

W8LAP

www.w8lap.com

LCARA Waveguide



February Published Monthly by The Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association **2005**

Upcoming Swap & Shops

Saturday, Feb. 5, St. Catharines, ON— Niagara Peninsula A.R.C. Amateur Radio Flea market 9:00 am Canadian Auto Workers Hall, 124 Bunting Rd, VE3NRS 147.240+ PL 107.2

Sunday, Feb. 13, Farmington Hills, Livonia ARC Swap 8:00 a.m. William Costick Activity Center, 28600 West 11 Mile Road, Farmington Hills MI K 8 U N S 145.35--146.520 <http://larc.mi.org>

Saturday, Apr. 16, Highland, Milford A.R.C. Swap-n-Shop 8:00 a.m. Milford H.S., 2380 Milford Rd. T.I. 145.49- (or 146.55 back-up) Info www.qsl.net/w8ydk

May 20,21,22, Dayton Ohio, Hamvention www.hamvention.org for information.

Saturday, June 18, Midland Midland A.R.C. 31st Annual Hamfest. 8:00 a.m. Gerstacker Fair Center, Midland County Fairgrounds. T.I. 147.000+ Info: www.qsl.net/w8kea

***The February Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, February 8th—7:30 p.m.
At the Lapeer County Central Dispatch
Center (911) at 2332 W. Genesee Street
in the basement.***

The Prez Sez

Bob Erskine, W8RAE

Hope everyone present found Vic Martin's presentation informative. At this time I do not have a program lined up. We are going to be involved with the Sky Warn program in March. The 24th at East high school. I haven't ask Mary yet but would assume the time would be the same as in other years.. Enjoy the snow plowing!!!!

73 Bob



Calendar	Page 4
Field Day is coming	Page 3
Limericks	Page 4
Scramble	Page 5
SIDs	Page 5
Skyward Flier	Page 6
The Minutes	Page 2

The Treas Sez

Bill Miller, KD8VP

I trust that everyone is having fun this winter, (those in a warmer climate can disregard this), slipping and sliding, digging and pushing. Of course some of you should be reminded that this is the best time of the year to be putting up antennas! They always work best when put up under the most adverse of conditions.

As far as the treasury is concerned, everything is normal. We paid the usual bills last month and paid for the plaque given to Jim Boyer KD8YX, for his tireless service, and sent flowers to some unfortunate souls. Just a couple of members sent in their dues to renew their membership so there wasn't much income, but that is not unusual for this time of year.

That doesn't mean that I haven't been busy. Starting in January I have to begin the planning for both Field Day and the Swap and Shop. Every year we have to get permission to use Rotary Park for Field Day, without having to pay a healthy liability insurance policy for the City of Lapeer. They have always been nice enough to waive the insurance, but it requires that I turn in many pages of paper work so that they can justify doing it. They once again have approved our use of the Park for the fourth weekend in June for Field Day. Thanks to the City for welcoming us. As far as the Swap goes I have been working with Hank K8DD, to update the flyer for this coming year. I have to get that out for estimates and get it printed for the best price, so that we can start to get our advertising out to the masses. Also I have contacted the ARRL to get our swap sanctioned and advertised. and CQ magazine for a listing in their publication. Who was it that said Winter is boring. I hope that more of you will clear your calendars for June 25 & 26 (Field Day) and August 21 (Swap and Shop) and come out and enjoy what we have to offer.

73 Bill kd8vp treasurer

**Lapeer County Amateur
Radio Association**

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

Officers

President, Bob Erskine, W8RAE.....248-628-3401
Vice-Pres., Therese Long, KC8PEZ..810-724-6790
Secretary, Doug Donner, KC8ZCF...810-798-2237
Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

Committees & Appointees.

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD
Club Call TrusteeW8LAP.....Jim Boyer, KD8YX
Club Historian.....Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI
VE Coordinator.....Al Wilson, N8NPR
Skywarn Coordinator.....Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI
Swap & Shop Chairperson.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Field Day Chairman.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Meeting Refreshments.....Bill Miller, KD8VP
Two Meter Net Mgr.....Charlie Whipp, KC8JBK
Newsletter Editor.....Hank Kohl, K8DD
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 810-721-0708, 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.

Contributors to this newsletter:

Doug KC8ZCF Bill KD8VP Albert Einstein SK
QRP-L BoB W8RAE

Did you do anything?

Your name and call should be here!

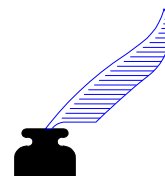
Welcome New Members

Thomas Laclave K8QWC

**LCARA Monthly Meeting
Minutes**

**Lapeer County Central Dispatch
Center (911).**

LCARA Monthly Meeting Minutes from
January 11, 2005



The meeting opened at 7:30 P.M by Club President, Bob W8RAE with Pledge and introductions.

Guests: Vic Martin Director of 911and John Angellotti (Son of Tom, KG0ZN)

Upgrades and Advances: Doug Sr., K8LSQ to General Class

Hospital/SK Reports: Al Smiley, N8OV is in Hospice currently

Presidents Report (Given by Bob, W8RAE): Looking for programs for upcoming months. Vic MARTIN will give a presentation on the operations at 911/E.O.C.

Vice Presidents Report (Given by Therese, KC8PEZ): None

Secretaries Report (Given by Doug Jr., KC8ZCF): Motion to accept as read by Ed, W8NCJ; 2nd by Bruce, N8EXN; Motion passed

Treasurer's Report (Given by Bill, K8VP): Accepted as written. Motion to accept: Bruce, N8EXN; 2nd by Ed, W8NCJ; Motion passed

Repeater Trustee Report: None

Emergency Coordinator Report: None

Presentation This Month: Vic Martin, Director of 911 Dispatchers for Police and Fire (county wide – emergency and non-emergency) Non-emergency phone number: (810) 667-0292 Explained how Amateur Radio is a great asset to the county 27 yrs with the Michigan State Police – retired as Post Commander in Bay City Been at 911 a little over a year Most police/fire radios are good for

Minutes (Continued on page 3)

Board of Directors Meeting

The Directors' monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Tim Horton's at 7:30PM (Check on the W8LAP repeaters). **All club members are urged to attend.**

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.....\$12.00
Sweat shirts, hooded.....\$30.00
Sweat shirts, long sleeve without hood.....\$18.00
Golf shirts, grey, yellow or white.....\$19.00
Nylon jacket, windbreaker.....\$45.00
Heavier poplin jacket, flannel lined, quilted.....\$83.00

For XXL add \$2.00 For XXXL add \$3.00

Add MI sales tax for all items.

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

(Continued from page 2) **Minutes**

about 7 years. The counties radios are due for replacement very soon, due to rugged use in the field. Cost radio maintenance agreement: over \$300,000 per year. In the very near future, Lapeer will have a mapping system (Phase 2 Compliant) that will locate calls from cell phones (to within 30 Ft.). Current system will not do this. County is having Arial photos taken of properties in the county. This will aid fire fighters (for example) to locate ponds and other alternate sources of water at a fire. The counties current 800MHz Analog radio system is becoming obsolete. There are currently 19 employees at E.O.C. – 3 dispatchers per shift with an overlap on afternoons 7:00 PM to 1:00 AM are the peak call times and 13,000 calls per year (police and fire) are dispatched.

Break: 8:10 to 8:20

Old Business: None

New Business:

A motion was made by Ed, W8NCJ, to formally acknowledge Therese, KC8PEZ, for organizing the Christmas Party; 2nd by Mike, KN8Z, Motion unanimously passed.

Doug Sr., K8LSQ, asked about the tower still located in Jim's, KD8YX, backyard. Bill, KD8VP replied that it was being moved across the street for now and would be moved by January 27.

Bill, KD8VP, asked the question about what the club wants to do about the 2 towers they have (The one being moved and 1 in Bill's backyard). Discussion ensued. (see following items)

Ed, W8NCJ, will pass the Deanville Mtn. info to Mike, KN8Z, to take over work on Ed, KC8EGR, voiced an opinion about getting grant money to set up the new receive site. Doug r., KC8ZCF, explained the grant money we are trying to get for the new receive site, and some of the outstanding info we still need to collect. Mike, KN8Z, asked about a site plan that might be needed. Nobody knew if one existed. Ed, W8NCJ, said the county needed a legal description of the area of land we want to use.

50/50 won by: Tom, KG0ZN

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:02 PM. Motion to adjourn made by Tom KG0ZN, 2nd by Mike, KN8Z.

Side Bar: Anyone that requested a copy of the K7QO Code Course that Hank, K8DD, brought back from the Holland Swap, can pick it up at the February meeting. I finally got them copied as MP3 files. I have a list of names in case you forgot. I also have a few extras in case someone wants one.

Submitted By:

Doug Donner Jr., KC8ZCF

Secretary

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@arri.net) know and it will happen. This can help save postage and printing for the club....And the pictures will look better!

Field Day is coming! Field Day is coming!

By Bill Miller KD8VP

The Lapeer City Council has approved, once again, our use of Rotary Park for Field Day. It seems every year it gets more complicated to get them to allow us the privilege of using their park without having to pay some ridiculous insurance fee. Perhaps if they didn't change City Managers every year it would help.

Clear your calendars for the fourth weekend in June. I would hope that I could get more of you officials of the club to participate, thus maybe more members themselves.



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

SPECIAL Through February 31, 2005

- 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 now can order Diamond Antennas and accessories.

Check with us for your wireless networking needs and High Speed internet!

CW Limericks

A dentist who practiced in Billings
 Inserted electronic fillings
 His patients' recourse
 Was copying Morse
 Or submitting to extensive drillings

A telegrapher from Klamath
 Almost became psychopath
 His problem, of course,
 Dyslexical Morse
 (He always sent "What wrought doG
 hath")

**Be RadioActive—
 Participate!**

And this is how it is!

*"You see, wire telegraph is
 a kind of a very, very long
 cat. You pull his tail in New
 York and his head is meow-
 ing in Los Angeles. Do you
 understand this? And radio
 operates exactly the same
 way: you send signals here,
 they receive them there.
 The only difference is that
 there is no cat."*

Albert Einstein

Who can argue when Albert Speaks.

February 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	2	3 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	4	5 Saint Cath- erines ON Swap
6	7	8 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	9	10 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	11	12 ARRL DX SSB Contest— 48 hours
13 Livonia Swap = Farm- ington Hills, MI	14	15 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	16	17 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	18	19
20	21	22 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	23	24 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	25	26
27	28	ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM		ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM		

Sudden Ionosphere Disturbances

There have been some episodes over the past week of some very strange Sudden Ionosphere Disturbances, or SIDs. These have not been caused by solar flares or the like, but rather from GRBs ... Gamma Ray Bursts, from very distant objects, like several hundred light years away.

The biggest recent event was on December 27, 2004 when a massive gamma ray burst hit the earth about 2130 UTC from a Magnetar called SGR-1806. This GRB was so powerful that it was able to ionize our ionosphere, just like a solar flare, and cause ionospheric absorption down to the VLF frequencies. This indicates a GLE, a Ground Level Event, meaning the ionizing radiation from the GRB penetrated our atmosphere, all the way to ground level.

There are amateur astronomers of sorts who monitor the signal strength from high powered VLF transmitters, such as the Navy stations NAA, NPM, NLK, etc. At VLF, signal strengths are fairly constant, varying a bit during day and night. Some of these amateur stations show a sudden absorption of signals at VLF due to the arrival of the GRB's. Some of their plots can be seen at: <http://aavso.org> Click on the "GCN #2932" button for the SID plots. Very interesting.

For the real neophytes out there,

http://gcn.gsfc.nasa.gov/gcn3_archive.html

This is the clearinghouse for all observatories and satellites doing GRB monitoring and/or observing. A little on the heavy side, including several reports about the observing we're doing at the Very Large Array (VLA) radio telescope on SGR-1806. Our normal observing schedule has been interrupted to observe this strange phenomenon.

The VLA has found SGR-1806 and is making images of it daily right now. It's not clear yet what SGR-1806 is, or was, other than

something that possibly blew up big time, perhaps a collapsing pulsar, that has spewed debris and electrons out into space, traveling from 0.3 to 0.7 times the speed of light. It was the initial explosion, on Dec. 27th, that showered gamma rays into the earth's ionosphere. This is an explosion that occurred 200+ years ago, and the shockwave of gamma rays is so powerful, it was able to ionize our E and F layers, and absorb VLF propagation. Pretty impressive.

If you look at the above link, "signal strengths" of the radio energy is measured by scientists by "flux density," using units of mJy ... milli Jansky's. For example, current VLA detected flux density of this event is about 100 mJy at L-band (1 GHz) and 30 mJy at C-band (8 GHz).

1 Jy (1 Jansky) = 1.7×10^{-23} mW.

1 mJy = 1.7×10^{-26} mW.

Figure out what the dBm is of that. Now THAT is QRP!

I noticed some complaining on qrp-l for several days after Dec. 27 about weird propagation and how some couldn't hear a "peep" on 80M, 6M, etc. Now you know why.

72, Paul NA5N

PS - I work at the NRAO Very Large Array (VLA), the world's largest radio telescope, in Socorro, NM. However, I am posting this information from observatory information as a private individual ham radio QRP kind of guy. This is not an official observatory press release. It's not an official anything. You don't even have to believe it. And, I'm not using my work computer that tax payers bought me. So for those 3 individuals that have gotten a kick out of contacting my employer over my past solar/propagation posts, save your breath. I am not representing the NRAO in any way shape or form in this post or using tax payer stuff. For the rest of you, I hope you enjoy and find the info interesting.

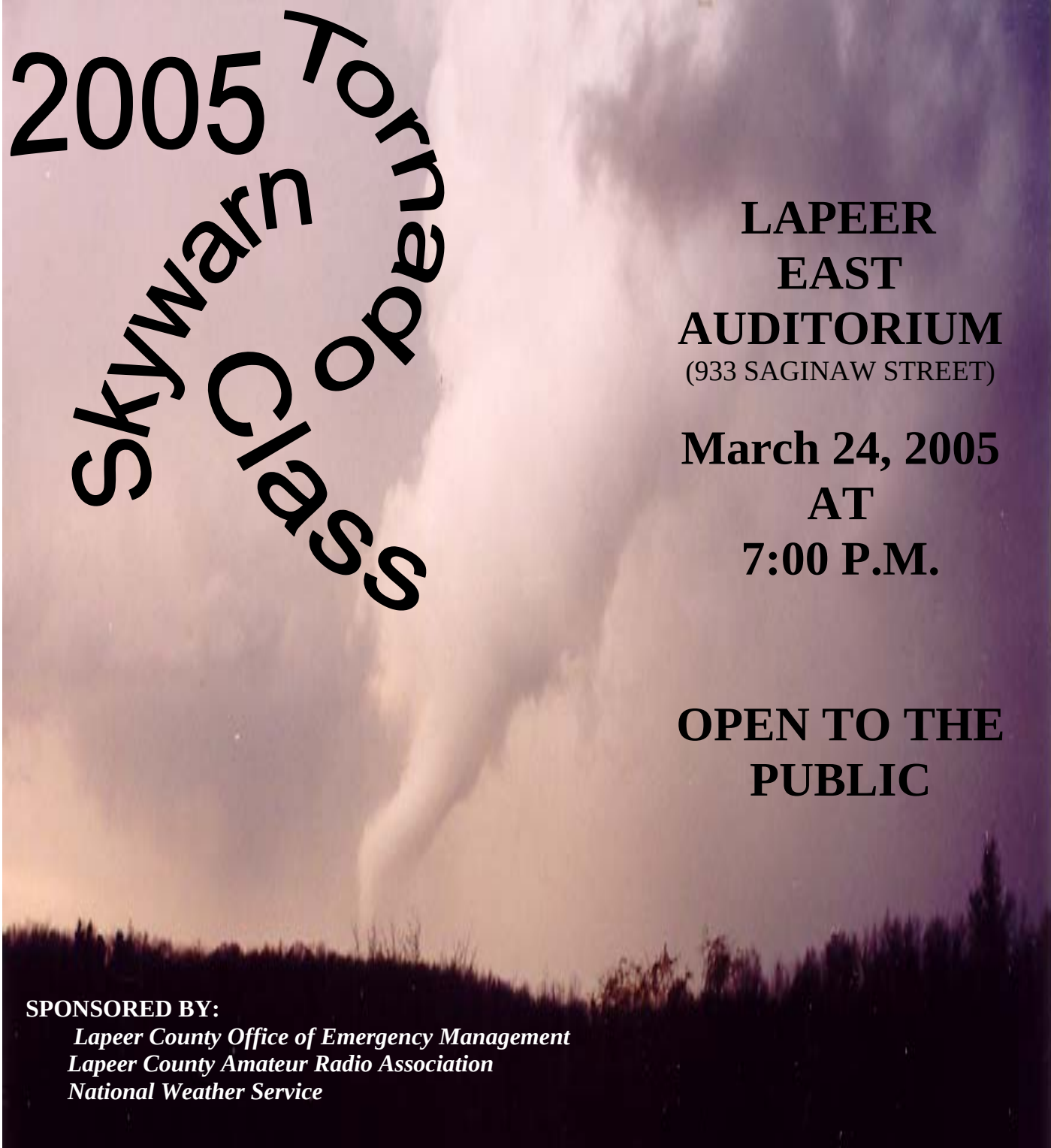
Tnx QRP-L, ed.

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

Scramble Clubs in and Around Michigan.

amqrp
arcars
cmara
dara
emarc
emcc
fera
grara
ira
larc
lcara
lcarc

mara
marc
marc
mcara
miqrp
norcal
phart
qrparci
semara
semdxa
smart
tmra
useca



2005 Tornado Skywarn Class

**LAPEER
EAST
AUDITORIUM**
(933 SAGINAW STREET)

**March 24, 2005
AT
7:00 P.M.**

**OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**

SPONSORED BY:

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

Photograph by Jeanne Morris, Leonard Mi

OTHER LOCAL WORKSHOPS BEING OFFERED:

March 16, 2005 North Branch High School 7:00pm

(Spotter cards will not be issued at this event.)

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. Financing available.

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 12

Hadley, MI 48440-0012