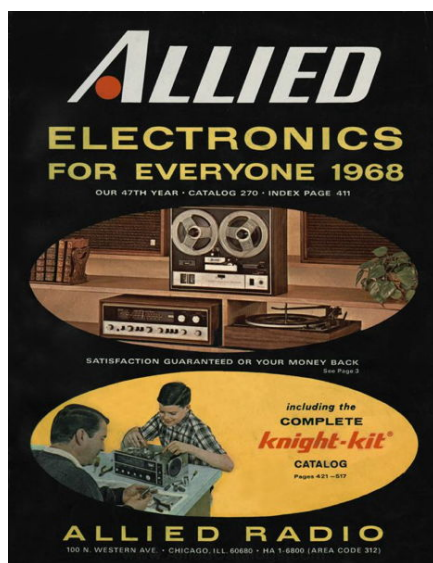
I spent many hours poring over the Allied and Lafayette catalogs as a kid.
These two are from 1968, when I was 13 years old.

So, you can imagine how I felt when, last Thursday, I found both the Autumn/Winter 2017 DX Engineering catalog and the 2018-2019 Newark Electronics/element14 catalog in my mailbox.

DX Engineering has really taken the amateur radio world by storm over the last ten years or so. I probably don't have to tell you about that. If you're an active amateur radio operator, I'm sure that you have heard about—and probably ordered from—DX Engineering.

I think that DX Engineering did a very smart thing by investing the money in a print catalog. There's something about browsing a print catalog that is just more satisfying than browsing online.

DX Engineering has just about everything you need to have fun with amateur radio. The one glaring omission? They still don't carry my study guides!

The Newark/element14 2018-2019 catalog is a completely different beast. Amateur radio operators are only a small part of Newark/element14's market, but one nonetheless. They have, for example, attended the Dayton Hamvention for many years.

As such, the catalog is not a "ham radio" catalog, but if you build stuff at all you'll find something of interest in its 1,799 pages. It includes nearly any kind of electronic part that you might need.

The section that might you might want to start with is the "makerspace" section. In this section, you'll find Raspberry Pi's, BeagleBones, and even micro:bits. They really have everything, though, including passive and active components, connectors, cable, and enclosures.

Like I say, these catalogs are all about possibilities. You can search each company's website and find the parts they carry quickly and easily, but that experience is just not the same as browsing a print catalog and daydreaming about what you might find there.

So, get your own copies—they're free—and page through them. I'd be surprised if you didn't run across something that you didn't know about before, and it gave you some ideas about your next amateur radio project.
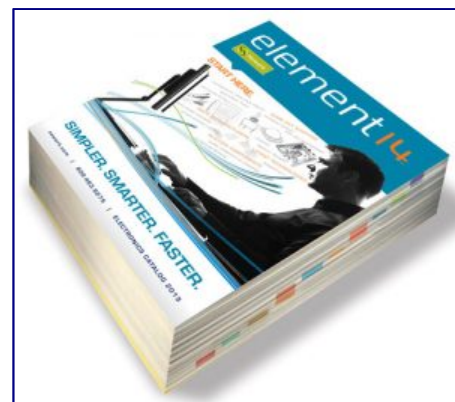
FT–8: I'm not really feeling the magic

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Partly out of curiosity and partly because Jeff, KE9V, shamed me into it, I setup my Signalink interface, downloaded WSJT-X from https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjtx.html, and started operating FT-8, the latest "shiny object" (as the ARRL dubbed it) from the K1JT team. As you probably know, this mode has really caught on with the digital crowd, and the waterfall is chock full of FT-8 signals. Part of the reason for this is that it has some of the characteristics of JT-65, but is not as excruciatingly slow.
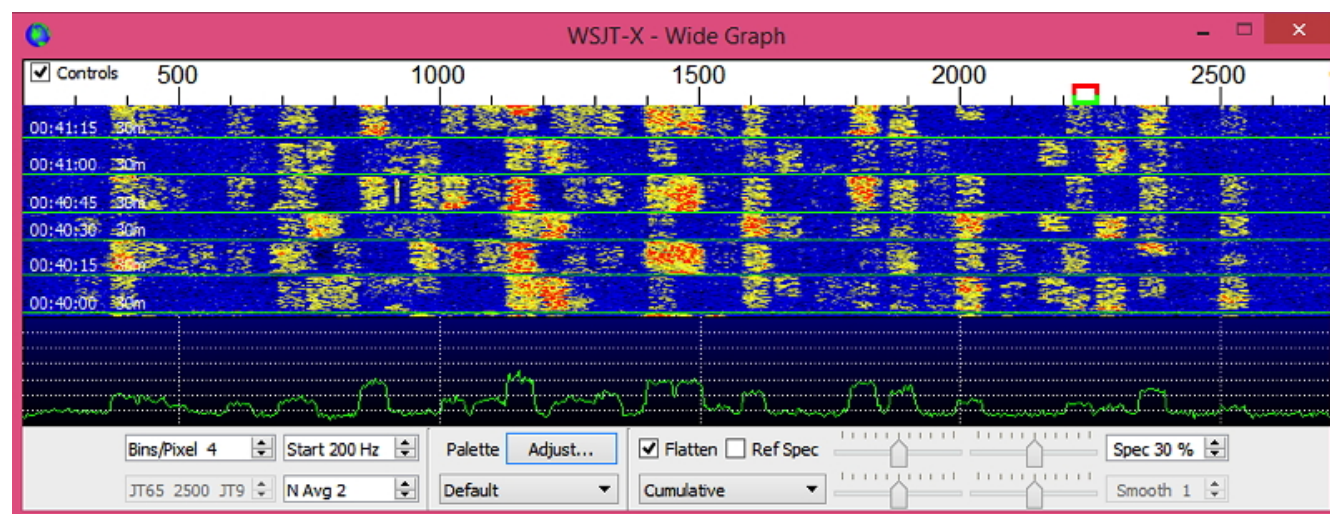
A waterfall display generated by WSJT–X at 7:30 pm, 11/23/17.

Over the past couple of days, I've made 32 QSOs, including a couple of DX contacts. It's been fun to try something new, but to be honest; I'm not really feeling the magic.

Part of it is that I don't feel like I'm really doing anything. I downloaded the software, plugged in my digital interface, fooled around with the settings a bit, and then, the computer started making contacts. I have to click a few on-screen controls to make contacts, but even that's a step that could be easily programmed in by the WSJT-X developers. (In fact, I wonder why they haven't done that already!)

WSJT–X screenshot. The sequence of transmissions in the Rx Frequency window comprises a contact.

Take a look at the screenshot above to see how a typical contact happens. When a CQ appears in the "Band Activity" window, you double click on it. When you do this, the software begins listening for signals on that frequency. In this case, I double-clicked on the CQ by WA9THI. When I double-clicked on the CQ, the program began decoding signals on that frequency and display the transmissions in the "Rx Frequency" window.

Then, I clicked on "Enable TX" and the program began the contact sequence, sending "WA9THI KB6NU EN82." EN82 is my grid designator. This is shown as the first yellow line in the Rx Frequency window. The transmissions that I sent are highlighted in yellow. The transmissions sent by WA9THI are highlighted in red.

The sequence of transmissions shown there comprise a complete contact, and that whole process takes less than two minutes. And, once WA9THI received my first transmission, the sequence is all automatic. You just sit there and watch the two computers talk to one another.

While I can certainly appreciate the thought and the work that went into the design of the protocol and programming to implement it, sitting and watching the computers talk to one another just doesn't excite me. On the other hand, if you're one of those guys who wants to make contacts, but doesn't really want to talk to anyone, than this is the mode for you!

Here are a few more notes about FT-8 operation:

- Not surprisingly, synchronizing your computer with the other stations computer is very important. To do that, you need to get your computer to use the network time protocol (NTP). I failed to do this when I first installed WSJT-X, and while my waterfall was full of FT-8 signals, WSJT-X just wouldn't decode them.

- I got my PC laptop to talk ntp by installing Meinberg NTP software (http://www.ntp.org/ntpfaq/NTP-s-def.htm). Once I did that, WSJT-X magically started decoding transmissions.

- Most of the cool guys seem to be using Meinberg NTP, but there are other options. One of the guys in our club is using a program called Dimension 4, for example.

- Apparently, you don't have to limit your power output as you would with PSK-31. At first, I set my output power to 10 W. I had a bit of success at 10 W, but I expected more. When I asked on Twitter how much power other guys were using, most of them said that they were using more than that.

- For the last couple of sessions, I've been setting my output power to 25 W, and I've been having more success. I've now worked several Europeans on 30m.

- Even at 25 W, my signal reports are more often than not, not as good as the signal reports I'm handing out. I haven't figured this one out yet. This doesn't happen to me when I'm operating CW, so I don't think it's my antenna.

- When I'm operating, I write down the calls of stations I've contacted. The reason for this is that while WSJT-X does have a logging function, it doesn't have a log window, so unless you have a great memory, you could end up working guys two or three times a session. That's probably not a big deal since contacts are so quick, but I'd rather avoid doing that if I can.

- WSJT-X works "split." While most contacts take place on the same frequency, a station can call you anywhere in the passband of your receiver and WSJT-X will decoded the signal and begin a contact. This threw me the first time or two that this happened, and I tried to change my transmit frequency to match the other station's. In doing so, I messed up the sequence. I now just let the contact proceed normally, and it works out great.

- When I work the other digital modes, I set my IC-746PRO to the USB-D mode. In this mode, the receive passband is narrower than for working phone. When operating FT-8, however, you don't want to limit that passband. Signals will appear across the entire 2.6 kHz of the USB signal, and if you narrow the passband, you won't be able to work those stations.

- WSJT-X checks the validity of call signs. This afternoon, there was a guy who had typed in his call as "WAMAD" and was calling CQ. WSJT-X wouldn't let me answer that CQ.

- Operating this mode opens up the possibility of working more stations whose callsigns spell words and adding those QSL cards to my collection. I have, for example, already worked K1GUY, N4HER, and N5SLY. I'm guessing that these guys don't operate CW.

All told, I've found this to be an interesting foray into a new digital mode. While I'm not feeling the magic that some others seem to be feeling when operating FT-8, it certainly will be a change of pace to operate this mode from time to time. Give it a shot and tell me what you think.

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not working FT-8, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

LCARA NET INFORMATION

LAKE COUNTY ARES NET

The Net is Every Monday at 7:00pm on the 147.210 repeater. This net is open to all licensed operators; you do not need to be a member. This net is provided for operators to verify the proper operation of their equipment and verify their station's capabilities in the event of an emergency. Here is your perfect chance to be Net Control or Alternate Net Control. Step forward, no experience is necessary, everyone will help you.

LAKE COUNTY TWO METER NET

The 2 Meter Net runs weekly. Come join your fellow hams on Thursday's at 7:00 p.m. on 147.210 MHz.

This is an informal net where the group can discuss any subject for the good of the group, great time to ask those questions, especially from the new operators. List your items related to ham radio that you want to sell or swap and any sunshine announcements to pass on.

N8IJG brings us the ARRL News when available. Bill is always looking for Alternate Net Control Operators. Please check in.

TEN METER ROUNDTABLE

The 10 Meter Roundtable meets on Wednesday's at 8:30 p.m. on 28.450 MHz.

This is an informal roundtable where the group can chat about anything that comes to mind and even correct some of the world's problems.

You don't need to be a LCARA member, just have at least a Tech ticket and some 10 meter gear.

The Roundtable is a good chance to meet old and maybe some new friends. This is a "Round Table" anyone can start it off on 10 meters. Any questions contact WB8ZGH.

OHIO EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NETS, COLUMBUS EOC

Ohio Emergency Preparedness Net, W8SGT, is on every Tuesday at 7:15 pm. Try 3.902 MHz, tune up and down the band and check in! Follow on Twitter (hashtag W8SGT) for frequency information on the 80 meter band.

Ohio Digital Emergency Net is held on Tuesdays at 8:00pm (0100 UTC).
OHDEN meets on 3585 KHz +/- USB.   http://ohden.org/
This net is looking for all Ohio Counties to check-in. Learn as you go.

Modes: OLIVIA 8/500/PSK31 alternate, with MT63 1K for bulletins.

Frequency: 3585 KHz, 7072 KHz alternate.

MT63 2K on VHF/UHF with PSK as an alternate (Assigned locally)

THE AMATEURS'S CODE

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE….. never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL….. offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE….. with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY….. with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED….. Radio is an ad vocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC….. with station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Voice Repeaters N8BC

147.210 with a .600 MHz+ offset PL tone of 110.9 Hz.
224.500 with a 1.6MHz.-offset, PL tone of 141.3 Hz.
444.650 With a 5.0MHz. +offset, PL tone of 131.8 Hz.
(Repeater & N8BC trustee, Bob Liddy, K8BL)

Web site: *www.lcara.org*

To receive the Patch via email in PDF format *Send an e-mail to lcara_patch-subscribe@yahoogroups.com*

THE LAKE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION