

SHORT SKIP - FROM THE PARADE STAND

By Tim McGillen/N9CA 2024 LCARC President

www.W9LJ.org

February 2024 issue

*Click on [blue or underlined wording](#) to open the internet topic links

January's Meeting was switched to virtual on ZOOM due to the freezing roads. The Meeting's program was simply outstanding and presented by by Karin Thompson KD4DXX of RT Systems.

Karin's company makes software and custom cables that allow for easy computer programming of both your HTs and newer desktop radios.

I was thrilled to learn that they will answer your phone calls, and walk you through solutions. Once you have their programming software with just a click or two, you can program in all of NWI and Chicagolands repeaters (and PL tones) into your HT's memories. Easily add banks for locations you travel too as well... and yes... they handle GMRS and DMR repeater systems too. Don't see your radio? Call them! www.rtsystems.com



February's Member Meeting I will be bringing discount coupons for RT Systems products. The meeting is Friday the 9th at 7:30 PM

February's Board Meeting is at 6:30 PM prior to the General Meeting.

Meetings are now on the 4th floor of the 7 story EMA/Lake County health department building at 2900 W. 93rd Ave Crown Point Indiana.

Ample parking - Handicap accessible - You do not need to be a LCARC member to attend.

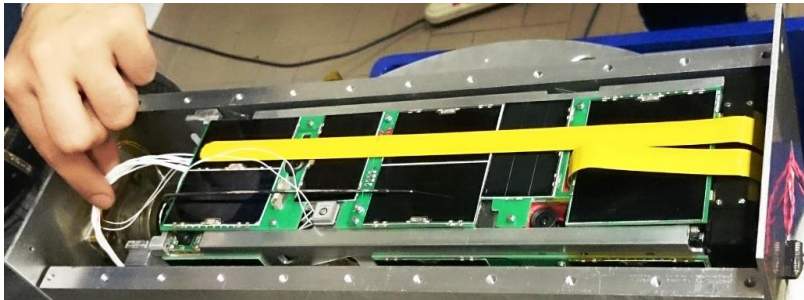
Don't be left out! New Club members receive 2024 Club membership for just \$20... or 3 full years of membership for \$50

Oh... and yes... the rumor is true we will have pizza and refreshments

The LCARC Information Net

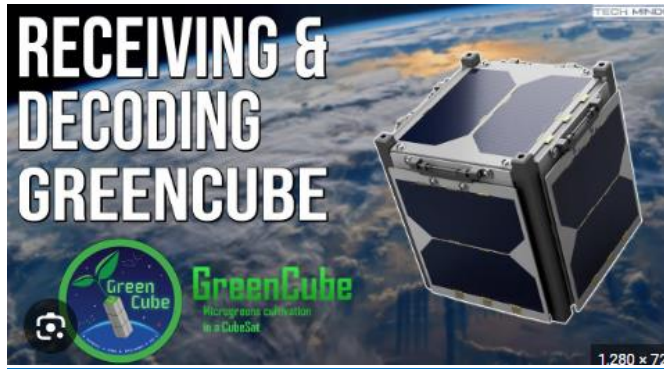
Wednesday's NET resuming February 7th - 8:00pm 147.000 or 442.075 pl 131.8

Short 30 minute net. Get to know your local hams. All hams are welcome. You definitely do not have to be a Club member to check-into the net.



Will satellite IO-117 (green-cube) Ham Radios only Medium Earth Orbit (MEO) Satellite be Decommissioned February 5th 2024?

<https://www.amsat.org/amsat-responds-planned-decommissioning-io-117-greencube/>



<https://youtu.be/Rr87Ci96SRY> short 8 minute video on How-To-Use IO-117

Fox Hunting : Should We Switch From 2 meters to 80 meters?



<https://ve7sar.blogspot.com/search/label/Fox%20Hunt>

<https://youtu.be/YK3gETNc2jU>



Extreme Weather Testing of an “off-the-grid” GPS Receiver

<https://oh8stn.org/blog/2024/01/21/retevis-ailunce-hd1-gps-first-impression/>

[FCC Targeting Pirate Radio Stations](#)

<https://www.radioworld.com/news-and-business/headlines/fcc-will-add-vehicles-for-pirate-radio-enforcement>

[Ham Radio Contests – Get The Latest + Rules + Links - Right Here](#)

www.contestcalendar.com

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2024/February%202024%20Corral.pdf>

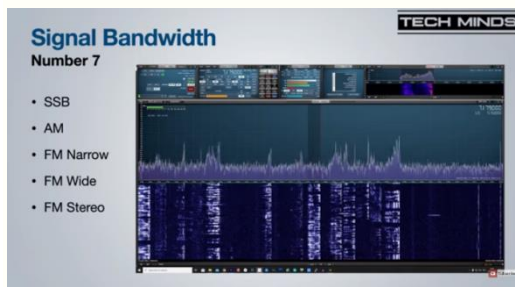
[Hacking the World with SDR Dongles](#)



<https://youtu.be/ZuNOD3XWp4A>

[10 Common Mistakes With SDR Dongles](#)

<https://youtu.be/https://youtu.be/ORFYJuCo6jg>



Local February Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/24/2024 - Cabin Fever Hamfest

Location: LaPorte, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: LaPorte Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.lpcarc.org>

[Learn More](#)

- Free Parking
- Expanded VE Testing Area (9:00 am)
- Food Concessions
- Door Prizes

Local VE Test Session

02/10/2024 | Valparaiso IN 46383-4820

Sponsor: Porter County Amateur Radio Club

Location: Valparaiso Public Library

Time: 9:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

List of VE Teams that offer On-line Exam Sessions link > [Go Now](#)

If testing to upgrade or renew: Bring a photocopy of current license or a copy even if your license expired less than 2 years ago.

Exam Candidates: You are **REQUIRED** to register in the FCC CORES system and receive a FCC Registration Number (FRN) before exam day. For FRN registration information, see item #4: link > [Exam Session Requirements](#)

Candidates could go directly to the FCC CORES User Account and Registration

page: <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>

Click [Here](#) for FCC CORES Tutorial Videos.



[Local SKYWARN Spotter Net](#)

Wednesday, all check-in welcome 7:00pm W9SRC/r 146.640 pl 107.2

Skywarn® Spotter Training **Spring 2024 In Person and Virtual Registration Is Now OPEN**

https://www.weather.gov/iwx/Spotter_Event_List

NWS Northern Indiana (IWX) Student Volunteer Application - Summer 2024

opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students studying Meteorology or a related degree program to gain real-world, operational forecasting experience as a student volunteer. Ideally, we are looking for college students going into their Junior or Senior year (or in graduate school) but will also consider Freshman/Sophomores if their major is declared.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdyVUG4B1cGZssrS5JkrLV-1e9NJO8lt5B3hDs2HS589cxLq/viewform>

ARRL February Contests



School Club Roundup. Each 5-day event runs Monday through Friday from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event.

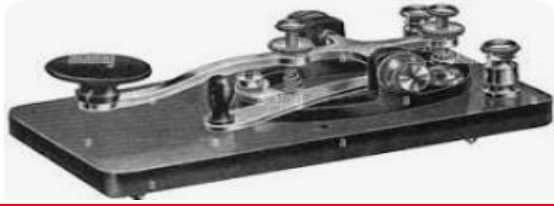
February Session: February 12-16, 2024

All amateur bands except 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters are permitted.

Repeaters are not to be used. Only recognized simplex frequencies may be used

Phone (MHz): 1.855-1.865; 3.850-3.880; 7.225-7.255; 14.250-14.280; 21.300-21.330; 28.440-28.460

CW (MHz): 1.800-1.810; 3.530-3.540; 7.030-7.040; 14.030-14.040; 21.130-21.140; 28.130-28.140



ARRL CW Contest Objective: To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. CW-only. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

CW: Third full weekend in February (**February 17-18, 2024**).

Contest Period: Begins 0000 UTC Saturday and runs through 2359 UTC Sunday

[Click here for the complete ARRL International DX Contest Rules \(PDF\)](#)

District 1 ARES

D1 net is on the N9IAA repeater 146.685 pl 173.8. Each Tuesday evening at 8:00pm. You do not need to belong to ARES to check into the net.

*There have been reports of N9IAA repeater audio distortion with some amateurs attempting to check in. The ARES NCS may decide to QSY to the LaPorte K9JSI repeater 146.970 pl 131.8.

The ARES D1 website has changed to: <https://aresd1.wixsite.com/aresd1>

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you Friday Feb. 9th at 7:30 PM. Please bring your ideas for the 2024 Club year, and leave some room for some pizza!

73, Tim/N9CA