

# *A Brief History Of The Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society 1976 - 1992*

## **1. Source of Information**

- A. Minutes of the Club Secretary
- B. Keyed-Up Publication, 1977 to 1992

## **2. Initial Organization**

- A. Members began meeting in the Sanford Chamber of Commerce Building in Sanford during the Fall of 1976. The objective was to form a club which would primarily cater to those Radio Amateurs residing in Seminole and Southern Volusia County, hence the name Lake Monroe Amateur Radio Society (LMARS). The Club has now been in existence a little over sixteen (16) years.
- B. A roster listing the eighty Charter Members is attached to this report. A review of the document indicates the current status of these pioneers is as follows:
  - (1). Nine are still active members.
  - (2). Fourteen have become Silent Keys.
  - (3). Twelve have relocated to other areas.
  - (4). Twenty-nine others are still listed in the Call Book.
  - (5). Sixteen are no longer listed in the Call Book and their exact status is unknown.
- C. The nine Charter Members who are still Club Members are: Carol and Harold Card, WA4JNG, Carl Craft, WA4AWV, Larry Gilbreath, WD4BMN, Dick Heath, WA4JNC, Ron Mettler, WB4GHU, Dave Morris, AA4XZ, Lynn Neidig, AC4SX, and Larry Jones, KF4SP.

## **3. Review of Meeting Places**

During the late 1976 and early 1977 time period, the Club Members continued to meet in the Sanford Chamber of Commerce in Sanford. For a number of reasons this facility proved to be unsatisfactory. Thereupon the Club moved to an ex-Navy Building located on the Sanford Municipal Airport. This then was the meeting place for the Club until late in 1981. At that time arrangements were made to rent a room at the Altamonte Springs Civic Center. After a ten year stay however, the limited space available, the parking situation, and the continuing membership growth prompted a move to the larger facility of the Casselberry Senior Citizens Center in the year 1991.

## **4. Roster of Former Presidents and Vice-Presidents**

1977	Dick Heath	Harry Jacobs
1978	Harry Jacobs	Larry Jones
1979	Bill Armstrong	Henry Nurkiewicz
1980	Jack Leavitt	Gordan Fella
1981	Jack Pierce	Les Smallwood
1982	Les Smallwood	John Reinke
1983	John Reinke	Nancy Gilbreath

#### 4. Roster of Former Presidents and Vice-Presidents (cont'd)

1984	Nancy Gilbreath	Lynn Neidig
1985	Lynn Neidig	Roy Mackay
1986	Roy Mackay	Ed Cox
1987	Fred Lotz	Mort Cohen
1988	Mort Cohen	Bruce Burpee
1989	Bruce Burpee	Fred Ritter
1990	Fred Ritter	Gene DiViglia
1991	Gene DiViglia	Karl Lambert
1992	Karl Lambert	Frank Wren

#### 5. Keyed-Up

Our Club Publication, Keyed-Up, first saw the light of day with the March 1977 issue. Editor Charles Finnigan, NE4I, has been on the job since 1982, for over 10 years. He certainly deserves everyone's thanks for a job well done.

#### 6. Membership Status

1976	Dues \$6.00	80	Members
1979		60	"
1980	Dues \$10.00	70	"
1982		75	"
1983		100	"
1985		110	"
1987		127	"
1988		132	"
1989		134	"
1990		150	"
1991		158	"
1992		202	"

#### 7. Club Administration

- A. 1976 - 1977. Constitution and By-Laws established. Board of Directors designated.
- B. 1980. Affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (ARRL).
- C. 1980. Joined the Florida Repeater Council.
- D. 1982. The Club incorporated under State Law.
- E. 1983. Designated as a Special Service Club by ARRL.
- F. 1983. Took out Liability Insurance. \$261.00 for three years. It now costs the Club in excess of \$500.00 per year.
- G. 1983. Accepted the Club LOGO. (Ch. 24 designed)
- H. 1991. Made changes in the Club Constitution in order to qualify for non-profit status.
- I. Non-Profit Organization Status granted by USPS. Great savings in mail.

## 8. General Operations

### A. Field Day

LMARS has participated in the ARRL sponsored Field Day Activities since its inception as an organized Club. The only exception was for the Year 1989. Interest and Club participation during the late 1970s and early 1980s was very high with excellent scores being recorded. Interest then faded for awhile but rebounded sharply in 1992 when we recorded a great turnout.

### B. The Seminole VHF Traffic Net

The Seminole VHF Traffic Net, or SVTN, was activated by the late Bill Wimberly in September of 1982. It is still going strong and growing.

### C. Boy Scout Merit Badge Program, 1990

The Club purchased the Radio Merit Badge Book and distributed them to all Seminole County Boy Scout Troops.

### D. Support of ARES/RACES Operations

(Note: All District and County Emergency Coordinators have been members of LMARS as are most of the rank and file members.)

1979 - Participated in operations incident to Hurricane David. Operated from the County EOC and five designated shelters.

1985 - (January) - Power shortages and failures prompted the County to open one shelter.

1985 - (June) - LMARS members participated in the task of providing radio communications to the local fire fighting units during the Ocala National Forest fires.

1985 - (September) - Hurricane Elena caused the County to activate the EOC and three shelters - Lake Mary H.S., Oviedo H.S., and Lake Brantley H.S.

1985 - The new County Operational Center at Five Points and the Altamonte Springs Alternate EOC became operational.

1989 - Low gas pressure forced the opening of one shelter in December.

1992 - (August/September) - Twenty members participated in the operations incident to Hurricane Andrew. We opened two shelters and manned both the Primary and Alternate EOCs.

### E. SAREX Exercised

1991 - First SAREX Mission attempted from Lyman High School.

1992 - (March) - SAREX Mission "Atlantis" very successful. Five schools participated in the operation. Good publicity for all concerned.

### F. Yearly Events

- (1). March of Dimes Walkathon
- (2). Leukemia Swimfest
- (3). Golden Age Games
- (4). Science Fairs
- (5). Holiday parades

## 9. Repeater Operations

- A. 1976 - 1980 - Club used local Sanford Repeater 147.130/147.730

## **9. Repeater Operations (cont'd)**

- B. 1980 - Repeater donated by Jack Leavitt operating on 147.015/147.615 frequency. Unit was installed at home of The Gilbreaths. Because of interference problems the frequency was changed to 147.285/147.885 and so remains to this date.
- C. 1981 - Repeater moved to the Storer Cable Tower in Altamonte Springs. Funds have been raised for a new repeater, antenna and 220 MHz control unit
- D. 1982 - Replacement repeater purchased.
- E. 1984 - New repeater control unit purchased and installed.
- F. 1985 - 1991 - Simplex Phone Patch operational.
- G. 1990 - LMARS requested an additional 2 meter repeater frequency.
- H. 1991 - LMARS assigned the 147.195/147.795 frequency by the Repeater Council.
- I. 1991 - The new ICOM Repeater that was purchased from the proceeds of the 1990 Repeater Auction was delivered. It was subsequently returned to the vendor because the unit was not suitable for our purpose.
- J. 1992 - A new repeater became operational from the Galloway Building using the Club frequency of 147.195 MHz. The equipment being used is the property of Ed Cox, W0RAO.

## **10. Training and Testing**

The recruitment of prospective Radio Amateurs and their subsequent training has always been a matter of great concern to LMARS. During the period between 1977 and 1985 LMARS Members served as instructors for the Novice/General Radio Amateur Courses being conducted at the Seminole Community College. Many LMARS members are also certified VEs by both the ARRL and the Alabama Group. Since 1988 individual Club Members have actively conducted Novice Classes at the Galloway Building in Altamonte Springs and the Casselberry Library.

## **11. Social Activities**

During its formative years LMARS had a rather active social agenda. Monthly Ladies Night Out featured visits to various restaurants for a good social evening. By 1988 however, these activities had dwindled to a once a year get-together. Picnics were usually held in conjunction with Field Day.

signed,

Frederick O. Ritter  
Club Historian