

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

WAVEGUIDE

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

December

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2007

*The next regular meeting will be held on
 Tuesday, December 11 —7:30 p.m.*

But not

*at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911)
 2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.*

Merry Christmas

Happy New Year

Happy Holidays

From the Officers and Staff

Of the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

See you all in 2008



The Prez Sez:

The holidays are here again. Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas dinner, Christmas and New Years Eve. Wow!

I have set up all the club meeting dates and all the test sessions for next year. The next test for Lapeer is 12-29-2007.

The Christmas Dinner is a “thank you for helping at Operation C.A.R.E.” We could use more help. It is a lot of fun giving out free coffee and drinks. To me it is like camping out, without having to pay, put up or take down. The public expects to see us and they really appreciate our service.

73 Bob, N8NE

The LCARA Christmas Party is December 11 at the Countryside Banquet Center, 596 S Cedar St., (M-53, Van Dyke just north of the Imlay City Fair Grounds) from 6pm-9pm. Free to members and a guest. Reservations required - Let Bill KD8VP know if you are going to attend. 810-797-5329 or KD8VP@juno.com

The Treas Sez:

Greetings to everyone, the Christmas season is upon us and everything is busy. The tree is up and most of the decoration so it is time to be thinking about the LCARA Christmas party. The party is a lavish banquet dinner for all PAID up members and their spouses, with a visit from Santa Clause to boot. All thanks to those members that saw fit to help the club with Operation Care. Op Care is the main benefactor to the club treasury and more than pays for our expenses. So as decided by the membership

excess income will go to pay for the Christmas banquet.

Reminder you must have paid your dues prior to the banquet and you must have reserved ahead of time so a place for you and your spouse can be provided.

That said the treasury has not had any major expense for the month of November and we took in a reasonable amount of dues so all is looking good.

Thank you and Merry Christmas to all.
73 Bill Miller KD8VP

The Secretary Sez:

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance by Bob N8NE.

The people present introduced them selves.

S.E.T. Test is rescheduled for Nov. 24.

Treasurers report was given by Chris KC8TWL.

Accepted as read by Dick KC8VHA.

Seconded by Ed KC8EGR.

Chris KC8TWL reminded everyone of the Christmas Dinner.

Secretary report was read by Flo KC8CAB.

Accepted as read as read by Tom KD8EBY.

Seconded by Dan KC1BUD.

Break for coffee at 7:48 P.M. till 8:00 P.M.

50/50 was won by Dick KC8VHA.

Motion was made to adjourn by Dan KC1BUD.

Seconded by Ed KC8EGR at 8:10 P.M.

From Lapeer County Emergency Services Division

I just wanted to share the article that I put together on Doug Donner for our State Association Newsletter. I am hoping that each of you may have some publication you would like to put it in as well. If you need anything further, please let me know. Someone did take a picture of him getting the award (S) at the Board of Commissioners Meeting, I just haven't been able to secure a copy of it yet. When I do, I will forward it to each of you. Have a great week (and Happy Holidays)!!

MEET THE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR OVER 60,000

As most of you know, the biography for each MEMA nominee is read during the Conference each year, however I wanted to take that a step further and be sure that all MEMA members are aware of what this individual has done for my community AND others as well. As Emergency Manager for Lapeer County, I am extremely proud to share the bio on the 2007 MEMA Volunteer of the Year over 60,00...Doug Donner.

Doug was born in Newport News, VA, but raised in Michigan. A graduate of Fraser High School, he married his high school sweetheart Sheri, moved to Almont, MI and had a daughter (Bobbi).

He started out volunteering by taking time to chaperone field trips and being a member of the PTO/PTA. Later, he was active with the Almont Music Boosters and 4H. He has participated in motorcycle rides to raise funds for the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation, and Thin Blue Line. He gives blood on a regular basis. In fact, this year he rode in the American Diabetes Association's Tour de Cure fundraiser. He also supports local charities when he can, especially those that support first responders.

He volunteers his time in support of amateur radio by acting as the ARRL's appointed Emergency Coordinator for Lapeer County where he is responsible for overseeing all Lapeer County amateurs in emergency situations. He has worked on mutual aid pacts with both St. Clair County and the some counties of District 3. He is a registered instructor with the ARRL. He serves on the County's Emergency Management Advisory Council board as well. Recently he has taken on as co-

coordinator of Lapeer County CERT (along with his wife Sheri). He worked to provide both CERT and Amateur Radio displays at Lapeer's Family Emergency Preparedness Day event.

What vacation days are left over, they are often spent volunteering for Operation Care, a program the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association participates in, in association with the Michigan State Police. He worked tirelessly to oversee Operation Care on all summer holiday weekends and still volunteers to work several shifts each weekend.

He has also worked as an amateur radio operator, to provide communications for such events as: the Frankenmuth MS Walk, the CRIM Race in Flint (for the American Heart Association), and the February Freeze 5K Walk/Run in Imlay City, March of Dimes Walk in Lapeer (immediately following this year's Situational Emergency Training – aka Mock Disaster Exercise). He serves with the Salvation Army's SATERN unit, as well as their Emergency Disaster Services working (and driving) on their canteen (often this is in support of Habitat for Humanity). With each event, he is asked to participate in the upcoming years events and graciously agrees each time.

All of these activities not only account for most of his "spare" time, but most of his vacation days as well.

Other affiliations not listed above include:

St. Clair Propbusters and Lapeer County Wingnuts (both RC plane clubs)
Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL)
Amateur Radio Emergency Services/Radio Amateur Communications Emergency Services (ARES/RACES)
Utica/Shelby Emergency Communications Association (USECA)

In addition to Doug getting the MEMA Award, he was also honored at the *3rd District Emergency Management Association Volunteer Banquet* held October 26, 2007 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Bay City for all the above as well.

Congratulations Doug!

Sincerely,

Mary Stikeleather, PEM
Lapeer County Emergency Mgmt
2332 W. Genesee Street
Lapeer MI 48446
810-667-0242
810-667-0415 fax
mstikeleather@lapeercounty.org
www.lapeercountyemd.org

From the mailbag:

The linking proposal:

Several months ago the subject of linking one of the W8LAP repeaters to the Independent Repeater Association (IRA), which is a linked repeater system covering from the Soo down the center and west side of the state to the southern border of Michigan. Since no one in the area was familiar with what all was involved, I contacted the IRA for some more information. Here is the reply from Abe, W8HVG:

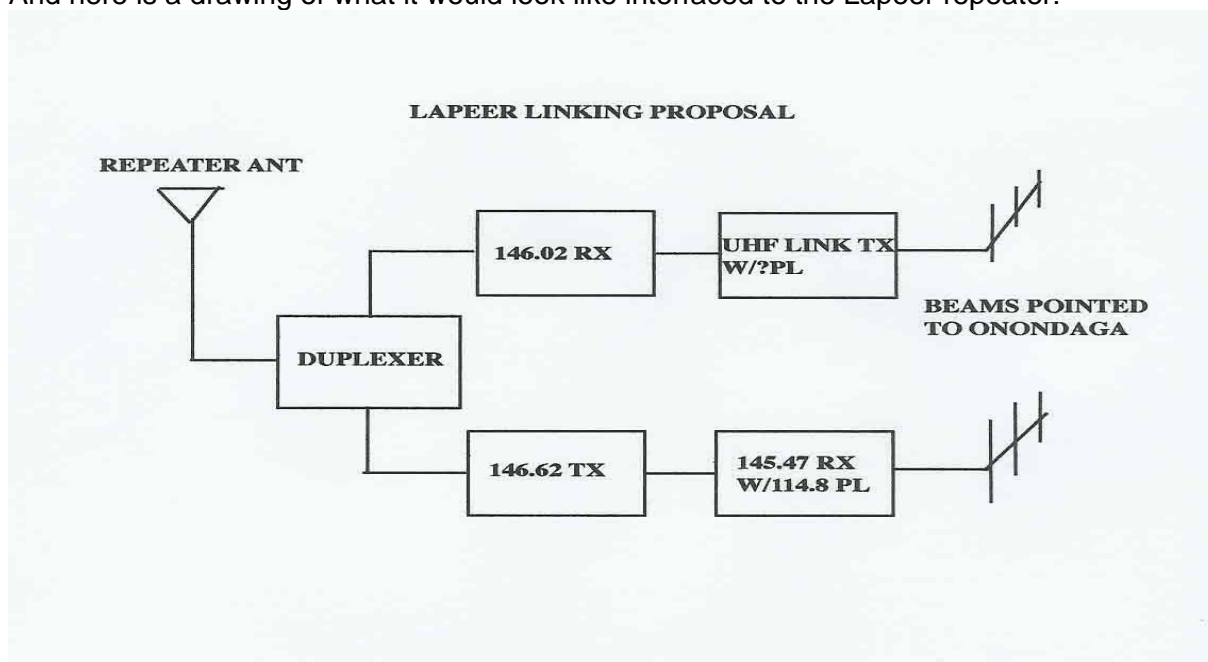
“As far as linking repeaters, we (the IRA) would be glad to help do it and supply all the equipment that is necessary. We'd even turn the equipment over to a club to keep and maintain, etc. The important thing is for someone, i.e., a club, a group, or just a dedicated bunch of hams to manage it (or assist managing it). It generally turns out to be a two-way street where everyone benefits (and I can talk more about that when we discuss it).

I do not recall ever seeing a communication from someone in the Lapeer Club. Gosh, that would seem like a good area to have a link, and we would certainly entertain doing it.

What is required to link with the IRA system somewhat depends on the area and the "connections" available to the existing IRA link system. We generally link on UHF or 220, sometimes we even listen to the other repeater using protective PL and directional antennas. It all depends on what's available to use, mostly from what we already have.

I would think that the Lapeer repeater (146.62) could be linked in with Onondaga (145.47)”

And here is a drawing of what it would look like interfaced to the Lapeer repeater:



This brings up another question – Would the Lapeer repeater be best served to link to the IRA, or to have a link opened up to NWS during weather events? I suppose if the NWS link were to come up, the IRA link could be disabled, but that may not be possible to do with the present repeater. But it seems that a link to NWS should be the first priority. Except for the next proposal that has been offered!

The next proposal:

Now – to throw in another thing that has been proposed to the club and was presented during the break at the November meeting to the officers present. If you read the good ole County Press, there was a short article about a new wireless internet service being installed in North Branch. It seems that the tower is located in the North Branch Industrial Park where Perry, KG8ID, works. And since he has control over what goes on the tower, he has asked if there would be any interest in putting a remote receive site on from there for the 2 meter W8LAP repeater. This would extend the coverage to the north end of the county for mobiles and portables.

Although there has not been a meeting with Perry, it would seem that LCARA would purchase the equipment and antennas for the remote receive site. And a voting system for the main repeater site on M-21. The voting system equipment would decide which receiver had the best received signal and then put it through to the transmitter. The question that remains – will the present repeater support this.

Or

Will the present repeater support both linking – to NWS and / or to the IRA – and a remote receive site? Or will the LCARA have to (choke, cough, gasp) purchase a new repeater which will handle the newer technology? This is something that the Board will have to discuss and bring to the membership.

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These are some scary tower pictures that nobody wants to happen to them!

Here are some pictures of my tower and Mosley Pro 57B after the winds of this past week. I don't know why it chose to come down at this time, as it has withstood harsher winds in the past. I think it was the grinch because I normally put up a five foot star near the top of the tower to celebrate Christmas. Now I have to deal with the insurance company and then the hassle of replacing everything.

Merry Christmas, Bill KD8VP



Not something I would want to wake up to in the morning!

Upcoming Swaps...

January 20, 2009 – Hazel Park Amateur Radio 42nd Annual Hamfest at the Hazel Park High School, 23400 Hughes, Hazel Park, MI. Contact k8khz@arrl.net (248-850-7941) or n8wr@arrl.net (248-642-3608). Web site www.hparc.org for more information.

Volunteer Exam Session:

Lapeer:

The next Volunteer Exam will be **December 29, 2007** at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911) 2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement. 9:00 AM. Contact Bob, N8NE 810-653-3856 to register for a test.

Port Huron:

The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be in **January, 2008** at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorran 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 2008 sessions will be the first Saturday of the month:

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 . 810-653-3856
Secretary, Flo Haak KC8CAB 810-793-2606

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.....Bob Beswetherick, N8NE
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-
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.

For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale:

For Sale

HW-8 Handbook—covers HW-7, 8 & 9 \$15

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

100' Rohn 45 tower with antennas, house, large garage, dipoles, vertical & wire antennas. Will not split. \$negotiable.

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 or 810-721-0708



Hints, Kinks, Tips and otherwise useful information

from the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet for 28 November 2007

NEW HF OPERATORS - THINGS TO DO

o If you've given HF contesting a try during the multi-band contests, the ARRL 160 and 10 Meter contests are great ways to find out about these interesting and tantalizing bands. Don't worry that you haven't got a full-sized 160 meter antenna - load up what you have a give it a try!

Larry F6FVY has written a very nice on-line <<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>> coordinate finder that uses the Google maps interface. Click anywhere on the map to see lat/long and 6-character grid

locator. Or enter the grid locator (2-, 4-, or 6-character) and go directly to a display of the appropriate map! (Thanks, Jim AD1C)

While you're restively waiting for the next contest, here's a good book about one of ham radio's magical spots, Clipperton Island. "Clipperton, A History of the Island the World Forgot", by Jimmy M. Skaggs will fill you in on a number of details often left out in more casual reviews. (Thanks, Paul W8AEF)

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**. At present **WA8DX** is receiving DX 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.

You can also connect via the internet. Telnet to **wa8dx.servebeer.com** port **7300**

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

You can view an online version of a users manual at: www.wd1l.net/DXSpider/usermanual_en.html

Remember...DX Is!

N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

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November 24 - December 23, 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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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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ARRL 10 Meter Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category
Dec 8, 0000z to Dec 9, 2400z
Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html?year=2007>

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UBA Low Band Winter Contest (CW/SSB/RTTY/PSK) .. QRP Category  
Dec 8, 1700z to 2100z and  
Dec 9, 0500z to 0900z  
Rules: [http://www.uba.be/hf\\_contests/pdf/uba\\_winter\\_en.pdf](http://www.uba.be/hf_contests/pdf/uba_winter_en.pdf)

~~~~~  
SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards
Dec 12, 0100z to 0300z
Rules: <http://skccgroup.com/sprint/sprint-rules.htm>

~~~~~  
NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
EST: Dec 11, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM  
UTC: Dec 12, 0130Z to 0330Z  
Rules: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/contests.html>

~~~~~  
MDXA PSK-31/63 DeathMatch ... QRP Category
Dec 15, 0000z to Dec 16, 2400z
Rules: <http://www.mdx1.org/deathmatch.html>

~~~~~  
Croatian CW Contest (CW) ... QRP Category  
Dec 15, 1400z to Dec 16, 1400z  
Rules: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/9acwc.htm>

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QRP ARCI:
Holiday Spirits Homebrew Sprint (CW) *** QRP Contest ***
Dec 16, 2000z to 2359z
Rules: <http://www.qrparci.org>

~~~~~  
SKCC Weekend Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Category  
Dec 23, 0000z to 0000z  
Rules:  
<http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/wknd-sprint-rules.html>

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Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(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

Please forward the contest info you sponsor to 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

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