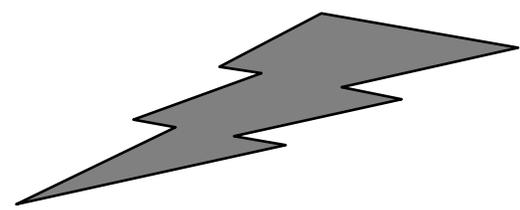


W8LAP/r
146.620 - 100Hz
442.750 + 123Hz
www.w8lap.com



Waveguide

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association



January

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2010

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

The Prez Sez:

I hope everyone had a nice Christmas with their families. I have heard an announcement on the GCARES repeater that they are getting together to compare their ham related gifts! I hope we get a few LCARA gift related stories at the January meeting.

Bill, KD8VP, was kind enough to give me a tour of the repeater site in December. The shack looked extremely well kept and Bill is doing an excellent job (not that I was spying on him). Also, the advanced age of some of our repeater equipment was a bit of an eye opener to me. Hopefully we won't have to replace anything anytime soon.

Well by the time you read this, 169 envelopes will have been mailed out with invitations to all of the county's hams who are not involved with the club. I really hope to see some new faces at the January club meeting or maybe

some old faces we haven't seen in awhile. I used QRZ to generate the mailing list. However, many of my own family members were not included so it is not clear to me how complete the list actually is. If anyone has another source I would be glad to follow up with any additional invitations.

I have noticed a few Monday night NETS where we have had 12 or so check-ins. This is an increase in participation to my memory but I would still like to see even more members checking in. Please make an effort to join us on Monday nights even if it's only "in and out".

See you all at the club meeting on January 12th.

Kevin Boxey
KB8TAR

The Vice-Prez Sez:

I hope that you all had a Wonderful Christmas.

And I would like to say a special thanks to my wife Yolanda (KC8WGK) who did a wonderful job again this year shopping and making sure everyone left with a gift. Also to Flo Haack KC8CAB who hand made and donated some of the Women' gifts.

The 2009 LACRA Christmas Party was a big success. There were 44 people in attendance. I have heard a lot of positive feedback, on the quality of food.

Hope to see you at the Next Club Meeting Jan12th at 7:30pm.

Chris. KC8TWL

The Treas Sez:

Good day to everyone and Happy New Year. The new year is starting out pretty darn cold. That's when antenna installation is at it's best. HI HI ...

The month of December was a high dollar month, with the costs of the Christmas Party being the big expense. You should know that the dinner is a reward for those that donated their time for Operation Care this past

summer and as such we should be very thankful to them. A large portion of the donations received from Op Care go for the party, but the remainder is used to help keep the club afloat. Helping to paying the electricity and phone bill for the repeater, helping with insurance, and other club expenses. If it wasn't for the volunteers this club would have to charge a very high dues to cover all

the expenses. So Thank You to all the volunteer.

We ended the year with moneys to spare so we will be in good shape until the next volunteer season.

Happy New Year to everyone

God Bless one and all

William Miller KD8VP Treasurer

The Trustee Sez:

Greeting to one all. There isn't much to tell right now about the repeater. It is working just fine and there isn't much to check on

in this cold weather. I took our new club president Kevin KB8TAR, out to see what everything looks like in the shack during December, and everything was working.

The locks were frozen as usual, but hand warmth thawed them so we could get in. I have to remember to

The Secy Sez:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by Kevin, kb8tar with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and introduction of members and guest.

Minutes was read by Flo, kc8cab. They were accepted by Tom, kd8eby and seconded by Dan, kc1bud.

Treasurers report was given by Bill, kd8vp. Accepted by Dan, kc1bud and seconded by Tom, kd8eoa.

Trustees report was given by Bill, kd8vp. He bought the hardware for repeater shack door. Bill fixed the Auto Patch. He extended the time and extended time out to 5 minutes.

E C report was given Tom, kd8eby. Kevin, kb8tar is assistant for certs and eoc.

Vice President report was given by Chris, kc8twl.

Christmas Party is at the Center Building where the swap is held. We meet at 6:00 p.m. Supper is at 6:30 p.m.

The dinner is to end at 9:00 p.m.

take a small torch with me the next time I go out there.

I have a New Years wish, and that would be that More hams would use the repeaters. It is very easy to get forgetful about monitoring the

repeaters, when there is nothing to hear for long periods of time. Come on people Ham it up.

Happy New Year and God Bless You this new year.

William Miller KD8VP Trustee

Chris has forms from the Secretary of State for call sign license plates.

Hospital report: Fred, n8abr is to have eye surgery in November on one eye. Then in January 2010 he is to have surgery on the other eye. Chuck, wa8ucs has broken ribs punched lungs and messed up ribs. Break wes from 7:57 to 8:18.

K-9 Class was on Sat. 11/14 in Genesee County.

Kevin, kb8tar would like to have programs at the meetings.

Chris, kc8twl had an article about Amateur Radio in th LA View.

There is 190 Amateur Radio Operators in Lapeer County that are not members. They are thinking of mailing a letter inviting them to the club.

50/50 was won b Lee, n8lj.

Meeting closed at 8:36

The EMD Sez:

There is going to be a SkyWarn class in March at the Dryden High School. The date will be announced as soon as it is available!

The EC Sez:

Greetings all, hope everyone had a great holiday season. The Ares Id's are ready for everyone to sign and pick up. I won't be adding pictures as I'll be re-doing them when the new Races Id's come out in 2011. If anyone knows of an Amateur who wants to join Ares (we're down to 26 club-wide) bring them along to the meeting Jan 12th and we'll get them signed up. There is no extra training involved, just the desire to assist with communications emergencies. 73, TOM

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KD8EBY@arrl.net

E.C. Lapeer County, Mi.

ARES/RACES/Skywarn

NAEMT(P) Member

**Be Radio-Active
Participate**

From the Mailbag:

What Should Every Ham Know How to Do?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list, there was recently a discussion about using modulated CW on 2m. One fellow pointed out that MFJ sold a unit that would do this. When I pointed out that this box cost \$100 and that they could do exactly the same thing with the \$18 PicoKeyer from HamGadgets.Com, I got some flack that the PicoKeyer was a kit, and that some people might not be able to build it.

I pointed out that a couple of years ago our club held a construction night, and that several people who had never soldered before successfully completed the kit. I also pointed out that even if the ham didn't have the proper tools, he or she could purchase a soldering iron, needle-nose pliers, and diagonal cutters, in addition to the kit, for less than \$100.

I don't know if that convinced him, but it got me thinking about what a ham should be able to do. This is the list I've come up with so far:

1. Solder. Every ham should know how to solder a connection, and by extension, build small kits and cables. Over the course of one's ham career, this skill will save you a ton of time and money.
2. Build a dipole antenna. The dipole is the simplest and most versatile antenna. Knowing how to build one and use one is an essential skill.
3. Check into a net. Net operation is one of the most basic

operating skills.

4. Use a multimeter to measure voltage, current, and resistance and know what those measurements mean. This is the most basic skill used in troubleshooting, and at some point or another, you're going to have to troubleshoot something.

This list does, of course, imply that a ham is physically capable of doing them. I would not expect hams that are physically disabled to be able to do everything on this list.

After I posted this to my blog (www.kb6nu.com), I got several good responses. Jeff said, "I believe hams should know how to install RF connectors, particularly the three most used in our hobby, the PL-259, the BNC, and the N connector." Blair, WB3AWI, replied, "Another thing that hams should know how to do is to measure the SWR of an antenna."

So, now I ask you, What do you think every ham should know how to do? Feel free to post a comment to my blog or e-mail me at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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When not analyzing the abilities of amateurs, KB6NU pounds brass on nearly all the HF bands and teaches various ham radio classes in Ann Arbor, MI. You can read his other musings on our fine hobby at www.kb6nu.com.

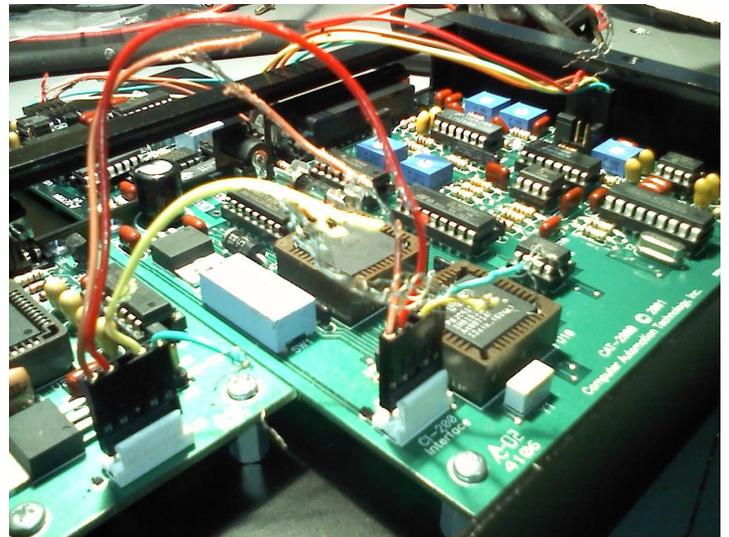
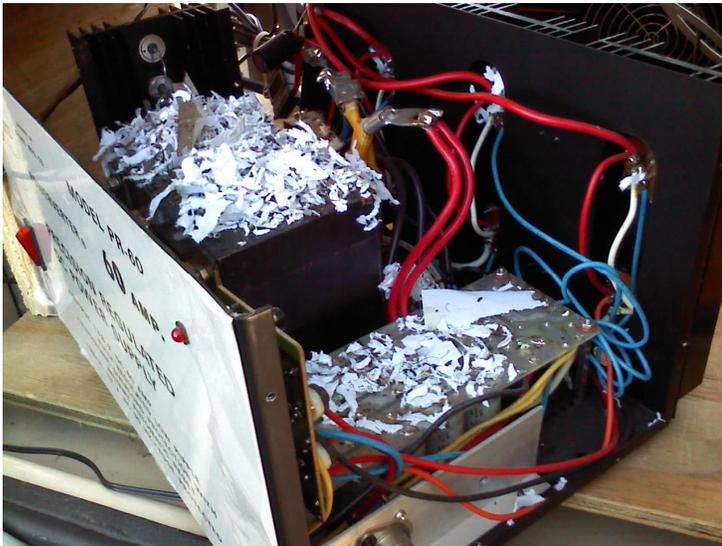
Canada has passed a law that bans the use of any hand held radio, or microphone, while driving a car. There are the usual exemptions for law enforcement and medical vehicles. And a timed exemption for Amateur Radio operators. So be very careful if you visit Canada and take your HT or mobile radio with you.

Time-limited exemption for amateur radio operators

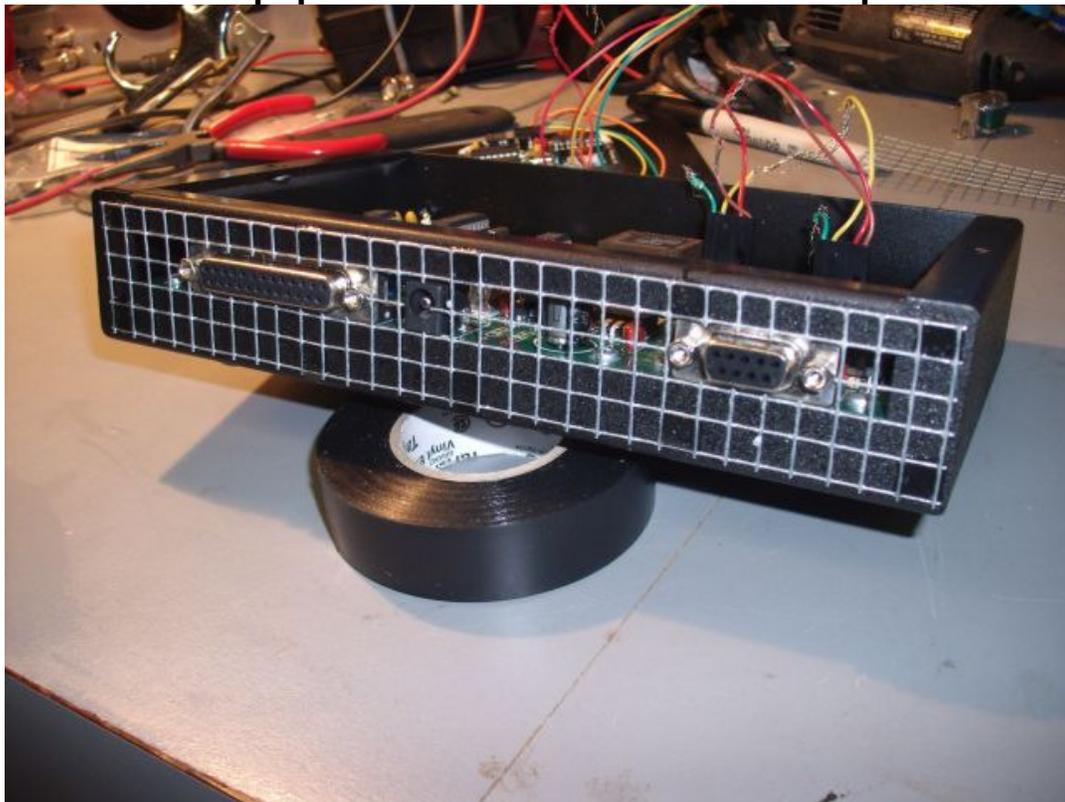
13. (1) Until January 1, 2013, drivers who hold a valid radio operator certificate issued under the *Radiocommunication Act* (Canada) may drive a motor vehicle on a highway while holding or using a two-way radio.

(2) This section is revoked on January 1, 2013.

If you remember awhile back when the link between the North Branch UHF and the Lapeer VHF repeaters was down for a period Here is the reason – in color.



Now the equipment has been “small animal” proofed!



For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale:

FOR SALE:

Henry 2K HF amplifier, floor model \$800 contact Stan, AC8W (810) 364-6674

FOR SALE:

Heathkit SB-220 80-10M Amplifier. Contact Don, WA8OLN, at (810) 367-6331

For Sale

HW-8 Handbook—covers HW-7, 8 & 9 \$15

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

Rigblaster Plus for Digital Communications – new, never used! \$100 obo

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 , with schematic \$15

All offers will be listened to!

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

Volunteer Exam Sessions

The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be **February 13, 2010** at 10:00 a.m. at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorrان Blvd, Port Huron, MI.

Pre-registration NOT NECESSARY!

Bring picture ID, the original and a copy of your present license and the original of any Certificate of Successful Completion (CSC) you may hold. The current fee is \$15.00. For further information call Martin Smith KD8IKN pioneer-2@att.net 810-385-5584

Time: 10:00 AM

2010 Dates:

Feb 13, Mar 13, Apr 10, May 8, Jun 12,
Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec
11

Contact Person:

Martin Smith KD8IKN
pioneer-2@att.net
810-385-5584

"Walk-ins Welcome"

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

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

Officers

President, Kevin Boxey KC8TAR 810-793-4986 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!

Coming Events...

January 17 – Hazel Park Swap & Shop. Hazel Park High School

Remember...DX Is!

QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

January 2010

80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***

Each Tuesday Thru Mar 16, 2010
9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA
Info: <http://www.grpfoxhunt.org>

40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest ***

Each Thursday Thru Mar 18, 2010
9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA
Info: <http://www.grpfoxhunt.org/>

DARC 10-Meter Contest (CW/SSB)... <=100 W category

Jan 10, 0900Z to 1059Z
Rules: <http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/fedcz.htm>

LZ OPEN CONTEST (CW 80M/40M) ...QRP Category

Jan 16, 0000z to 0600z
Rules: <http://www.lzopen.com/lz-open-contest/rules/rulesF.htm>

Feld Hell Club Sprint (Feld Hell) ... QRP Category

Jan 16, 1600z to 1800z
Rules: <http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home>

North American QSO Party (SSB) (100w max. QRP Entries Noted)

Jan 16, 1800z to Jan 17, 0600z
Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>

Run For The Bacon (CW) *** QRP Contest ***

EST: Jan 17, 9:00 PM to 11:00 PM
UTC: Jan 18, 0200z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.fpgrp.com/>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint *** QRP CONTEST! ***

EST: Jan 20, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM
UTC: Jan 21, 0130z to 0330z
Rules: <http://home.windstream.net/yoel/contests.html>

REF (French) CW Contest
Jan 23, 0600z to Jan 24, 1800z

Rules:
http://concours.ref-union.org/reglements/actuels/reg_cdfhfdx.pdf

BARTG RTTY Sprint Contest

Jan 23, 1200z to Jan 24, 1200z
Rules: <http://www.bartg.org.uk/sprintcontest.asp>

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes ... Low Power Category

Jan 23, 1900z to Jan 25, 0359z
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/jan-vhf-ss.html>

SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards

Jan 27, 0000z to 0200z
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Jan 29, 2200z to Jan 31, 2200z
Rules: <http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

UBA DX Contest (Belgian) (SSB) ... QRP Category

Jan 30, 1300z to Jan 31, 1300z
Rules:
http://www.uba.be/sites/default/files/uploads/hf_contests/ubatest_dx.pdf

SPAR Winter Field Day (Any Mode) ... Portable & Battery Points

Jan 30, 1700z to Jan 31, 1700z
Rules: <http://www.spar-hams.org/contests/winterfd/index.php?pg=2>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL), VA3JFF & G4GXL (QRPARI), N2APB (AmQRP), WB3AAL (EPAQRP) and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.