



W8LAP/r

146.620 - 100Hz
442.750 + 123Hz

www.w8lap.com

Waveguide

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

February

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2010

*The next regular meeting will be held on
Tuesday, February 9 —7:30 p.m.
at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911)
2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.*

Flash ---- LCARA is now on Facebook! Logon to your Facebook account and search on "Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association" and become a fan! This is an excellent way to promote the club. More info at the next LCARA meeting.

The Prez Sez:

I can't believe its time to write another "prez says" already!

Well we had a repeater problem during the net on January 25th. Some of the group tried to have the net on 146.58 simplex and only a few of us made it. Maybe we need to identify our county's procedure when the repeater is down for future situations?

Some of you may be aware of an effort here in Lapeer County to create a volunteer ground search team. There is a meeting scheduled with Undersheriff Rapson on the 5th to present our ideas, so maybe we will have a progress update at the next club meeting on the 9th. Even if the county is interested in the idea I suspect it will be a long process to get the group in place.

I would like everyone to keep a few public service dates in mind that are coming up. The March of Dimes walk in Lapeer will be on April 24th. It would really be nice to have

The Treas Sez:

Happy New Year to everyone. As I look out the window on this blurry January day I can only be thankful that I can type this in the warmth of my house and not have to be outside much. The treasury did not have any unusual debits this month, just the usual electric and telephone bills. On the other hand we did receive a substantial boost from the sale of the two old Scm 7K repeater controllers, that have been advertised on the Internet.

The controllers have been advertised on

the event well covered with LCARA members. Also, I committed to having an amateur radio display at the Preparedness Fair at the LDS church in Lapeer on May 24th. If you are interested in sitting with me for a few hours and helping to get amateur radio into the public view please let me know. I'm sure some of you have a few nifty items to display that would catch the interest of a non-ham (power will be available).

Also, I invited our District 3 Emergency Coordinator to speak to the group at the next club meeting about RACES activity in our area. I'm sure he will have some interesting information for us.

I hope to see all of you at the club meeting on February 9th.

Kevin Boxey
KB8TAR

SecondHandRadio.com for quite some time with little interest. I decided to switch them to the classifieds on QRZ. Boy what a difference that made. So many inquiry I could hardly keep up. Ultimately a ham in New Jersey wanted the older one for a back up on his existing one, and a ham club at the California State Polytechnic University spoke for the other one.

The treasury is in fine shape, with all the necessary funds to carry us through until spring. Then we can start Operation Care and do everything all over again.

Best regards & 73 Bill Miller KD8VP

The Trustee Sez:

Happy New Year! I thought that the month of January was going to be a rather uneventful month, as far as repeaters go. But Murphy proved me wrong again.

I waded through the snow piles to check on the repeaters early at the beginning of the month, that was before the thaw so the snow was quite deep. Everything check out OK so I buttoned up the shack and figured that was it for January. WRONG! A problem developed. The repeater was not hearing so well, and so therefore it could not send out a good clear repeat. Repeater can only send out what they can hear.

The problem seemed to start out the week that the Monday night net was controlled from the 911 center. I thought that it was a problem with the antenna at that facility, since they have been up there for about 12 years without any maintenance. WRONG again! The problem kept rearing its ugly head to the point that local

hams were sounding terrible on the repeater. Fearing the worst I made a trip out there on Monday the 26th. I poked and I prodded, disconnected the feedline, checked the swr using my MFJ 259B analyzer. Nothing seemed to be wrong. I did a couple of test using my HT and called for a signal report. Tom KD8EBY gave me call from CLIO, he came in quite well and said that the repeater sounded good at his end. KD8HDZ Jack gave a report from Otter Lake and said it was good, and Brian N8TFT said all was good down in Metamora. I don't know what was wrong, but wiggling and redoing some connections on the antenna seems to have fixed it. Thank just goes to show you that you should inspect your antenna and connections once in while. Everyone keep their fingers crossed for good luck the rest of the winter.

Well that's more than you usually hear from me, hope you have had enough for now.

Best regards & 73 Bill Miller KD8VP

The Secy Sez:

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

There was no hospital or upgrade report.

A March of Dime walk is April 24.

The Ride for Hope is June 26, the same day as Field Day.

The secretary report was given by Flo, kc8cab. It was accepted by Bruce, n8exn and seconded by Brian, n8ft.

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

The repeater Trustees report was given by Bill, kd8vp.

The repeater is working please use it.

The E C report was given by Tom, kd8eby. No dates for Operation Care as of yet. Packet mail box is not up and running yet. Skywarn is March 25 at Lapeer East at 7 p.m.

Vice President report was given by Chris, kc8twl. There was 44 people in attendance at the Christmas Dinner.

Break was from 7:57 to 8:15.

Bill, kd8vp and Joe, kd8cil are going to talk to Threse, kc8pez husband who is a lawyer about incorporation.

They will let us know what they find out.

50/50 was won by Dan, kc1bud.

Meeting closed at 8:35.

The EC Sez:

I'm going to be busy for the next few months with training and meetings. Nothing happening in February for the club. Next event is Skywarn class in March. Also I have issued most of the Ares/Races cards for this year. If you are certified and haven't got yours please see me at the club meeting. TOM

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KD8EBY@arrl.net

E.C. Lapeer County, Mi.

ARES/RACES/Skywarn

NAEMT(P) Member

---- See SKYWARN spotter flyer below ----

**Be Radio-Active
Participate**

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.....
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-
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 sometimes 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.

Volunteer Exam Session

The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be **February 13, 2010** at 10:00 a.m. in the second floor meeting room at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorrans 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, at 385-5584

Dates for 2010: February 13, March 13; April 10; May 8; June 12; July 10; August 14; September 11, October 9; November 13; December 11

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

From the Mailbag:

**If you want the right to put up a Ham tower,
it is up to you to do something now!**

Unfortunately, as I write this, we have one MI ham wondering if he can even have a 30' tower. However, there are things that you can do about this. For example:

- 1. If you have not already sent a letter to your Legislators to support HB # 5556, then now is the time. If passed in 2010, HB # 5556 -

Michigan's PRB-1 "Amendment to the MI Zoning Enabling Act" will codify PRB-1 into our Michigan law. It also will establish an allowable tower height of 90' across the state. However, if we do not increase our number of legislative contacts, the Bill may die in committee. **If you have already sent a letter, it is time to re-contact your House Representative to re-kindle interest.**

For the actual text of HB # 5556, [click on this link.](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/billintroduced/House/pdf/2009-HIB-5556.pdf) <http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2009-2010/billintroduced/House/pdf/2009-HIB-5556.pdf>

For more information about PRB-1, [click on this link.](http://www.prb1michigan.org/) <http://www.prb1michigan.org/>

For a legislative contact letter template, click on this link. <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id18.html>

2. Also, tell a Ham friend about this critically important effort. Antennas and the towers that they are mounted on are critically important to us. They are our connection to the rest of the RF world. If need be, help your friend establish contacts with their Legislators. **Discuss this topic at your next club or organization meeting.**

For legislative contact information, [click on this link.](http://www.prb1michigan.org/id1.html) <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id1.html>

Len Todd, N8AGS

MI PRB-1 Project Manager

N8AGS@arrl.net

<http://www.prb1michigan.org/>

Nicaragua (YN) On-The-Air!

Look for LCARA members Hank, K8DD (YN2DD) and Lee, N8LJ (YN2LJ) from Metamora from February 16 thru February 25 as they visit Central America. And operate from the Republic of Nicaragua. Their goal is to operate in the ARRL DX CW Contest, but they will be active on all bands before and after the weekend.

They will stay at the home of Octavio, YN2N, near the city of Granada, about sixty miles southeast of the Capital Managua.

Granada, with an estimated population of 110,326 (2003), is [Nicaragua's](#) fourth most populous city and capital of the [Granada Department](#). Granada is historically one of Nicaragua's most important cities both economically and politically. It is situated on the northwestern shore of [Lake Nicaragua](#) and was founded by [Francisco Hernández de Córdoba](#) on December 8, 1524. It has a rich colonial heritage, seen in its architecture and layout. Granada is commonly nicknamed the "Gran Sultana del Gran Lago" - the Great Sultan of the Great Lake.

Traveling along on the trip are Stan, AC8W (YN2WW) from Marysville, MI and Jim, KB8TXZ (YN2TX) from Gingelville. This will be our second visit.

We'll be using a K3, two K2's and an FT950 transceivers, and either a SB-220 or Drake L4B. Antennas include a tri-band beam, dipoles and a quad for 17 meters. We have antennas and equipment for all bands 160 meters thru 6 meters. Octavio and his wife Martha have a lovely home in the rural outskirts of Granada and it is situated on the slopes of the dormant Volcano Mombacho which is now a national park.

You can see more about our QTH by doing a Google search for YN2N. What doesn't come through on the website are the sound effects of the roosters who start crowing at about 4:00 a.m. or the Howler Monkeys who occasionally swing their way through the countryside.

So, we hope to see you on the air. A good place to keep track of us is the DX Packet Cluster.

If you would like a schedule with us, let Lee N8LJ know at the next LCARA meeting – we will do our best to try to work anyone who can get on HF. Probably 20 (daytime) and 40 (evening) meters will be the best.

CQ DX de YN2DD, YN2WW, YN2LJ and YN2TX

DISASTER...are you ready?

I've been thinking of the devastation caused by the Haiti earthquake and the help needed by many people. This should serve as a reminder to us about the suddenness in which a disaster can strike, abroad or here at home. How many of us

are prepared to minimize the damage? How many of us are prepared BEFOREHAND to help out with emergency communications for our family, friends, neighbors, and citizens? Or will you want to help at the last minute and be unprepared, unqualified,

and untrained?

We need you to become involved in some way for amateur radio emergency communications. There are many cases that people want to help at the last minute and instead of being a help, become a hindrance because they do not follow the rest of the "playbook" that everyone else is following. Think to yourself, would you want to help out people in a time of need? Could you really do so...I mean could you REALLY do so, or are you going to learn the skills you need to instantaneously? What would you think of our country's military capabilities would be if they never practiced in war games? Would you really want them defending you?

Now... today... is the time to become involved and start practicing. We desperately need more people here in the county to become active with amateur radio emergency communications. I am sure that the same holds true for the rest of the state, nation, and world. Please become better prepared with us. We have relatively few people here who have participated, and I'm sure that many would come out of the woodworks when we have a need for communicators. Would you really be able to properly help at that time? Would you be on the same page as the rest of us? Please become active with us, either as a RACES participant or an ARES ham. See <http://www.qsl.net/sccarpesc> for more details.

Where are the Ham Radio Hackers?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the Ten-Tec Omni VII Yahoo Group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Ten-Tec-Omni-VII/>), one ham wrote:

"If I was 17 years-old I would be hacking I-phones and other items like George Hotz, the 17 year-old from New Jersey who was able to unlock the Apple I-phone so that it could be used on other cell service networks.

"When I was his age, I was hacking dial telephones. Then one day the phone company showed up at my house. My parents were not impressed with my technical abilities.

"This morning there is a story that George has just hacked the 'un-hackable' Sony 3 Play Station. He says the hack was 95% software and 5% hardware.

"A quick check of the modifications site run by that guy over in Denmark, shows that there are NO MODS for the O7...interesting. I just wonder how many strange and wonderful things can be done with those 36 buttons/switches on the front panel. Can the O7 be made even better?"

In my reply, I asked, "Why stop at pressing some buttons on the front panel? Why doesn't someone really hack the Omni VII and develop a completely new software package for it?" Rigs like the Omni VII and the Elecraft K3 would seem to be perfect candidates for this kind of hacking.

Sure, there is an order of magnitude difference between a \$300 iPod and a \$3,000 radio, but we're big boys, aren't we? Besides, aside from overdriving the finals, what real damage can you do to the radio? It seems to me that even if you manage to screw up the software in the rig, you can get back to square one by simply re-loading the manufacturer's software.

Ham radio operators have a long history of modifying their radios. Page through any stack of QSTs or CQ Magazines from the 1950s, 60s, and 70s, and you'll find many articles describing modifications to the popular radios of the day. About the only thing hams do to their rigs today is to clip a diode to allow it to operate out-of-band.

What does it say about the technical capabilities of today's hams that we haven't yet done with our gear what some 17-year-old kid has done with the iPhone and the PlayStation? Why don't we have any third-party software for Omni VII or the K3? I think if a manufacturer actually encouraged third-party software development, they'd quickly gain a following and make their brand even stronger, don't you?

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, blogs about ham radio at www.kb6nu.com, teaches the infamous One-Day Tech Class, and operates a lot of 40m CW. E-mail him your comments and questions at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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

HW-8 Handbook—covers HW-7, 8 & 9 \$15

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

From the estate of N8CQA:

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

FOR SALE:

HF Isotron Loop antenna for 80-75-40M, \$60.00 or best offer .

Seven (7) slinkies (metal, can be made into an antenna), \$40.00 for all of them.

Also have approximately 130 ft in coax and 100-200 ft of wire to donate to who ever wants them.

Contact Richard 810.824.3948

Coming Events...

Feb 13- Cherryland Hamfest, Traverse City, MI

Feb 21— Livonia 8:00-noon, Livonia ARC 39th Annual Swap-n-Shop,, Civic Park Seniors Center, 15218 Farmington Rd., Adm: \$5, tables \$16 advance, \$20 at door if available. T.I 146.52 or 145.35 (100 Hz PL)
Info (734) 941-5043

Mar 20- Marshall :8:00-2:00 50th Michigan Cross- roads Hamfest and Radio Swap, **NEW LOCATION** Marshall Activity Center, 15325 W. Michigan Avd., Adm: \$5, tables \$10 T.I. 146.66- Info: www.w8df.com/hamfest.html –or- (269) 96207145

Mar 21- TMRA Hamfest/Computer Show, Toledo, OH

Apr 3—Lowell (ARGYL) info www.argyl.org

Apr 17- Milford info 810-632-5174

May 1- Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI

May 16-17- Hamvention(r), Dayton, OH

Remember...DX Is!

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**N2CQ QRP CALENDAR**  
Jan 27 to Feb 26, 2010  
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80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) *** QRP Contest

Each Tuesday Thru Mar 16, 2010

9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA

Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org>

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

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Each Thursday Thru Mar 18, 2010

9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA

Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

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North American Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category

Feb 7, 0000z to 0400z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php>

New Mexico QSO Party (CW/PH/Dig) ... QRP
Category
Feb 7, 1500z to Feb 8, 0300z
Rules:
<http://pages.swcp.com/~n5zgt/nmqsoparty/index.html>

QRP ARCI Fireside Sprint (SSB) ..QRP Contest!
Feb 7, 2000z to 2359z
Rules: <http://www.qrparci.org/>

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint (CW) *** QRP
Contest ***
EST: Feb 9, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM
UTC: Feb 10, 0130Z to 0330Z
Rules:
<http://home.windstream.net/yoel/contests.html>

CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category
Feb 10, 1100z to 1200z and
Feb 10, 1900z to 2000z and
Feb 11, 0300z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.cwops.org/onair.html>

Valentine Sprint (PODXS) (PSK-31) ... QRP
Category
Feb 12, 8 PM to Feb 13, 2 AM LOCAL TIME
Rules: <http://www.podxs070.com/valentine-sprint>

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest ... Low Power
Category
Feb 13, 0000z to Feb 14, 2359z
Rules: <http://www.cqwprrty.com/>

Dutch PACC Contest (SSB/CW) ... QRP
Category
Feb 13, 1200z to Feb 14, 1200z
Rules: <http://pacc.veron.nl/>

Louisiana QSO Party (Ph/CW)
Feb 13, 1500z to Feb 14, 0300z
Rules:
http://www.qsl.net/kd5wdy/LAQSO_laqso.html

FISTS Winter Sprint (CW of course) ...QRP
Category
Feb 13, 1700z to 2100z
Rules: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW)
... QRP Category
Feb 14, 0000z to 2359z
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/>

North American Sprint (SSB) ... QRP Category
Feb 14, 0000z to 0400z
Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php>

Russian PSK WW Contest
Feb 19, 2100z to Feb 20, 2100z
Rules: <http://www.digitalrus.ru/Files/RusWW.htm>

ARRL International DX Contest (CW) ... QRP
Category
Feb 20, 0000z to Feb 21, 2400z
Rules:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/intldx.html>

Feld Hell Club Sprint (Feld Hell) ... QRP
Category
Feb 20, 2000z to 2200z
Rules:
<http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home>

RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) *** QRP
CONTEST ***
EST: Feb 21, 9 PM to 11 PM
UTC: Feb 22, 0200z 0400z
Rules: <http://www.fpqr.com/>

SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards
Feb 24, 0000z to 0200z
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest (SSB) ... QRP
Category
Feb 26, 2200z to Feb 28, 2200z
Rules: <http://www.cq160.com/rules.htm>

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