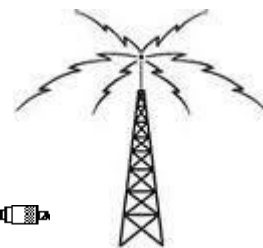




NELARC News

NorthEast Louisiana Amateur Radio Club
November 2018



Next Club Meeting:

Tuesday, November 6, 6:30 PM

**Ouachita Valley Branch Public Library
601 McMillan Road; West Monroe, LA**

**What is Ham Radio to you?
also "Using the RF Gain Control on a Transceiver"**

Station Activation at West Monroe High School

The afternoon of October 19, we were able to set up a ham station in the tailgating area of the parking lot of the West Monroe High School Homecoming game. It was a great week to be doing it because it was School Club Roundup week. On 20 and 40 meters we worked several middle-school and high-school club stations as well as the club station at Purdue University. Denise Cavin, the STEM teacher at WMHS, was able to stay with us during the entire operation.

We are now looking forward to teaching the Technician Class Ham Cram on November 17 to the students at WMHS. It would be exciting to have a group of young hams added to our ham community. Our ultimate goal is to establish a ham radio club at WMHS.

**CQ School Club Roundup
CQ School Club Roundup**



POTA from Lake D'arbonne State Park

I had the opportunity to operate a Parks-on-the-Air station at Lake D'arbonne State Park from October 23 to October 26. Using an Elecraft K2 at 12 watts to a 40M/20M inverted vee antenna at 28 feet, I worked a total of 66 contacts.

If you ever want to be a POTA "hunter" and want to find what POTA locations are currently operating, you can go to:

<https://stats.parksontheair.com/spotting/>.

73, Jim W5LA

Trivia Question:

What is the proper sideband to use on 20M and 15M?

Send Response to:
W5LA@ARRL.NET

LIFE IS SIMPLE



AVOIDING COSTLY LIGHTNING DAMAGE TO YOUR RADIO GEAR

by Wayne Burdick, co-founder of Elecraft, Inc.

Every year, especially in summer, our techs see radios come in that have been damaged by lightning, despite the radio's protective circuitry. You can take steps to reduce your own risk.

1. Many of us remember to disconnect antennas when lightning is anticipated. But in our experience, the most common source of damage, by far, is from an attached computer. Computers themselves often fail due to lightning strikes. They can also act as conduits for surges to other gear. Just to emphasize this point: Customers often say "I disconnected everything but the USB cable to the computer...", which left the interface to their radio exposed.

Note: Only in rare cases have we seen surge damage via other I/O ports (accessory jack, paddle/keyer jacks, PTT IN, KEY OUT, and DC). USB and RS232 ports are the most susceptible.

2. Some stations have an ad-hoc ground system and little or no ESD or surge protection. If you haven't already taken protective measures, we strongly recommend reading this article, which goes into some detail regarding how lightning finds its way in:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/QST/This%20Month%20in%20QST/June2017/Chusid-Morgan.pdf>

At the very least, be sure your PC and other gear share a short, heavy, common ground.

3. As for protecting your PC, here's a good starting point:

<https://www.wikihow.com/Protect-a-PC-in-a-Thunderstorm>

73,
Wayne N6KR

November Contesting Calendar

ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 3 to 0300Z, Nov 5
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 10 to 2359Z, Nov 11
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 10 to 1200Z, Nov 11
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 17 to 1000Z, Nov 18
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 17 to 1200Z, Nov 18
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 17 to 0300Z, Nov 19
Run for the Bacon QRP Contest	0200Z-0400Z, Nov 19
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 24 to 2400Z, Nov 25

For other contests, go to: <http://contestcalendar.com>