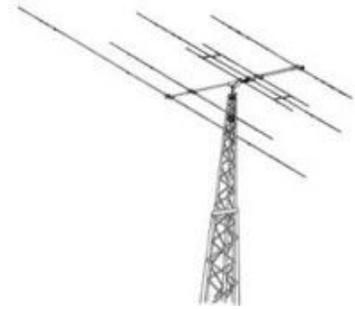


# The Waveguide

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

PO Box 12, Hadley MI 48440-0012  
<http://www.w8lap.com> | [gso@w8lap.com](mailto:gso@w8lap.com)



## Oct-Nov 2017

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#### W8LAP Repeaters

**2 Meter:** 146.620 -100 Hz PL Tone

**70 CM:** 442.750 +123 Hz PL Tone

#### Next Club Meeting

##### Holiday Dinner

Tuesday, December 12, 6:30pm

Lapeer County EOC / Dispatch

2332 West Genesee Street

Lapeer, MI 48446

#### ARES Team Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month  
(See the club calendar section for specifics.)

#### Regular Nets

Tuesdays, 8pm, 2 Meter Repeater

*All amateur operators are welcome to*

*check in. Controlled net, two-rounds.*

*No net on club meeting nights.*

# Reports & Editorials

## The President's Corner

Welcome to a double issue of the Waveguide, covering both October and November. After a series of challenges in the editorial room, we're happy to put this into your hands.

First, an organizational announcement. After a number of years of service to LCARA, our Webmaster **David Erskine, KD8GXW** submitted his resignation. Please join me in thanking David for helping keep LCARA on the Internet, in particular his service maintaining the Perl scripts that made the OpCare calendar function.

Please also join me in welcoming **Scott Nicholes, AE8RN** as the association's new Webmaster. Thank you Scott for stepping into the vacancy without hesitation!

I hope that some of you were able to attend the Michigan Ham Con on October 7-8 at Michigan International Speedway. It looked like a great event; and unfortunately Daniel and I arrived somewhat late on Saturday, after the crowds had returned home. We did get to wander around the inner track area for a while, and it looks like a great venue for future events; parking is certainly not going to be an issue.

For the ARES team members, the Michigan State Simulated Emergency Test (SET) went well, with traffic being passed on HF. The conditions were very clear from my QTH in Metamora to the State Emergency Operations Center in Lansing. It was interesting to hear the message traffic being passed back and forth, especially with the ongoing challenges in the many areas suffering from recent natural disasters.

Remember, the **December Meeting is the club holiday party**. We're still confirming the location, but it is likely to be at the same venue as last year. The December Waveguide will have the details.



## Treasurer's Report - October

Greetings to one and all. You have not heard from your treasurer for quite some time. Partly because the e-mail gremlins ate a couple of my reports and secondly because I haven't been to a meeting since August in the park. I will beg you to forgive me for not coming to the meetings, as I had both knees replaced on August 23, and was laid up for a couple of weeks. I might have been able to come for the September meeting if the elevator was available, but at that time just simple exercise about wiped me out for eight to twelve hours. I am in great shape now six weeks later and will attend the October meetings if I have to walk there.

As far as the treasury is concerned there has been no change of any significance. This time of year the only bill we have to pay is the electric bill for the repeater. and a nominal \$25 or so takes care of that. As you are well aware we no longer do Operation Care, so our income is going to depend on your dues. Our two insurance policies require almost three hundred dollars, so we do need the dues. October starts our new fiscal year and your DUES ARE DO!!!! Please forward your dues anyway you can. I will accept them at the meeting, and through the mail. You can find our club mailing address in the Waveguide and a convenient form to fill out and mail in. I would express great pleasure if you paid them at the meeting. For two reasons one you're at the meeting. The other is that I don't have to go to the post office. Please by all means have the correct amount (\$12.00) so I don't have to break all your twenty dollar bills.

Thank you and see you at the meeting.

Respectfully William Miller KD8VP

## Treasurer's Report - November

Greetings to one and all. It sure seemed good to be back at the meeting last month. It seems that going to our meetings becomes a good habit that one can't do without unless they're incapacitated. There was a very good program on solar panel electricity, and I think everyone got something out of it.

Since the October meeting was the beginning of our fiscal year, I took in quite a few members dues and received even more in the mail box. So the kitty is was looking pretty good. I say "was" because later on I had to pay the U.S. Postal box rent for box 12. Well just like everything else prices are going up. I feel that the postal box has outlived its usefulness and could be eliminated simply by having all mailed directed to the mail of the treasurer, whomever that may be. This would save the club \$52.00 a year and eliminate trips to the post office. Comment would be appreciated as the board will have to make a decision about this. Further that money saved will help keep the dues down.

Enough of the soap box, I just keep trying to save money.

I hope you have gotten your antenna work done as the bad weather is upon us as I write this report. The treasury is in good shape.

Respectfully, William Miller KD8VP Treasurer

## **Notes From the Desk of the Secretary - October**

### **Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association - Meeting Minutes- September 12, 2017**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by our President Gerret KD8YUK. There were 11 members and guests in attendance.

Congratulations and welcome to Doug KE8HSF for obtaining his technician license and good luck for his upcoming general examination.

#### **Elections**

No additional nominations were received for the Association's leadership positions. By unanimous acclamation of the membership present, the following were re-elected.

- President- Gerret KD8YUK
- Vice President- Kevin KB8TAR
- Treasurer- Bill KD8VP\*
- Secretary- Lee N8LJ

\*This will be Bill's last year as treasurer. It's time for someone to step up and prepare to take over this position. The position is not hard and doesn't require much time. Remember no Treasurer, no association.

#### **Hospital Report**

Bill KD8VP is recovering from a double knee replacement. We wish him our best during his recovery.

#### **EC Report**

FLdigi training will be held September 13th and 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The frequency will be 145.010 Mhz. September 30<sup>th</sup> will be a state wide SET exercise.

#### **Repeater Report**

Mike KN8Z submitted our repeater information to the MIARC database. The committee to study an upgrade to digital technology had no report.

The official meeting ended at 7:44pm followed by “Ask Elmer” discussions

### **Ask Elmer discussions**

- FT-8 digital modes
- Recommendations for mobile FM transceivers
- Mesh system interfaces
- Ask Elmer session ended at 8:45pm

Respectfully submitted,

Lee N8LJ

## **Notes From the Desk of the Secretary - November**

### **Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association - Meeting Minutes - October 10, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by president Gerret KD8YUK at 7:30 pm. There were 17 members and guests in attendance.

A warm welcome to Dennis KE8EKT a newly licensed operator. Congratulations to Doug KE8HSF for passing his General license exam.

The presentation of the evening was Portable Solar Power Primer for Amateur Radio Operators a video by KF7IJZ. It was a great overview of the necessary hardware necessary to utilize solar energy.

### **Presidents Report:**

Due to technical difficulties, this month’s WaveGuide publication will be delayed.

Dave Erskine, KD8GXW resigned his position as webmaster.

Thank you Dave for your years of service.

Scott AE8RN volunteered to take up the webmaster duties. Thank you Scott.

**Treasurer Report:** Was presented by our Treasurer Bill, KD8VP (welcome back) and was unanimously approved by the membership present. Remember Bill will retire from his post at the end of our Association year and a volunteer is needed. Bill will train the new volunteer. It’s not a lot of work, but remember, no treasure, no association. So members, someone please avail yourself for this position.

**Secretary's Report:** Meeting minutes from the September meeting were presented by Lee N8LJ and approved unanimously by the membership present.

**Repeater Trustee Report:** Paperwork for the repeater equipment was submitted in triplicate to the Michigan repeater coordination group. This submission is required every other year.

**EC discussion:**

W8MA resigned as Genesee county EC

C-MEN repeater group has been using grants to upgrade their digital network.

Genesee County will sponsor a winter Skywarn class in November

**Old Business:**

Dues are due for the 2017-2018 Association year.

Ed Oyster W8NCJ motioned “that the board present to the membership by the January 2018 meeting, a proposal for dues increase”. This increase will be necessary since LCARA no longer supports the Operation Care weekends. Motion approved by the membership present.

**New Business:**

The Boy Scouts at D-A are looking for volunteers to support the Amateur Radio Event for Jamboree On The Air. They will provide one of their shelters for this event. It is the weekend of October 20-22, 2017. Contact Gerret if interested in supporting this Amateur Radio Event.

50/50 won by Lee N8LJ.

Meeting Adjourned 9:21 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lee, N8LJ

## EC / RO Report - November

Hello to all fellow LCARA members.

The ARES group as a whole had a busy October. On September 30th the group participated in a state level SET that involved the transfer of traffic both from and to the SEOC in Dimondale. Several radio modes were used that we normally do not use in these exercises. Also, just to make things interesting, all traffic was passed by phone (not FLDIGI). And to make things even more interesting the messages being sent were not the typical ARRL radiogram format.

Lapeer County was tasked with 2 inject messages. At the north edge of our county net KB8YGA was working the SEOC through DMR and successfully sent the ICS-205 message. Will was also very busy receiving several pieces of traffic back from the SEOC. Somewhere in the middle of our net AB8XL successfully sent the MICIMS resource request using DSTAR. On the very southern end KD8YUK was coping the HF traffic from the SEOC - some of the messages were incredibly long for the phone technique and the band was not in perfect shape that day. A special thanks to KE8FHE for acting as backup for the DSTAR connection.

Our October ARES meeting took place on the 18th and there were multiple topics covered. We reviewed and discussed a few sections of our EOP and also appointed a new assistant AEC for Skywarn. Thank you AB8XL for stepping up to the task. Paul will be assisting our Skywarn AEC KD8EBY in running an efficient weather net.

I was fortunate to be able to take a class over the 27-28 weekend in Muskegon. It was the first time AUXCOMM training was offered in Michigan. More will be discussed on this topic at the November ARES meeting.

Our November ARES meeting will take place on the 15th at 7:00 pm in the EOC. I hope to see you there.

Kevin KB8TAR  
EC / RO Lapeer County

# Feature: Why you Should (and Shouldn't) Upgrade your Amateur Radio License

Congratulations! You just earned your FCC Technician amateur radio license. I bet when you took the test, one of the examiners asked if you wished to also test for your general license. If you are like most people, you are probably pretty mentally exhausted from taking the first test, so you may or may not feel the confidence of taking the next one. Should you take the test and move along to the next level? We'll talk about that in a minute. But first, feel free to watch the video.

But first a little bit of personal history. I got my license back in the summer of 1999. Back then you could just take the Technician test and receive the license that gave you privileges on frequencies above 30 Mhz. But if you also took the Novice and 5wpm code tests, you would receive a Tech Plus license which also gave you all the novice privileges below 30 Mhz. In that day, Novices had limited access to VHF frequencies, so doing all three gave you the best of all worlds.

I must have been on fire at the testing session, because I passed the Novice and Technician exam and I also made it through the 5wpm novice code exam. After all that they asked if I wanted to take the General for free and I succumbed to the pressure. Fortunately back then the General exam wasn't as difficult as it is today. If you knew the material on the Novice exam, you could make it through the General test. Back then the barrier to getting your

General license was the 13 word per minute code test.



I just barely passed my General at that session, so I was a Tech Plus with a CSCE for a General written exam. Fast forward six months and the FCC restructures the license classes, eliminating the faster code requirements for general and extra. I was able to go to an exam session, pay my \$10 and get an instant upgrade.

Fast forward two more years, and I take the test for my Extra license, but that's a story for another time.

So, with this story in mind, why should you upgrade your amateur radio license.

### **1. Upgrading opens you up to new frequencies on the HF bands.**

This is probably the most obvious response. With the elimination of all morse code requirements, today's Technician license does give you the old Novice privileges on the HF bands. You get voice on 10 meters, and code on 15, 40, and 80 meters. I don't know how active Technicians are on the code segments, but 10 meter voice could be draw if it weren't for the fact that we are in the bottom of the solar cycle. Upgrading to General gives you voice and data access on all the amateur HF bands, opening up a bigger world of communication.

### **2. Upgrading opens up your understanding of the Amateur Radio Art and Science**

The Technician exam is full of basic fundamentals of amateur radio: rules, regulation, basic electronics, and operating procedure. The General and Extra for that matter delve more into operation, modes and frequencies, and propagation. The test lays the framework and the practice on the bands gives the understanding. So your growth in the art and science of amateur radio relies on upgrading to the next license class.

### **3. Upgrading makes you a more valuable member of the team**

If you are part of an emergency communication group, upgrading to your General license gives you new skills and capabilities enhancing your utility and making you a more valuable member of the group. Granted that most emcomm groups use VHF or UHF communications, but many also rely on HF to communicate on a larger, regional level. Plus being involved in emergency communications is all about training, and why wouldn't you want to advance your own personal knowledge in radio communications.

### **Bonus: Hey, you passed the Tech, so taking the General is free.**

Why not give it a shot. As a Volunteer Examiner, I'd say about 40% of the individuals that pass the Tech will also pass the General on the first shot. It's free, so why not give it a shot.

And finally, why shouldn't you upgrade your amateur radio license? Because I told you to. Do it for yourself, not for others. If you are comfortable with a particular license class there is no reason why you need to feel pressure to upgrade.

Article Reprinted with permission by the author, Michael Martens, KB9VBR.

Source: <http://www.jpole-antenna.com/2017/11/07/why-you-should-and-shouldnt-upgrade-your-amateur-radio-license/>

## Club Items

### Call for Presentations

Club meeting night is more interesting with presentations! If you have a topic you'd like to learn more about, or present, please contact any member of the board. The audience is easy to work with, and we can provide a projector. If you know someone who would be willing to present, put us in touch with them.

### Heard on the Wire

#### Micro-Track AIO - APRS Tracker

Contributed by Kevin Boxey, KB8TAR

Here is a newer product from Byonics for easy APRS installation and usage. It came to my attention from a Newaygo County CERT member that told me their group is using them for deployments. <https://www.byonics.com/mt-aio>

### Micro-Trak AIO (All In One)

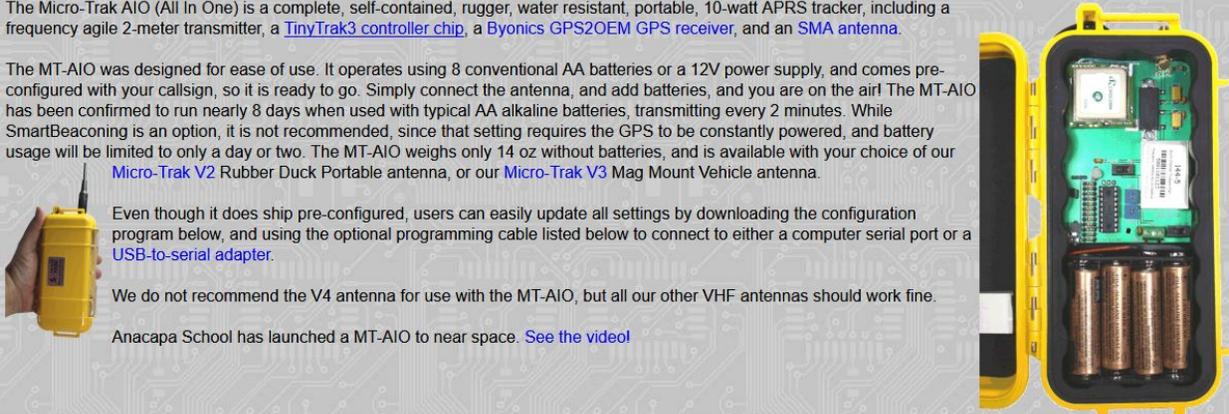
The Micro-Trak AIO (All In One) is a complete, self-contained, rugged, water resistant, portable, 10-watt APRS tracker, including a frequency agile 2-meter transmitter, a [TinyTrak3 controller chip](#), a [Byonics GPS2OEM GPS receiver](#), and an [SMA antenna](#).

The MT-AIO was designed for ease of use. It operates using 8 conventional AA batteries or a 12V power supply, and comes pre-configured with your callsign, so it is ready to go. Simply connect the antenna, and add batteries, and you are on the air! The MT-AIO has been confirmed to run nearly 8 days when used with typical AA alkaline batteries, transmitting every 2 minutes. While SmartBeaconing is an option, it is not recommended, since that setting requires the GPS to be constantly powered, and battery usage will be limited to only a day or two. The MT-AIO weighs only 14 oz without batteries, and is available with your choice of our [Micro-Trak V2 Rubber Duck Portable antenna](#), or our [Micro-Trak V3 Mag Mount Vehicle antenna](#).

Even though it does ship pre-configured, users can easily update all settings by downloading the configuration program below, and using the optional programming cable listed below to connect to either a computer serial port or a [USB-to-serial adapter](#).

We do not recommend the V4 antenna for use with the MT-AIO, but all our other VHF antennas should work fine.

Anacapa School has launched a MT-AIO to near space. [See the video!](#)



# Calendar of Events

2017 is almost over; as noted above, we're looking for presentations for the 2018 meeting year.

# - External Event (not LCARA-sponsored)

A - ARES Team Event

Also see:

- Weekly net schedule on page 1.
- Michigan Hamfests and Swaps immediately following the Calendar of Events.

## November 2017

- 11/14, 7:30pm - Club Meeting, Lapeer EOC
  - Presentation TBD

## December 2017

- 12/12, 6:30pm - Club Holiday Dinner
  - Date + Location Tentative (same as club meeting - email forthcoming, and check the website)

## Upcoming Michigan Section Hamfests and Swaps

Source: [http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:1/Location.section\\_id:MI.rpt?format=htm](http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:1/Location.section_id:MI.rpt?format=htm)

### FCARC WinterFest

**Start Date:** 12/02/2017

**End Date:** 12/02/2017

**Location:** Delta American Legion

5939 State Route 109

Delta, OH 43515

**Website:** <http://k8bxq.org/hamfest>

**Sponsor:** Fulton County Amateur Radio Club

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 147.195+ (PL 103.5)

**Public Contact:** Bryan Patterson , KB8ELG

8202 County Road 6-2 Delta, OH 43515

Phone: 419-250-6694

**Email:** kb8elg@hotmail.com

### LCARC Swap/Hamfest

**Start Date:** 12/03/2017

**End Date:** 12/03/2017

**Location:** Madison Place

876 Horace Brown Drive

Madison Heights, MI 48071

**Website:** <http://www.n8lc.org>  
**Sponsor:** L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 147.08 (PL 100)  
**Public Contact:** Dale McGorman , K8RO  
2855 Norton Lawn Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
Phone: 248-563-4497  
**Email:** k8ro@arrl.net

### **HPARC Swap**

**Start Date:** 01/28/2018  
**End Date:** 01/28/2018  
**Location:** UFCW Local 876  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071  
**Website:** <http://hparc.org>  
**Sponsor:** Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 146.640 (PL 100)  
**Public Contact:** Hugh Boyle , KE8BED  
703 Woodlawn Avenue Royal Oak, MI 48073  
Phone: 248-755-6094  
**Email:** photoink77@hotmail.com

### **Livonia ARC's 47th Annual Swap & Shop**

**Start Date:** 02/18/2018  
**End Date:** 02/18/2018  
**Location:** Livonia Civic Park Seniors Center  
15218 Farmington Road  
Livonia, MI 48150  
**Website:** <http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>  
**Sponsor:** Livonia Amateur Radio Club  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 145.35 (PL 100)  
**Public Contact:** Michael Rudzki , N8MR  
PO Box 51532 Livonia, MI 48151  
Phone: 734-953-0913  
**Email:** k8uns@arrl.net

### **Winter Ham Fest**

**Start Date:** 03/04/2018  
**End Date:** 03/04/2018  
**Location:** Lorain County Community College  
1005 North Abbe Road  
Elyria, OH 44035  
**Website:** <http://noars.net>  
**Sponsor:** Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Talk-In:** 146.70 (PL 110.9)  
**Public Contact:** Darlene Ohman , KA8VTS

4122 Bush Avenue Cleveland, OH 44109  
Phone: 216-398-8858  
Email: dohman1045@gmail.com

## **1st Annual GMARC Swap & Shop**

**Start Date:** 04/29/2018

**End Date:** 04/29/2018

**Location:** UFCW Local 876 Union Hall  
876 Horace Brown Drive  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

**Website:** <http://www.gmarc.org/SwapInfo>

**Sponsor:** General Motors Amateur Radio Club

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Talk-In:** 443.075 (PL 123)

**Public Contact:** Mike Carelli , W8MJC  
1853 Willowood Drive Rochester Hills, MI 48307  
Phone: 248-835-9545

**Email:** Swap@gmarc.org

# Officers & Committees

## Officers

<b>President</b>	Gerret Peters	KD8YUK
<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Boxey	KB8TAR
<b>Treasurer</b>	William (Bill) Miller	KD8VP
<b>Secretary</b>	Lee Dziekan	N8LJ

## Committees & Appointments

**Club Call Trustee:** Mike Zedan, KN8Z

### Repeater Technical Team:

- Mike Zedan, KN8Z (**Trustee**)
- Lee Dziekan, N8LJ
- Will Stanton, KB8YGA

**Meeting Refreshments:** Bill Miller, KD8VP

**Newsletter Editor:** Daniel Peters, KE8CFI

**Webmaster:** Scott Nicholes, AE8RN

**County EC\*:** Kevin Boxey, KB8TAR

- **SkyWarn AEC:** Tom Oliver, KD8EBY

AEC: Scott Nicholes AE8RN FLDIGI AEC

\*Emergency Coordinator. AEC: Assistant EC

# LCARA Membership Application

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

Call Sign: License Class:	Name:
Address:	
City:	
State:	Postal Code:
Email Address:	
ARRL Member (Y/N):	ARES Member (Y/N):
RACES Member (Y/N) and Card #:	SKYWARN Member (Y/N) and Number:
Social Media Handles:	

L.C.A.R.A. Memberships are due annually on October 1st.

- **\$12** - Individual Membership
- **\$20** - Family Membership
- **\$4** - Associate Membership

Membership forms may be turned in to the Treasurer at a monthly meeting, or mailed to the club address:

**Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association**  
**P.O. Box 12**  
**Hadley, MI 48440-0012**