

W8LAP

www.w8lap.com



LCARA Waveguide



March

Published Monthly by The Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2004

Upcoming Swap & Shops

Mar 20– Marshall, MI Hamfest Marshall High School, 701 N. Marshall (Exit I-94(S)) 8am till 2pm

<http://www.qsl.net/w8df>

Mar 21- Toledo Mobile Radio Association Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR Phone: 419-385-5624

<http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

Email: wd8mxr@arrl.net

Apr 17– Milford Swap Contact: Rose Mary Moore, KC8NQJ 810-632-5174 <http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk>

Apr 17– Michigan QSO Party

Apr 24– Trunk Sale, Iosco Co. AR Enthusiasts Contact: Ray Knuth KB8ZYY 989-739-2896 <http://www.w8icc.org>

May 1– Wexaukee ARC Cadillac, MI

May 14-16–Dayton Hamvention www.hamvention.org

*This month's Meeting is
Tuesday, March 9th—7:30 p.m.
At the Lapeer County Central
Dispatch Center (911) at 2332 W.
Genesee Street in the basement*

The Treas Sez

Bill Miller, KD8VP

The treasury has taken some very big hits this last couple of months, with the purchase of the new antenna and accessories in January and the payment of both of our liability insurance and our property insurance in February. Those items alone cost nearly \$1600.00, but we are still financially sound.

It seems that the weather never cooperates with amateur radio. We have the new antenna purchased, the 125 foot man lift is all lined up, but the weather just won't cooperate. The rental agency recommended that if we are going to extended the boom on the lift to the max that we must have a very calm day. Well we have had a couple of sort of calm days but the snow is too deep to get the lift up to the tower. About the time the snow goes away the ground will be too soft to move the lift. Go figure!!! We will get the antenna up. I have noticed that good old Jim KD8YX has done something and the repeater is working better.

With all that said I do wish that those of you that would like to support the repeater would pay your dues!

Thank you, Bill KD8VP

The Prez Sez

Josh Long, N8CFS

By now you have probably heard about the ARRL license restructuring proposal to the FCC. Last month's *Waveguide* featured an overview of the proposed changes. Among other things, the proposals call for the consolidation of the current license classes into revised novice, general, and extra classes. The elimination of the morse code exam for novice and general class licenses is also proposed. The band plans would consequently be modified (including a reduction in the size of the 80m and 40m CW/data sub-bands), should the FCC decide to adopt the proposals. I have seen a wide variety of comments regarding the League's proposals. As Hank mentioned in last month's edition, drop an email to the ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver (k8qe@arrl.org) if you have observations or comments on the proposals.

The Prez Sez (Continued on page 3)

The VP Sez

Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI

I would like to address two things in this article. First the upcoming Swap. I know you might say it's not till August why even talk about it? Well look how fast the first two months of this year went by. It will be August before we know it and we need to have a successful swap to continue to keep our funds coming in and to be able to buy, replace, or repair our equipment and do other things. Let me encourage you to talk it up with whomever you see. Take copies of the swap poster around and drop them off at other swaps, public bulletin

The VP Sez (Continued on page 7)

Contents

The Prez, VP Treas Sez	P 1
Calendar	P 5
Club Page	P 2
DX & Contesting	P 6
For Sale	P 3
SkyWarn Training	P 4, 7
Minutes	P 3
Scramble	P 7
Radio Shack News	P 6



**Lapeer County Amateur
Radio Association**

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

Officers

President, Josh Long, N8CFS.....810-724-6790
Vice-President, Bill Hetchler KC8SHI 810-667-1497
Secretary, Therese Long, KC8PEZ..810-724-6790
Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

Committees & Appointees.

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD
Club Call Trustee W8LAP.....Jim Boyer, KD8YX
VE Coordinator.....Al Wilson, N8NPR
Swap & Shop Chairperson.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Field Day Chairman.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Meeting Refreshments.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Two Meter Net Mgr.....Jim Boyer, KD8YX
Newsletter Editor.....Hank Kohl, K8DD
Club Historian.....Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI
Public Information Officer...Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI

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

Newsletter

Items for the newsletter may be called to the
Editor at 721-0708, sent by U.S. Mail (Box 88,
Attica, MI 48412), or as an ASCII file, Word file
or hand-written to k8dd@arrl.net

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each
month.

**'Never argue with an idiot. They drag you down to
their level then beat you with experience.'** -anon



While in Imlay City, support your local Radio Shack store

LCARA Site Sponcer:
Hillcraft Electronics
1831 S. Cedar Street
Imlay City, MI 48444
Phone: 810-721-8030

Show your club colors

The following items, all with the LCARA logo, are available
to members. Your name and callsign could be included at
no extra charge.

Tee shirts.....\$15.00
Sweat shirts, hooded.....\$30.00
Sweat shirts, long sleeve without hood.....\$18.00
Golf shirts, grey, yellow or white.....\$19.00
Nylon jacket, windbreaker.....\$35.00
Heavier poplin jacket, flannel lined, quilted.....\$85.00

Sizes available to XXL at the prices listed above.

For each "X" above XL, add \$2.00.

Call Flo Haack, KC8CAB , or contact her at any club meeting
to place your order.

LCARA's Video Library

The club has a number of video tapes available for
use by members at no charge. If you would like to
borrow one or more of the tapes, contact the
president, at any club meeting.

Titles presently available:

- Getting Started in Ham Radio
- Getting Started in DXing
- Getting Started in Packet Radio
- Getting Started in Amateur Satellites
- Getting Started in Contesting

Tapes may be retained by the borrower for one
month and must be returned at the following
month's meeting.

Board of Directors Meeting

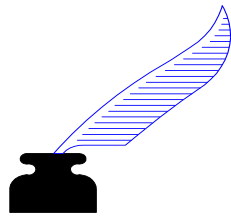
The Directors' monthly meetings are held on the
first Tuesday of each month at the BK Lounge at
7:30PM as needed (announced on the W8LAP
repeaters). **All club members are urged to
attend.**

Contributors to this newsletter:

Josh N8CFS Therese KC8PEZ Bill KD8VP
Bill KC8SHI

Your name and call should be here!

**LCARA Monthly Meeting
Minutes
Lapeer County Central
Dispatch Center (911).**



The meeting was opened at 7:30 PM by Jim KD8YX in the absence of both the president and vice-president with the pledge of allegiance and introductions. There were several visitors, including Jesse Howell, who was writing a senior project on ham radio. There were two new hams, Doug Donner Sr. and Doug Donner Jr, who were waiting for their callsigns. There were no hospital/SK reports.

President's Report: none; president Josh N8CFS absent.

Vice President's Report: none; vice-president Bill KC8SHI absent.

Treasurer's Report: given by Bill KD8VP. Accepted as read.

Secretary's Report: read by Therese KC8PEZ. Accepted as read.

EC/Trustee's Report: given by Jim KD8YX. Jim has found a man lift and is waiting for better weather before installing the new antenna. Jim has not yet finished the new ARES/RACES cards for the year.

Old Business:

There was a discussion of the continuing interference from the Lowell repeater. Jim KD8YX again asked everyone to keep a log of the interference.

The ballot for the vote on the Constitution revision was discussed. All dues paying amateurs should have received theirs in the mail. Ballots are due by March 10.

Minutes(Continued on page 5)

This space is where you could have submitted something. Tell us about:

- What DX did you work?
- What interesting QSO did you have recently?
- Did you try a different antenna? Did it work?
- Did another ham you know do something to qualify for "here's your sign"? (the stoopid sign—and we won't publish your call or name!)
- Rumors

Most any format is fine—Text file, Word file, hand written, typed or verbal over the phone. See page 2 for Newsletter contact information!

For Sale



This is a great place to sell what you don't need, give away what you don't need or look for what you can't live with out. Ads will be run for 2 months.

=====

Wanted: Articles, stories, pictures, facts, fables, witticisms or what-have -you for the Waveguide. If you have something that you think will be of interest to the LCARA membership, please get it to the Editor. See Page 3 for contact information.

For Sale: Garmin GPS 45 GPS receiver. Operational, but could be cleaned. Includes a copy of the manual. \$45 or trade for Icom IC-02AT or similar HT

For Sale: MFJ-1278B multi-mode TNC. Includes manual, power adapter, and various cables. \$50 or trade for Icom IC-02AT or similar HT

Contact Josh, N8CFS 810-724-6790

(Continued from page 1)The Prez Sez

Be sure to mark your calendar for the Skywarn Training Session later this month! Plan on attending as the severe weather season will soon be upon us and trained spotters are of most use to the National Weather Service during periods of severe weather. See the flyer located elsewhere in this month's *Waveguide* for further information. At the meeting, Jim or I will mention how to contact the NWS White Lake office via packet radio—a great resource for emergency communications.

Thanks to Hank K8DD and Stan AC8W for the great presentation on their James Bay DXpedition! Although I was unable to attend the February meeting, I've heard from reliable sources that the presentation was enjoyed by all. If you have any ideas for other presentations at upcoming meetings, please pass along your ideas. I will bring my portable packet station to the one of the upcoming meetings.

On a housekeeping note—if you wish to vote on the constitution revisions, please recall that you must return your ballot to Therese KC8PEZ by March 12th. I think we all will be happy after March 12th, regardless of the outcome of the vote. Stay posted for the results in next month's *Waveguide*. Should some or all of the proposed revisions be adopted, I will ask the webmaster to post the new constitution on the member's only section of the website.

Speaking of the website, the Pezmeister has been updating it, so keep an eye on it over the upcoming weeks. Also, there is a discussion bulletin board on the website which all members are free to use. It's a useful resource which might be used more. While on the topic of the Pezmeister, I believe that Therese will be operating as VE3/KC8PEZ over the upcoming weeks as she travels to Ontario to work on her U-M Flint honor's project. Have a safe, enjoyable, and productive trip, Therese!

FREE

2004 TORNADO SPOTTER TRAINING CLASS

FREE



LAPEER EAST
AUDITORIUM
(933 SAGINAW STREET)

March 25, 2004
from
7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
THE PUBLIC
(RSVP's not required)

PLEASE NOTE:

This years training will offer both basic and advanced material.

SPONSORED BY:

*National Weather Service
Lapeer County Office of Emergency Management
Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association*

Lapeer County Office of Emergency Management
255 Clay Street
Lapeer MI 48446

For More Information on being a spotter
check out: www.crh.noaa.gov/dtx/skywarn.
or contact Mary Stikeleather at
810-667-0242



If you have an e-mail address and would like the Waveguide via e-mail, let Bill KD8VP (kd8vp@juno.com) and Hank K8DD (k8dd@arrl.net) know and it will happen. This can help save postage and printing for the club....And the pictures will look better!

(Continued from page 3) *Minutes*

New Business:

SkyWarn training will be held at Lapeer East High School on March 25 from 7:30-9:00 PM.

Therese KC8PEZ has received Operation CARE application forms for 2004 and plans to submit those soon. Volunteers are needed to coordinate and/or assist at Operation CARE 2004.

There was a discussion led by Bill KD8VP of the certificate of deposit. Our interest on the certificate is low enough, according to a CPA, that we do not need to file a federal income tax form. This CPA also said that the club does not need to be a 5013C federal non-profit corporation. During the discussion, it was generally felt by members that becoming a federal non-profit corporation would cause too many problems,

After the break, Stan AC8W and Hank K8DD gave a presentation on DX'ing at James Bay in Quebec.

The 50/50 was won by Joe KC8JRY.
The meeting was adjourned by Jim KD8YX at 9:08 PM.

THE DARK SUCKER THEORY

For years, it has been believed that electric bulbs emit light, but recent information has proved otherwise. Electric bulbs don't emit light; they suck dark. Thus, we call these bulbs Dark Suckers.

The Dark Sucker Theory and the existence of dark suckers prove that dark has mass and is heavier than light.

First, the basis of the Dark Sucker Theory is that electric bulbs suck dark. For example, take the Dark Sucker in the room you are in. There is much less dark right next to it than there is elsewhere. The larger the Dark Sucker, the greater its capacity to suck dark. Dark Suckers in the parking lot have a much greater capacity to suck dark than the ones in this room.

So with all things, Dark Suckers don't last forever. Once they are full of dark, they can no longer suck. This is proven by the dark spot on a full Dark Sucker. The dark which has been absorbed is then transmitted by pylons along to power plants where the machinery uses fossil fuel to destroy it.

A candle is a primitive Dark Sucker. A new candle has a white wick. You can see that after the first use, the wick turns black, representing all the dark that has been sucked into it. If you put a pencil next to the wick of an operating

Dark Sucker(Continued on page 6)

March 2004

If your e-mail address changes please let KD8VP and K8DD know so you get club email!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 ARES Net 146.62 9 PM	2	3	4 ARES Net 442.750 9 PM	5	6 ARRL DX SSB Contest
7 ARRL DX SSB Contest	8 ARES Net 146.62 9 PM	9 LCARA Meeting	10	11 ARES Net 442.750 9 PM	12	13 RSGB Common-wealth Contest
14 Wisconsin QSO Party	15 ARES Net 146.62 9 PM	16	17	18 ARES Net 442.750 9 PM	19	20 Virginia QSO Party
21 Virginia QSO Party	22 ARES Net 146.62 9 PM	23	24	25 ARES Net 442.750 9 PM	26	27 CQ WW CW WPX contest
28 CQ WW CW WPX contest	29 ARES Net 146.62 9 PM	30	31	April 1 ARES Net 442.750 9 PM	2	3 Missouri QSO Party



HillCraft Electronics 888-520-2002
Just North of I-69 on Van Dyke (M-53)
In the Farmer Jack Plaza

SPECIAL Through Mar 31, 2004

- On any small parts (the 270 series Radio Shack Part numbers **20% discount!** with your LCARA membership card ~or~ proof of Amateur Radio License.

We also Recycle rechargeable batteries here at the store - any kind up to two pounds of sealed cell. Let's keep the ground water safe for future generations.

Check with us for your wireless networking needs!

Spring is coming—get your batteries—buy two packs of similar batteries and get one free.

(Continued from page 5) Dark Sucker

candle, it will turn black. This is because it got in the way of the dark flowing into the candle. One of the disadvantages of these primitive Dark Suckers is their limited range.

There are also portable Dark Suckers. In these, the bulbs can't handle all the dark by themselves and must be aided by a Dark Storage Unit. When the Dark Storage Unit is full, it must be either emptied or replaced before the portable Dark Sucker can operate again.

Dark has mass. When dark goes into a Dark Sucker, friction from the mass generates heat. Thus, it is not wise to touch an operating Dark Sucker. Candles present a special problem as the mass must travel into a solid wick instead of through clear glass. This generates a great amount of heat and therefore it's not wise to touch an operating candle. This is easily proven for light bulbs too. When you compress a gas, it gets hot, right? So the light bulb gets hot because of all the dark being squished into the wires.

Also, dark is heavier than light. If you were to swim just below the surface of the lake, you would see a lot of light. If you were to slowly swim deeper and deeper, you would notice it getting darker and darker. When you get really deep, you would be in total darkness. This is because the heavier dark sinks to the bottom of the lake and the lighter light floats at the top. The is why it is called light.

Finally, we must prove that dark is faster than light. If you were to stand in a lit room in front of a closed, dark closet, and slowly opened the closet door, you would see the light slowly enter the closet. But since dark is so fast, you would not be able to see the dark leave the closet. So next time you see an electric bulb, remember that it is not a light emitter but a Dark Sucker.

Outside of the Shack

Spring is coming and it's going to be time to fix the outside antenna things that may have gone bad over the winter—like water in the coax or bad coax connectors. The ideal tool for soldering PL-259s is at Wal-Mart: a Ronson "TechTorch" mini-torch. Butane-fueled, refillable, and best of all comes with a catalyst burner with soldering & heat tips, so you can shrink the heat shrink after you solder the connector." It's less than \$30 and is Ronson item # 80009, UPC 0-37900-80009-6, most likely located in the plumbing department.



Inside the Shack

If you bought a new PC lately, you'll waste your time looking for its RS-232 ports since most have been replaced with USB. This is bad news since our standard interface is the venerable RS-232. There are quite a few different USB to serial interfaces that will put those serial ports right back in your system, supporting multiple devices over a single USB port with a small 4 port USB hub. <http://www.microham.com/USB%20interfaces.html> is a good site if you want to recreate the actual RS-232 port. The Belkin F5U103 USB/Serial adaptor will provide a serial port with proper address and IRQ. They have been reported to have good results using them for rig control and RTTY applications. Also <http://www.aa5au.com/rtty.html> is a very good RTTY resource, in general. I have had good luck with some \$3.99 USB to serial adaptors that I picked up off of eBay to control two radios and a RigBlaster for RTTY and PSK31.

Next Month

The annual Michigan QSO Party. This is a 12 hour event (noon to midnight) where everyone in Michigan is trying to work everyone in and out of Michigan and hams outside of Michigan are trying to work Michigan. The information package will be in the next Waveguide.

Coming Soon

The ARRL June Field Day!

**Be RadioActive—
Participate!**

SKYWARN TRAINING

Skywarn spotter training sessions are held to train individuals on how to accurately observe such weather phenomena as wall clouds, funnel clouds, tornadoes, shelf clouds associated with squall lines, and clouds that resemble funnel clouds and tornadoes but really aren't.

In addition, topics covered during Skywarn training are:

- a recap of significant weather events during 2003;
- the necessary atmospheric conditions for thunderstorm development;
- tornado classifications;
- severe weather safety tips;
- severe weather terms used in National Weather Service products;
- what to report to the National Weather Service; and,
- how to report information to the National Weather Service.
- Skywarn training presentations usually last around two and a quarter hours, with a scheduled break included.
- Skywarn spotters are essential to the National Weather Service, law enforcement and fire officials, and emergency managers.

Among other things, spotters:

- provide valuable information on the severity of thunderstorms;
- allow downstream communities to understand the severity of thunderstorms moving toward them; and,
- allow the National Weather Service to gather information which helps verify the warnings it issues.

Those who volunteer to be Skywarn spotters offer a valuable service. At a minimum, it is asked that Skywarn volunteers review procedures by attending a Skywarn spotter training session every two years.

Spotter training is open to members of the general public, law enforcement, fire officials, and amateur radio operators, among others. We look forward to your participation in Skywarn!

(Continued from page 1) The VP Sez

boards, or any other place that people would gather or look at. We need successful swaps to keep our dues low.

Second, I would like to discuss membership in the club. If you haven't paid your dues yet let me persuade you to do so. It is good to belong to an organization that is made up of others who have the same or similar interests as you. Also there is the thing of participation. Imagine what would happen if a person married another and then just ignored them. Probably what happens to half the marriages today, they would dissolve the marriage. Being a member of the club is a little like marriage it takes active participation to make it work. We want our club to thrive and grow and be a continuing viable entity in the community. This takes work and participation on the part of each member to accomplish. I realize some have issues that limit or eliminate them from a real active role but many of us don't. If we want to see this club flourish and grow and remain into the future it takes the continuing efforts of all to see this happen. Come to meetings, work at the Operation Care activities, help with the swap lend us your wisdom and expertise and we will see our club become all it can be (my apologies to the Army).

The Word Scramble

Or Words I've never used, or don't understand!

R Q Y R A N I U G N A S C K N W
 N U V N U I N T K J C X X R N R
 E I Y A Q M P V M H A E A E X H
 N N A I R O H L U T P N M F N C
 O T X R X R Y E I O G O Z U I E
 I E F A Z G L L R D W P C L U T
 T S Y N O A L Y O F P H I G Q A
 A S A I U N O T A I I T T E A S
 C E P D A A P C T L A H C N D R
 E N P U N T H A A I I A A C L E
 R C A T A I A D N B B L D E A V
 P E L E N C G O K E Z M I A B I
 M R T L I L O G P G H I D F Z G
 I M O A C X U Y T T K A I C S R
 I B B V H Q S Z Q P K G K L Q E
 F D P T E L A R G H E T T O Q T

APPALTO	PHYLLOPHAGOUS
BALDAQVIN	QUINTESSENCE
DIDACTIC	REFULGENCE
FILIBEG	SANGUINARY
IMPRECATION	TERGIVERSATE
LARGHETTO	VALETUDINARIAN
MORGANATIC	WOMEN
NATAORIUM	XENOPHTHALMIA
OUANANICHE	ZYGODACTYLE

2004-2005 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.

Lapeer County Amateur

Radio Association

P.O. Box 12

Hadley, MI 48440-0012