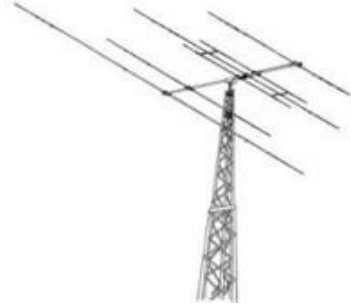


The Waveguide

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

PO Box 12, Hadley MI 48440-0012
<http://www.w8lap.com> | qso@w8lap.com



March 2018

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W8LAP Repeaters

2 Meter: 146.620 -100 Hz PL Tone

70 CM: 442.750 +123 Hz PL Tone

Club Meeting Location

See calendar for specific dates.

Lapeer EOC Conference Room
(Basement of Dispatch Center)
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

President's Report

Hello LCARA Supporters, and welcome to the March 2018 edition of the Waveguide. You will likely notice a few new things about the newsletter this month, as **Scott Nicholes, N8XP**, moves the editorial desk to his shack next to the w8lap.com webmaster's desk. Thanks again to the retiring editor **Daniel Peters, KE8CFI**, who is taking the time to focus on his junior year high school studies.

The executive board has a new face this month as well. After nearly thirty years as LCARA's Treasurer, **Bill Miller, KD8VP**, is transitioning the mantle to **Paul Zuhlke, AB8XL**. Bill accepted the nomination back in October as a final year, and the sooner the club found his replacement, the more knowledge he'd be able to impart. As Bill noted at the February meeting, he's not going anywhere; that's something we're all glad to hear. Please take a moment to thank Bill for his *decades* of service; I tried to give him a gold watch, but he waved me away. Also, a big thank you to Paul for filling the big shoes Bill leaves behind.

Fred Church, N8ABR, SK. Bill Miller shared that Fred joined the Silent Key ranks on Feb 22. Fred was a long-time member of LCARA, and was the club's historian at one time. You can find his obituary and a tribute wall for sharing memories and condolences at the Muir Brothers website:

<http://www.muirbrotherslapeer.com/obituaries/Fred-Glenn-Church?obId=2977877#/obituaryInfo>.

D-STAR or DMR or FUSION? The discussion continued for a bit after the evening's presentation on the history of D-STAR. While the matter isn't *formally* settled, the wind seems to be blowing strongly in the direction of a club investment into a 70cm D-STAR repeater. There is more to come on that as the Repeater Tech Team and Digital Repeater committee hash out the details. It's also my understanding that our public service region is moving to D-STAR also, and a number of LCARA members already have ICOM D-STAR radios. If you'd like to weigh in on the topic, send an email to gso@w8lap.com - we'll choose a selection of responses for the April Waveguide.

Treasurer's Report

Greetings everyone, though not officially official yet by vote, I'm very pleased to be of service to this fine club, we have a lot of good hearted members that are a pleasure to talk with. This past month of February has been a very nice transition period for me, Bill and I have had some very good quality time together, going to the Livonia swap together and some time doing the transition paper work. I've enjoyed reading through the archives of the club membership lists of past, it brings back some good memories of when I first got in to ham radio back in 2000, I see many familiar names and call signs although not many are heard these days except a handful, times have changed a bit but we all have our memories and find different avenues of the hobby to focus on.

Treasurer activities this past month included paying the liability insurance and setting up my own excel format for the monthly reports. The ARRL equipment insurance is coming due this month with no other large expenses, our only monthly expense is the electric bill. The future is looking good with new growth and ideas for the club.

P.S. Please remember to keep your dues current, utilize them repeaters and check the website often, it's looking awesome.

Best Regards,
Paul Zuhlke, AB8XL

Notes From the Desk of the Secretary

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association- Meeting Minutes - February 13, 2018

- Gerret KD8YUK called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm with the pledge of allegiance.
- Rollcall and introductions. Ward WA8RD and Stan N8HN are returning to the club after a multi-year absence.
- The presentation is the video "Ham Radio Now #381" concerning digital modes from 2008 by Gary Pearce.
 - HF in 2008 could use the AOR Fast Radio Modem.
 - The first 1 second of a HF transmission is required for coordination information.
 - HF digital requires a strong S/N ratio.
 - DSTAR for VHF in 2008 is the only digital mode offering a complete system (radio + repeater).
- Break from 8:44 to 8:54.
- Hospital report: Scott N8XP reports that Nettie McDaniel WD8OUC and Joe McDaniel KA8ARZ are now SK's.
- General announcements:
 - Gerret KD8YUK is asking for club meeting presentation ideas.

- Terry N8LN from Battle Creek will travel to Lapeer for a presentation on DSTAR at a later date.
- Reports:
 - Lee N8LJ is not present to give the secretary's report.
 - January meeting minutes were accepted by Dan KC1BUD and seconded by Raymond KB8ILD, motion passed.
 - Bill KD8VP gave the treasurer's report with a total of \$7691.97 reported.
 - The treasurer's report was accepted by Dan KC1BUD and seconded by Doug KE8HSF, motion passed.
 - Paul AB8XL has accepted the treasurer's position to replace Bill KD8VP.
 - Gerret KD8YUK motioned to accept Paul AB8XL as the new treasurer, motion passed. This transfer will be effective March 2018.
 - Mike KN8Z stated that the repeater is working well. Will KB8YGA has completed a lot of work at the repeater site recently.
 - Raymond KB8ILD and Scott N8XP reported for the digital investigation committee. An internet connection is available 0.5 miles away. The committee will report on their findings later this spring.
 - Scott N8XP has the new club website up and running. Additional work is coming concerning on-line donations and on-line signup.
 - Ed W8NCJ stated that the club legal direction should be decided by the executive board and presented to the club by the next election cycle.
- Old Business:
 - Gerret reported that he and Mike D., KE8FHE will talk with D-BAR-A when the weather warms.
 - Scott N8XP developed a new club logo. Gerret KD8YUK motioned to accept, Paul AB8XL seconded, motion passed.
 - Bill KD8VP reported that he has in his possession club coats with an older logo.
- New Business:
 - P.O. box discussion:
 - Current box costs \$52 / year.
 - Bill KD8VP reports that the club has 2 insurance policies.
 - Per Jim KD8ZXV, GCARE is a 501c7 organization.
 - Current club documents use the P.O. Box address.
 - Mike KN8Z requests that the club move the old Operation CARE equipment out of the repeater building.
 - Discussion on individual liability:
 - Scott N8XP is concerned with individual liability during club events. Scott is requesting an investigation.
 - Gerret KD8YUK wants to understand what benefits there are for incorporating the club.
 - Investigation of 501c3 and 501c7 is also required.
 - Mike KN8Z suggests contacting the MI section manager for advice.
 - The ARRL has a video series on club legal topics.

- Scott N8XP is requesting permission to broadcast "Amateur Radio Newline" on the UHF repeater on Friday nights for 15-20 minutes every week. It was suggested to use the VHF repeater instead. Scott will also clear this with KG8ID. The first broadcast will be 16 Feb 2018.
- Kevin KB8TAR requested that the club owned equipment list be reviewed at a future club meeting for possible sale items.
- 50 / 50 was won by Chris KC8TWL, \$17.
- Motion to adjourn meeting by Gerret KD8YUK, seconded by Scott N8XP, motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Kevin KB8TAR

Repeater Trustee

Hello W8LAP Supporters:

There were no reported technical problems with the repeater this month, or any matters that related to the club license (W8LAP).

Emergency

Many people who are not familiar with Morse code have some knowledge of three of its characters: V, S, and O (di-di-di-dah, di-di-dit, and dah-dah-dah).

The "V" was universally understood by the population of Allied nations during WWII. See the April, 2014, issue of The Waveguide for more on this.
(<http://w8lap.com/waveguide/>)

The S O S characters, whether in letters or code, crop up in literature and thriller movies, even crossword puzzles, on a fairly regular basis (Note 1). If you were to ask several people what S O S sounds like in code, you would, probably, be surprised at the percentage that would be able to sound the characters. If you asked those who know the sound of the letters what they stand for, the answer would be something like, "Save Our Ship," or "Save Our Souls." Neither of these is close to being correct. In fact, the only meaning of S O S is that an emergency exists – nothing more.

The history of S O S began shortly after the turn of the last century, when radio was just beginning to be used on seagoing ships. Each nation, or companies within them, had various Code letters to signify an emergency. CQD (*Calling Any Station – Distress*) was fairly common, but there were more. In fact, Jack Binns sent CQD (in Morse Code) for countless hours after the collision of the *RMS Republic*, and the steamship *Florida*, in 1909 (Note 2).

Because of the confusion, caused by so many versions of the distress code letters, world maritime countries adopted a suggestion of the German government: S O S. This sequence did not stand for some words (e.g. "Save Our Ship"), but that it was easy to send and remember, and sounded little like a word sound in everyday language.

Even with the universal adoption of S O S, CQD stayed in the radio operator lexicon for some time. When the Titanic was sinking in 1912, its operators sent both S O S and CQD.

An interesting thing about S O S is that it is not only a palindrome (reads the same frontwards and backwards), but is also an ambigram (reads the same from all directions, and upside-down). This makes it ideal to stomp out in snow, or spell with twigs or stones, and will be seen the same by rescue aviators from any direction.

Now, despite the century+ acceptance of S O S, many web site authors write that QRRR is "...the official ARRL land distress call." Despite QRRR showing up on these personal sites, I can find nothing at arrl.org that verifies this, except to reference when it was first adopted (1924) to assist in railroad emergencies (QST, April, 2007). Why these site owners insist in perpetuating the idea that this Q code is still valid (or useful) is anyone's guess. (Note 3)

To verify the usefulness of S O S over QRRR, one need only ask two questions: "If you were stuck in the snow, or on a desert island, which would be easier to send by keying a radio, stomp in the snow, or spell with stones?" The second question would be: "Which will be understood as a distress signal by someone listening to a radio or flying overhead?"

Note 1: The official world-wide distress call in voice is Mayday.

Note 2: www.jackbinns.org (Go to MENU in the upper-right corner of that page to read more)

Note 3: <https://duckduckgo.com/?q=qrrr+site%3Aarrl.org&t=ffsb&ia=web&fexp=b>

Credit for this article's seed thoughts goes to Brandon Specktor, in an Oct 13th, 2017, Reader's Digest web posting.

See you at the next meeting,
Mike, KN8Z (kn8z at arrl.net)

EC/RO Report

Hello to all fellow LCARA members.

The ARES group held our first exercise for the year on March 3rd. There were 6 participants including a ham from Genesee County. Messages were transmitted and received using FLDIGI software over VHF simplex very successfully. Several issues were discovered by a few of us with our setup but identifying issues is one of the main goals for these exercises.

The ARES meeting in March will be held on the 21st at 7:00 pm in the EOC. The topic will either be practice using FLDIGI or maybe packet. A number of us already have packet capability as well and there may be a need to review the capabilities of the packet software known as Outpost. For those of you that used packet "back in the day" Outpost makes packet no more difficult to use than your current email.

We could really use some new talent in the group and I hope to see you there.

Kevin KB8TAR
EC / RO Lapeer County

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

E-mail received on March 10, 2018

Dear ARROW Communication Association Members and Friends,

Once again, it is that time of year when lots of hams around the world start thinking of the Dayton Hamvention. After all, with 29,296 attendees from all amateur radio interest areas, what's not to like!

Don't you wish you were going? You're not looking forward to that long drive? Don't drive! Take the Arrow bus! It's inexpensive and easy. Even if you come from out of the Metro Detroit Area, you still relieve yourself of more than 8 hours of drive time!

As in years past, The Arrow Communication Association is sponsoring a bus trip from Ann Arbor, Michigan to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio and back. The date is Saturday, May 19. We leave the park-and-ride at **5:00 am** and get to the show at 9:00 am. We leave Xenia at 5:30 pm and arrive back to our large park-and-ride site by 9:30 pm. A continental breakfast is included on board. What more could you ask for?

Please Note:

The departure time is 5:00 am this year because Xenia is one-half hour farther and the doors open up this year at 9:00 AM.



There is more. If you want to sell your stuff in the flea market, we have reserved a space there just for you! Every year, Arrow reserves a swap spot just for the bus trip crowd. You save \$70.00. All we ask is that you keep your items to a reasonable limit and that you volunteer at least one hour of your time at the swap tables.

There is still more! As in the past several years, we are giving away **DOOR PRIZES!** In 2018, we already have donations from over a dozen Ham Radio Entrepreneurs around the U.S!

And...

For those of you who cannot make it to **Four Days in May**, you will note that we have several nice QRP prizes on our list! There is more to come...

The cost is \$55.00 for the round trip. (This increases to \$65.00 on or after April 1.) Please mail all applications to ARROW Communication Association, 2545 S. Lima Center Rd., Chelsea, MI 48118. **Please note that this does not include the Hamvention ticket.** That one you'll have to do yourself! You may also use the link below to purchase a seat using **PayPal**.

We are trying to generate as much publicity as possible, which is why we are writing you. If you can, please share this information as widely as you are able. If you have a web page, please consider adding a paragraph about the trip and a link to <https://www.w8pgw.org/activities/dayton-bus-trip/> or simply <https://www.w8pgw.org/> . Talk it up on the air! If you check into a state wide or regional net, please mention it there, also. Feel free to include us in your publications.

We at Arrow deeply appreciate your help in this matter and we thank you.

73,

John Wasciuk,
WA8TON / VO1TON / VO1HV
Activities Coordinator, ARROW Communication Association
www.w8rp.org
Ann Arbor, Michigan:
jwasciuk at gmail dot com

Calendar of Events

- 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.

March 2018

- 03/13, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 03/15, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 03/21, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- **03/24, 10am-2:30pm - Weather Spotter Training**
 - Oakland County Executive Office Building
2100 Pontiac Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328
 - <http://www.weather.gov/dtx/>

April 2018

- **04/05, 7:00pm - SkyWarn Training, Pix Theater, Lapeer**
- 04/07, 9:00am - ARES Exercise, 145.010, go-box at home QTH
- 04/10, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- **04/12, 6:30-8:00pm - Weather Spotter Training**
 - City Hall Auditorium
1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309
- 04/12, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 04/18, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- **04/18, 7-9pm - Weather Spotter Training**
 - The Charter Township of Commerce Township
2009 Township Drive, Commerce Township, MI 48390

May 2018

- 05/08, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- **05/10, 7-9pm - Weather Spotter Training**

- Ortonville Old Town Hall
476 Mill St., Ortonville, MI 48462
- 05/10, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 05/16, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC

June 2018

- 06/10, Morning, time TBA - Big Fish Triathlon Amateur Radio Support
- 06/12, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 06/14, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 06/20, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- 06/23-24, ARRL Field Day 2018

July 2018

- 07/10, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 07/12, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460

August 2018

- 08/14, 6:00pm - Picnic in the Park
 - Officer Nominations Due for 2018-2019
- 08/15, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- 08/16, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 08/25, Early Morning, Crim Festival of Races Amateur Radio Support

September 2018

- 09/11, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
 - 2019 Officer Elections
- 09/13, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 09/19, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC

October 2018

- 10/09, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 10/11, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 10/17, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC

November 2018

- 11/04, 2:00am - Daylight Savings Time
- 11/13, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 11/15, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 11/17, 9:00am - ARES Exercise, 145.010, use home station
- 11/22, all day – Thanksgiving

December 2018

- 12/11, 6:30pm - Club Holiday Dinner
- 12/19, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- 12/13, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460

Upcoming Michigan Section Hamfests and Swaps

Source: http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search/page:1/Location.section_id:MI.rpt?format=htm

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

President	Gerret Peters	KD8YUK
Vice President	Kevin Boxey	KB8TAR
Treasurer	Paul Zuhlke	AB8XL
Secretary	Lee Dziekan	N8LJ

Committees & Appointments

Club Call Trustee: Mike Zedan, KN8Z

Repeater Technical Team:

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

Newsletter Editor / Webmaster: Scott Nicholes, N8XP

EC/RO Lapeer County: Kevin Boxey, KB8TAR

- **AEC SkyWarn Net Manager:** Tom Oliver, KD8EBY
- **Assistant AEC SkyWarn Net Manager:** Paul Zuhlke, AB8XL
- **AEC FL-DIGI, FL-MSG Manager:** Scott Nicholes, N8XP

*EC: Emergency Coordinator / AEC: Assistant EC / RO: Radio Operator

LCARA Membership Application

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

Call Sign:	Name:
License Class: <input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Other:	
Address:	
City:	
State + Postal Code:	Phone Number:
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