



W8LAP/r

146.620 - 100Hz
442.750 + 123Hz

www.w8lap.com



Waveguide

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association



May

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2009

***The next regular meeting will be held on
Tuesday, May 12 –7:30 p.m.
at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911)
2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.***

The Treas Sez:

Greetings to everyone. As I write this report, I am looking outside and seeing a wonderful morning. Makes me want to go outside and do something. But after all the rain we have had I can't even walk on the yard without leaving foot prints. I guess I will just have to wait.

There wasn't a lot of activity on the books for April. The only expense over and above the usual's, was a fee to print the flyers for the August 16, swap and shop. If any of you are going to a swap or amateur related event and

are willing to pass out a few flyers, please contact me so I can get you some flyers. The swap and shop is a major event for the club and the more we advertise the best it will be. Also keep in mind that Memorial weekend is the start of our Operation Care endeavors, lots of help will be needed. Contact Tom Oliver on the repeater or on the web site to sign up for a time slot.

73 Bill Miller KD8VP

The Trustee Sez:

Hello to one and all. Not much to say about our repeaters, they are working great and that's the way it should be. I will be going out in the next couple of days to mow the grass for the first time. That sure seems funny after all the snow banks I had to climb over to get to the shack this winter. I will have to do some maintenance on the shack sometime this spring. Seems the door is finally

on it last leg to falling apart. I have a replacement door ready to put on, and will need a hand to install it. I don't know right now when my schedule will allow me to work on it. Until then I want to wish everyone a safe and sane Spring.

73 Bill Miller KD8VP

The Secy Sez:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chris, kc8twl with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and introduction of members and guest.

New hams and upgrades. Maddy Long, kd8ksy got her license and Todd Rzeszut, kd8hbx up graded to general. Oscar Quellmalz, w8vxc passed away. A sympathy card was sent to the family. Fred Church, n8abr had open heart surgery. A get well card was sent to Fred.

April 18 is Michigan QSO Party from 12 noon to 12 midnight.

Secretary report was given by Flo, kc8cab. Accepted by Dan, kc1bud and seconded by Tom, kd8eby.

Treasurers report was given by Bill, kd8vp. Accepted by Dave, kd8dlw and seconded by Dick, kc8vha.

AEC Disaster Drill in Otter Lake went fine. There were 6 operators.

April 25 the Baby Walk in Lapeer is from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.

Operation Care starts in May. Do not forget to help out. Sky warn had 210 in attendance.

Trustees report was given by Bill, kd8vp. Everything is working ok.

New business Genesee County is having a SET Test on April 50.

The Milford Swap is April 18.

Break was from 7:55 to 8:10. Bill has fliers for our Swap on August 16, 2009. This our tenth swap.

50/50 was won by Todd, kd8hbx.

Meeting was closed at 8:15 p.m.

The EC Sez:

A big thank-you goes out to all those that came out to the Lapeer Walk for Babies on April 25th. The weather was great (until the afternoon!) albeit a little windy. There were about 140 walkers, strollers, and dogs. We were served a good lunch afterwards and everybody seemed to have a good time.

The nasty weather season is officially upon us with the first Skywarn net of the season taking place on the same day. Some pretty nasty weather hit the south end of the county, knocking down trees and power lines in the Almont and Imlay City areas.

Speaking of Skywarn, Pete (KB8RSG) has decided to step down as Skywarn Manager. Please join me in thanking him for his years of service to the Skywarn program.

The AEC Sez:

Thanks to all who donated their time to the "Babies Walk" on April 25th, I (we) received another job well done from their coordinator.

Also I wish to convey another thanks to the 9 operators who helped with the Skywarn net on the same day. From all reports it looks like Doug's (KC8ZCF) area got a good hit again with large trees uprooted and multiple power lines down.

Also- the Memorial Day Operation Care is running from May 22nd thru May 25th. So please start signing up to help out your club.

73 all, Tom

From the mailbag:

It's that time of year again for Tornado's and Severe Weather!

Tornado Tutorial

Preparedness, that is knowing what is going on as far as severe weather is concerned, and then having a plan, is the key. While this post addresses tornado events, the same measures should be considered for severe thunderstorm activity where high winds, hail and lightning pose a significant hazard.

OK, HERE IS WHAT TO DO, AND WHAT *NOT* TO DO:

Shelter:

1. Be prepared.

Know where the closest shelter is, even if that is only a ditch. When checking in to a camp ground, ask where the storm shelter is located. Try to get somewhere under ground, like in a basement. Know where you would go, just as you learn the exits in a hotel or airplane. When you head for the shelter take your shoes and a pillow to cover your head. Get in the center of a substantial building, away from windows. (If I ran a campground, I'd have a shelter area, which would also be the laundry/game room/vending area. Most tornado deaths are from impact with flying debris, like lumber, so a structure with substantial, thick walls is what you need to hide in. This is why you move to the center of the house when at home. Put as much wall as you can between you and flying

Upcoming events:

June 27th, 2009: Ride for Hope charity bike ride. Yes, field day weekend, but a BIG event requiring quite a few operators. Operators can come out for a few hours or the whole day. Sign-up early for best shift selection.

September 12th, 2009: 3rd Annual Lapeer Family Preparedness Day. Old Lapeer Court house lawn. Details to follow.

Lastly, this will be my last "EC Sez" article as I have officially stepped down as EC. An ever changing work environment is taking more and more of my time and I don't feel I can continue leading the ARES/RACES program. Tom (KD8EBY) will be taking the reigns as EC. I want to thank everybody for their support over the last few years.

73 and catch ya down the page,
Doug, KC8ZCF

debris.

2. Be informed.

Major storm systems are predicted days in advance, although specific damage events are predicted only minutes ahead. Get a Weather Radio. Get the kind with SAME technology.

3. In the event of a tornado abandon your trailer AND your tow vehicle.

I saw the reports where tornados blew a freight train off its tracks. (My physics major son reports to me that it only takes a sudden 10% pressure differential to tip over a railroad car.) If parked in the campground, run to a shelter. If riding down the road, stop, abandon the rig and get in a ditch, well away from the RV. Your rig/tow will become airborne and get smashed. Your job is to survive and call the insurance company.

On edit: Somebody always wants to argue that a Class A is safer in a storm than a ditch. "Why trade something for nothing" they say. Well, I have never seen a ditch rolled over and wrapped around a tree.

A note here: Cars and trucks are good in earthquakes and

lightning. But not tornados.

4. DO NOT seek shelter under a highway overpass.

There is a famous video where a family and a TV crew get trapped under a bridge. They were lucky, not smart, in that the bridge had exposed girders to hide between, however most modern bridges do not. Also, the bridge creates a venturi effect such that the wind under the bridge is faster than the wind going over it. A bridge might offer protection from hail, but not tornados. GO GET IN A DITCH AND JUST ACKNOWLEDGE THE FACT THE RIG IS TOAST!

If you watch this video closely you will see a tiny black dot bouncing around in the background, a ways down the road. The 'dot' is a minivan and its occupant does not survive being repeatedly dropped from altitude by the tornado.

Out in the flatlands they chase storms because with unobstructed visibility they can see them coming for miles. Here in Georgia and most other places we have hills and tall trees that obscure the tornado until it's on top of you. We don't chase storms here. Don't expect to see it (or hear it) coming. If you can hear it, it's too late. Seek shelter once you have the warning.

Entire cities have been wiped out in the last few weeks, but some had warning before the tornado hit, allowing people to seek shelter.

Weather Alert Radio

From time to time there is discussion on the forum about receiving National Weather Service information via radio. (Weather Alert) The SAME (Specific Area Message Encoding) technology was developed to give the public A FEW MINUTES warning, just enough time to run for cover. A prudent RVer will keep an ear out for bad weather while it is still several hours away, giving time to pack up and move out of harms way.

Weather Radios can be programmed with a State/County area identifier. (See NOAA web site listed below for your area identifier.) Most SAME radios can be left unprogrammed, and this will cause the radio to alarm on every alert message it receives whether it is for your area or not. The only requirement is to be tuned to the proper frequencies for the area you are in. Frequencies also available at NOAA web site. (The constant alarms given by an unprogrammed radio can either be interesting or annoying depending on how much of a weather buff you are. You can track the progress of the storm system by finding the counties on a map.)

Here are the 7 frequencies used by the NWS. (and Canada!) They can be programmed into any VHF scanner. The receiver in most scanners is superior to those in CB/WX radios and some cheaper WX radios. And better antennas are available for scanners as well. Also note these frequencies can be received by your VHF TV

antenna that came with your rig.

1. 162.400
2. 162.425
3. 162.450
4. 162.475
5. 162.500
6. 162.525
7. 162.550

A regular scanner will not support SAME signaling. However, it will still receive the broadcasts allowing you to check the local forecast each day. Weather alert radios are available stand alone, or built into AM/FM radios, CBs, FRS and other devices. I recommend Radio Shack simply because there's one on every corner and they keep weather radios in stock. One feature I look for is a radio that runs on 12VDC and comes with a 120 VAC wall wart power supply. Such a radio can be used with or without shore power.

More Weather Radio Info here:

<http://www.weather.gov/nwr/nwrsame.htm>

and in Canada

http://www.msc-smc.ec.gc.ca/msb/weatherradio/index_e.cfm

Note that US and Canada use the exact same SAME radios and codes. Your WX receiver works in both countries.

Watches and Warnings

A **watch** means conditions are right for severe weather events to occur and you should be paying attention to events as they happen. (Gather the lawn chairs, fold up the awning, plan indoor meals) Know where the shelter is if you need it.

A **warning** means there is severe weather event in progress, a tornado sighted or other event is happening NOW and you should seek shelter NOW.

Also note the NWS alert system will be used to warn of other environmental problems such as evacuations due to chemical spills, terrorist attack or what ever.

Emergency Equipment

Your usual emergency equipment, flashlights, raincoats and shoes will suffice, but having them available quickly is the most important. I would not buy anything special to prepare for a tornado event. A first aid kit and some other emergency supplies could be kept in a small backpack and grabbed on your way out of the RV and taken to the shelter. **In any case, a pillow to cover your head and shoes to protect your feet from broken glass and such is a bare minimum.**

Additional On-line Resources

<http://www.weather.gov/>

From this site all the weather watches and warnings of any type, including snow and even fire, are available with just a few mouse clicks.

The National Weather Service provides real-time radar, satellite and warning information. You can find a field office near you for local forecast information. The SAME area identifiers are available here. Also river and flooding information.

<http://www.weather.com>

The Weather Channel of cable TV fame. Remember, only

the NWS can issue official warning statements.

<http://www.hwn.org>

Hurricane Watch Net, for those in hurricane prone areas. The all in one source for hurricane data. Real Time Reporting.

I gained this little bit of knowledge from working net control on the Georgia Skywarn Net, a group of amateur radio operators (and others) who report observations to the National Weather Service during severe weather events. I have the privilege of relaying field reports to the meteorologists on the forecast floor in real time. This is a volunteer effort on my part as one of about 20 operators at WX4PTC, NWS Peachtree City, GA.

For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale:

I want to buy your old ham/electronic/tube gear. I'm particularly looking for the Heathkit Mohawk that I built and sold to Dave Burch four decades ago.

Contact Mike, AA8K, at: stepsisters@comcast.net or 810-987-8873

For Sale

HW-8 Handbook—covers HW-7, 8 & 9 \$15

COM port boards, ISA, 2 ports \$3.00 ea

From the estate of N8CQA:

Central Electronics 10B \$130

Central Electronics 20A \$130

One VFO's for above \$75 ea

30M two transistor transmitter in a Hershey cocoa can \$15

All offers will be listened to!

Contact Hank K8DD at k8dd@k8dd.com or 810-721-0708

Wanted

Looking for a 50 ohm dummy load for HF – Heath Antenna or equivalent.

And I am looking for a Channel Master Antenna rotator control box right now. Working or not.

Anyone have either of these sitting around your shack that you would like to get rid of?

Todd KD8HBX 810-721-0103 (after 5 PM)

**Be Radio-Active
Participate**

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 12
Hadley, MI 48440-0012

Officers

President, Bob Beswetherick, N8NE . 810-653-3856 Vice-Pres., Chris Azelton, KC8TWL..810-245-0073
Secretary, Flo Haack KC8CAB 810-793-2606 Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

Committees & Appointees.

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD Club Call TrusteeW8LAP.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Club Historian.....Charlie Whipp, KC8JBK VE Coordinator.....Al Wilson, N8NPR
Skywarn Coordinator.....Pete Headrick KB8RSG Swap & Shop Chairperson.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Field Day Chairman.....Bill Miller, KD8VP Meeting Refreshments.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Two Meter Net Mgr.....Charlie Whipp, KC8JBK Newsletter Editor.....Hank Kohl, K8DD
Public Information Officer.....**It could be you!**

ARES Repeater Nets

Monday at 9:00 PM on 146.620-
Thursday at 9:00 PM on 442.750+
Mon—Sat at 9:30 PM on 147.300+

Meetings

LCARA meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month in the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911), 2332 W. Genesee St, Lapeer MI at 7:30 p.m. local time.

Board of Directors' monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Tim Horton's at 7:30PM (Check on the W8LAP repeaters).

Newsletter

Items for the newsletter may be called to the Editor at 810-721-0708, sent by Mail (Box 88, Attica, MI 48412), or as an ASCII or Word file to k8dd@arrl.net The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

This area is for the article that you were going to write!

+++ What does ARRL do for me? +++

ARRL is the only ham radio organization in this country that can mount a sustained, full-scale effort to achieve the regulatory and legislative action Amateur Radio deserves. Through this effort, Amateur Radio, and you and I benefit.

What other ham organization in the US could have brought a successful lawsuit against the FCC in Federal Court? None.

However, because of ARRL, the FCC has been prevented from putting an ill-conceived regulation into effect. A US Court has required FCC to suspend implementing it and to go back to the drawing board. The Commission is required to follow its own operating rules in developing a new regulation, provided it wants to develop a new

regulation.

ARRL successfully showed the Court the Commission ignored its own rules when it paid no attention to relevant data it had received in developing rulemaking. The resulting rule would give unlicensed transmitters dominance over licensed transmitters. In other words, Part 15 unlicensed devices could interfere with license radio services (including Amateur Radio). The most notable Part 15 device at this time is BPL.

When one considers only BPL, if you operate from 160 through 2 meters, you have benefited from the League's fight to keep Part 15 devices, including BPL, to operate free of interference to ham operations.

**And, as a member, this is what the ARRL can do for you.
That's why I belong to the ARRL!**

Remember...DX Is!

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

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VK/trans-Tasman Contests (80 M Ph) ... QRP Category  
May 9, 0800z to 1400z

Rules: <http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman/RULES.HTM>

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CQM International DX Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category  
May 9, 1200z to May 10, 1159z  
Rules: <http://www.cq-m.andys.ru:80/>

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FISTS Spring Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category  
May 9, 1700z to 2100z  
Rules: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

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SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Category  
May 10, 0000z to 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/>

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Dayton Hamvention (QRP Event - FDIM)  
May 15-17  
Info: <http://www.hamvention.org/>

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HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN CONTEST (CW)  
May 16, 1200z to May 17, 1200z  
Rules: <http://www.ure.es/contest.html>

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EU PSK DX Contest ... Low Power (10W) Category  
May 16, 1200z to May 17, 1200z

Rules: <http://www.eudx.srars.org/>

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All America Contest (CW) ... QRP Category  
May 16, 1500z to May 17, 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.powerline.com.br/cwif/Regulamento lng.pdf>

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RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*  
EDT: May 17, 9 PM to 11 PM  
UTC: May 18, 0100z 0300z  
Rules: <http://www.fqgrp.com/>

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NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint \*\*\* QRP CONTEST! \*\*\*  
EDT: May 20, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM  
UTC: May 21, 0030z to 0230z  
Rules: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/contests.html>

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MAS "Minimal Art Session" (80M CW) \*\*\* QRP Homebrew Only! \*\*\*  
May 21, 0000z to 0400z  
North American Rules: <http://tinyurl.com/MAS-QRPedia>

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Baltic Contest (CW/SSB) (80 Meters)  
May 23, 2100z to May 24, 0200z  
Rules: <http://www.lrsf.lt/bcontest/english/rules.html.htm>

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AGCW Activity Week (CW) ... QRP Category  
May 25, 0000z to May 29, 2400z  
Rules: <http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:Activity Week>

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Michigan QRP Memorial Day Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
May 25, 2300z to May 26, 0300z  
Rules: <http://www.gsl.net/miqrpclub/contest.html>

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SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards  
May 27, 0000z to 0200z  
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

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CQWW WPX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category  
May 30, 0000z to May 31, 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/cqworldwidewpx.html>

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MQFD Monthly Sprint (CW/PH/Digital) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
May 30, 1800z to 2200z  
Rules: <http://w2agn.net/mqfdsprint.html>

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QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
May 31, 2000 to 2400 LOCAL TIME  
Rules: <http://www.qrparci.org>

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Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX (ARRL), N2APB, WB3AAL and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

**Lapeer County Amateur  
Radio Association**

P.O. Box 12  
Hadley, MI 48440-0012

**L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

PLEASE PRINT:

CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY ,STATE, AND ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE : \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

SKYWARN NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ RACES NO: \_\_\_\_\_

ARES MEMBER YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_ E-MAIL ADD.: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU AN A.R.R.L. MEMBER: YES\_\_\_ NO\_\_\_

L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP IS \$12.00 PER YEAR, RENEWABLE EACH YEAR  
ON **OCTOBER. 1ST**. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$20.00. ASSOCIATE  
MEMBERSHIP \$4.00. IF YOU WISH AN AUTODIAL NUMBER FOR THE  
REPEATER THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$3.00 CHARGE. Financing available.