



**W8LAP/r**  
 146.620 - 100Hz  
 442.750 + Open  
[www.w8lap.com](http://www.w8lap.com)

# WAVEGUIDE

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

November	Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association	2007
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*The next regular meeting will be held on  
 Tuesday, November 6 —7:30 p.m.  
 at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911)  
 2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.*

**Mark your calendars for December 11! The LCARA Annual Christmas Party.**

### The Prez Sez:

Thank you for electing me. I am excited (maybe it's because of my new Orion II) anyway, I would like to see improvements. I know we are a small club, bad things move very slowly. Sometimes it seems like

not at all. Are we here for our repeater ofr because of it? The repeater is the only one in Lapeer. Let's see if we can make it better.

73 Bob N8NE

### The Treas Sez:

Hello to everyone, this month has been an uneventful month for the treasury, nothing but the usual bills.

The good news is that there has been income form many people paying their dues for 2008, and the electric bill went from the end of the month to the beginning of the next month (that means we didn't have to pay it for October).

There was a screw up on the billing of the W8LAP domain name with the carrier, consequently the web site was not working properly for a while. Thanks to the diligent work of web master David Erskine KD8GXW, we were able to get it straightened out

and the site is up and working fine now. Future billing will now come to me instead of Ken Kelch KB8KNK (remember him) and we should not have the problem again.

Remember that we are now in our 2007-2008 fiscal year and that your dues are due and payable via direct payment or mailing in the form supplied with this news letter.

Remember also that the annual Christmas Party Meeting dinner (**December 11**) is free to paid up members and is dependant on your dues being paid  
 Thank you and  
 73 Bill Miller KD8VP.

### The Trustee Sez:

Greetings to one and all. The 440 repeater is still not working properly at the repeater site. I emphasize "at the repeater site". I have had the repeater working just fine for an extended time in my basement twice. Using a short piece of wire for a receive antenna, and outputting into a dummy load, the repeater works just fine and does not lock up. I carry around an HT and key it up to check it and it doesn't seem to fail. When I install it in the shack it

will work fine for a while and then something keys it up and the controller doesn't shut it down. I suspect interference from something, but can't detect what it might be while monitoring at the site. This seems to indicate that maybe we should put a PL on the input to filter out interference.

Unrelated to the repeater, my power supply blew a pass transistor so I am not testing while I wait for a new one to arrive.

There seems to be some talk that the 2 meter repeater is not working as good as it used to. I do not notice any difference at my location. If you have an opinion let's talk about it. My personal opinion is that, it is working just fine for the amount of use that it gets. If you're not going to use it you can't complain about the way it works.

The hams that could use it the most seem to want to talk simplex rather than use the repeater. That is there choice, but the repeater is setting there waiting to be used.

If you have any comment contact me, otherwise I don't know what your thinking.  
Thank you Bill Miller KD8VP.

## The Secretary Sez:

The meeting was called to order with the pledge of allegiance at 7:30 P.M. by Bob N8NE.

Treasures report was given by Bill KD8VP.

Accepted as read by Tom KD8EBY.

Seconded by Rob N8PSP.

Trustees report was given by Bill, KD8VP. He had the 440 working but had to shut back off. As it was keyed up and would not unkey.

Vice Presidents report was given by Chris KC8TWL.

He made reservations for the Christmas Dinner

**(December 11)** in Imlay City. It will be Dec. 11, the same day as our meeting would of been. We are to

meet at 6:00 P.M. Dinner at 6:30 P.M.. We have the room till 9:00 P.M. Do Not forget to sign up. If you have not Paid your 2007-2008 Dues. They are now due.

Joe KD8CIL upgraded to Extra at the last VE Testing on Saturday, September 29.

Break for coffee at 7:50 P.M. till 8:10 P.M.

There was no new business.

50-50 was won by Bud KC1BUD.

Motion was made to adjourn by Tom KD8EBY.

Seconded by Gary KA8RGT at 8:20 P.M.

## From the mailbag:

### THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME - - - - - By Jimmy Hatlo



## 3900 Kcs on a Saturday Morning

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable. A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whom-ever he was talking with something about 'a thousand marbles.' I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say—

'Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's 'dance recital' he continued. 'Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities.' And that's when he began to explain his theory of a 'thousand marbles.' You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

'Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime. Now, stick

## News from the FCC

It had been announced that Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, Special Counsel for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau was going to retire in January 2008. This is a follow up announcement:

\* Hollingsworth to Stay Put at FCC: Riley Hollingsworth, Special Counsel for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, has decided not to retire; he had announced last week that he would leave the FCC in January 2008. "After spending the entire weekend thinking about the decision [to retire], it

with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part. It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail', he went on, 'and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays.' 'I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear.' 'Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life.

There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.' 'Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time.' 'It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 Year old Man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!'

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. 'C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast.' 'What brought this on?' she asked with a smile. 'Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles.'

became more and more clear to me that it just isn't the right decision for me right now. There are several issues on the table that I want to continue to work through with the amateur community." The Enforcement Bureau is the primary organizational unit within the Federal Communications Commission that is responsible for enforcement of provisions of the Communications Act, the Commission's rules, Commission orders and terms and conditions of station authorizations, as well as enforcement of Amateur Radio rules (Part 97).

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**Upcoming Swaps...**

**Volunteer Exam Session:**

The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be **November 10, 2007** at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorrان Blvd, Port Huron, MI.

**Pre-registration is now required for the Volunteer Examinations.**

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 \$14.00. For further information call Bob Herbert, K8WMW, at 982-1561

This year we will be sending the schedule to area clubs, school districts and posting at the Radio Shacks.

The remaining 2007 sessions will be:

November 10

December 8

For further information call Bob Herbert, K8WMW, at 982-1561

**Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association**

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

**Officers**

President, Bob Beswetherick, N8NE.....

Secretary, Flo Haack, KC8CAB.....

Vice-Pres., Chris Azelton, KC8TWL..810-245-0073

Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

**Committees & Appointees.**

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD

Club Historian.....Charlie Whipp, KC8JBK

Skywarn Coordinator.....Pete Headrick KB8RSG

Field Day Chairman.....Bill Miller, KD8VP

Two Meter Net Mgr.....Charlie Whipp, KC8JBK

Public Information Officer.....**It could be you!**

Club Call TrusteeW8LAP.....Bill Miller, KD8VP

VE Coordinator.....Al Wilson, N8NPR

Swap & Shop Chairperson.....Bill Miller, KD8VP

Meeting Refreshments.....Bill Miller, KD8VP

Newsletter Editor.....Hank Kohl, K8DD

**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!

## 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](mailto:stepsisters@comcast.net) or 810-987-8873

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### 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](mailto:k8dd@k8dd.com) or 810-721-0708

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**Be Radio-Active  
Participate**

**Here is a good reason to enter the Michigan QSO Party in April!**



**A real nice certificate, suitable for framing, from the Mad River Radio Club for high score in Lapeer county.**

## Hints, Kinks, Tips and otherwise useful information from the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet for October 31, 2007

### NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

o One of the scariest things for a new operator to do - and it doesn't even have to be Halloween - is to jump into a big contest.

And a big CW contest, at that! If you've had your new HF license for a while and made some CW contacts, I'll bet you can find some slower stations way up high in the bands (especially on the old Novice frequencies above 7.100 MHz) to call. Listen carefully, copy the CQing station's information from early contacts and let 'er rip!

o Following the tower accident reported above, Frank W3LPL contributes this important mental checklist item for every time you reposition yourself on the tower; Am I tied off to safe tower components ONLY?

On most amateur towers that means your positioning lanyard and fall arrest lanyard must NEVER wrap around or be fastened to ONLY the horizontal and diagonal structural members. Horizontal and diagonal structural members and welds are never safe for fall protection. They can be weakened or fail from severe weather or tower overloading and are rarely strong enough to safely arrest a fall.

Your fall arrest lanyard must have hooks large enough to fasten around your tower legs. Your positioning lanyard must ALWAYS wrap around at least one, and preferably two or three tower legs. Never, never, never use antenna mounts or other tower accessories for positioning or fall protection

anchorage. If you must position yourself above the top of your tower, the only safe anchorage is the mast, but only if its man-safe. If you're not absolutely certain its man safe (including the mounting of the mast to the tower) don't do it!

o K3KY has an excellent series of articles on Half Squares & Bobtails at <http://www.angelfire.com/md/k3ky/page38.html> that helped Hank K8DD, who reports that he can now get "that good figure-8 pattern. I have used his matching & feeding information several times with excellent results."

High Speed Club CW Contest, sponsored by the Radio Telegraphy High Speed Club (HSC) from 0900Z - 1100Z and 1500Z - 1700Z Nov 4. Frequencies: 80-10 meters, 10-30 kHz above band edge. Categories: SOAB-LP (<150W), SOAB-QRP (<5W), SWL. Exchange: RST + HSC member number or "NM". QSO Points: HSC member--5 pts, non-member--1 pt.

Score: QSO points. For more information: <http://www.dl3bzz.de>. Logs due 6 weeks after the contest to [hsc-contest@dl3bzz.de](mailto:hsc-contest@dl3bzz.de) or Lutz Schröer, DL3BZZ, HSC Contest-Manager, Am Niederfeld 6, 35066 Frankenberg / Eder, Germany.  
*[Although this may be a late announcement for the High Speed Club CW Contest, I'll be looking for LCARA members in this one. -ed]*

## Upcoming DX!

**And now ..... One way to find where the DX is operating!**

## Dx Packet Cluster

The **WA8DX** Spider Packet Cluster node is available on **144.970**. It is also available on the internet by using **telnet wa8dx.servebeer.com**. At present **WA8DX** is receiving info via K8SMC in Jackson or N8NM in Waterford.

This is a tool you can use to build your DXCC total, see where people are working stations on both HF and VHF, and even pass messages.

Use your TNC to connect in the command mode and use **C WA8DX** as the command. Once connected you will get a welcome screen that asks for info. You should start to see DX spots right away.

Although you can stay connected indefinitely, if you decide to disconnect, type **b** or **bye** and you will be logged out.

## Remember...DX Is!

### N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

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November 2007  
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80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Each Tuesday to Mar 25  
9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>  
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HA-QRP Contest (CW - 80 Meters) \*\*\* QRP Contest\*\*\*  
Nov 1, 0000z to Nov 7, 2400z  
Rules: <http://www.radiovilag.hu/haqrp2.htm>  
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40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Each Thursday to March 27  
9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>  
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SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards  
Nov 14, 0100z to 0300z  
Rules: <http://skccgroup.com/sprint/sprint-rules.htm>  
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NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint \*\*\* QRP CONTEST! \*\*\*  
EST: Nov 21, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM  
UTC: Nov 22, 0130z to 0330z  
Rules: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/contests.html>  
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YO International PSK31 Contest (80 Meters) ... 50W max  
Nov 16, 1600z to 2200z  
Rules: <http://www.yo5crq.ro/Rules2007EN.htm>  
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LZ DX CONTEST (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category  
Nov 17, 1200z to Nov 18, 1200z  
Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/lz1fw/contest/>  
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ARRL Sweepstakes (Phone) ... QRP Category  
Nov 17, 2100z to Nov 19, 0300z  
Rules: <http://www.arrrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2007>  
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European PSK Club - PSK63 QSO Party ... 100W. Max  
Nov 18, 0000z to 2400z  
Rules: <http://www.eu.srars.org/>  
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HOT Party (CW) ... QRP Category  
Nov 18, 1300z to 1500z (40 Meters)  
Nov 18, 1500z to 1700z (80 Meters)  
(HOMEBREW & OLDTIME - EQUIPMENT - PARTY)  
Rules: <http://www.qrpcc.de/contestrules/hotr.html>  
~~~~~

RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*  
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EST: Nov 18, 9 PM to 11 PM

UTC: Nov 19, 0200z 0400z

Rules: <http://www.gentzow.com/fpgrp/>

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SKCC Weekend Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Category

Nov 25, 0000z to 0000z

Rules:

<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/wknd-sprint-rules.html>

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CQ World Wide DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category!

Nov 24, 0000z to Nov 25, 2400z

Rules: <http://www.cqww.com/>

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MQFD Monthly Sprint (CW/PH/Digital) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*

Nov 24, 1800z to 2200z

Rules: <http://w2agn.net/mqfdsprint.html>

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QRP ARCI Topband CW & SSB Sprint \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*

Nov 29, 0000z to 0600z

Rules: <http://www.qrparci.org/>

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ARRL 160 meter Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Nov 30, 2200z to Dec 2, 1600z

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2007>

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

If you wish to subscribe to the Calendar,  
send an e-mail to [N2CQ@ARRL.Net](mailto:N2CQ@ARRL.Net)

Please forward the contest info you sponsor to [N2CQ@ARRL.NET](mailto:N2CQ@ARRL.NET) and  
we will post it and give it more publicity.

Anyone may use this "N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar" for your website,  
newsletter, e-mail list or other media as you choose.

(Include a credit to the source of this material of course.)

72 de

Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar Links:

<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/Contest/contest.htm>

<http://www.amgrp.org/contesting/contesting.html>

**2007-2008 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.

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