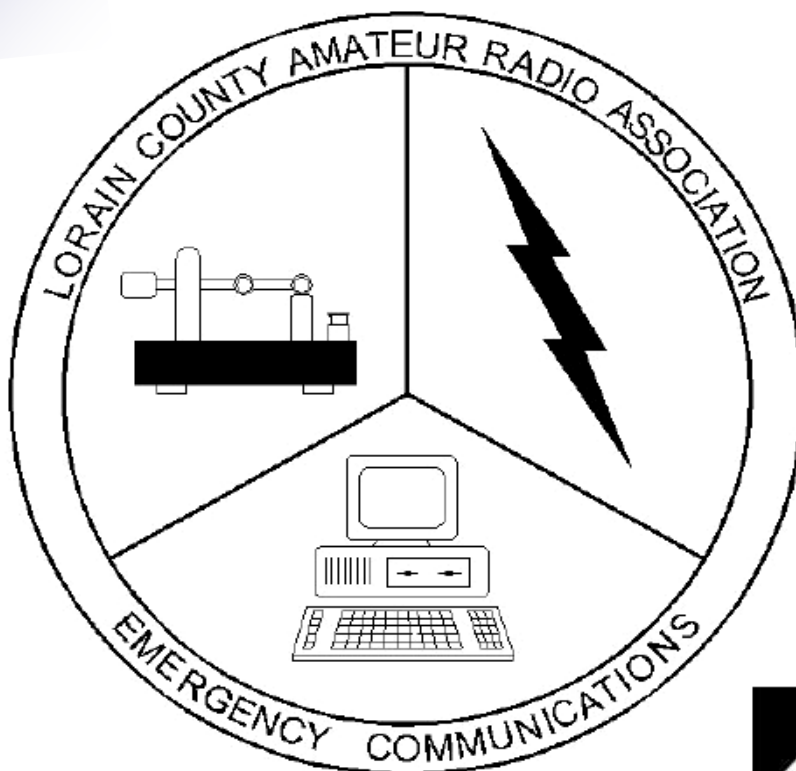


THE PRINTED CIRCUIT

Volume 20 Issue 2

February, 2008



L.C.A.R.A. @ A.R.C.
2929 West River
Rd, North
Elyria, Ohio 44035

Meeting:
Monthly Regular
Meeting 3rd Friday
@ 7:30 PM



Who's Who and What's What

LCARA Officers and Committee Heads

Officers and Trustees

President: Brian Hellinger—N8VUB
n8vub@yahoo.com

Vice-President: James Stirzaker—WA8UGC
wa8ugc@yahoo.com

Secretary: Pat Sweeney—K8PJS
k8pjs@sbcglobal.net

Treasurer: (vacant)

Trustee: Lew Parsons—N8IXF

Public Service: Ken Roberts—KC8BQO
klr0007@windstream.net

Membership: Jerry Bodkin—KD8CES
JDJ955@hotmail.com

Committee Heads

Hospitality/Sunshine: Open

Skywarn: Ken Roberts—KC8BQO
klr0007@windstream.net

ARC Liaison: Brian Hellinger—N8VUB
n8vub@yahoo.com

Education: Rich Stirzaker—KB8MIS

Newsletter: Carl Rimmer—W8KRF
w8krf@arrl.net

Amateur Testing: Steve Hall—W8HF

LCARA Equipment & Exams

Amateur Radio Exams:

*3rd Sunday of the month
At the Lorain County Chapter of the American Red Cross
2929 West River Road, North
Elyria, Ohio 44035
Doors open @ 1:00pm.*

Repeaters:

*KC8BED/R 147.150 MHz +600
CTCSS 110.9 Hz to access remote receive sites in Clarkfield, Brunswick, and Lorain*

*KB8BED/R 444.175 MHz +5
CTSS 131.8 Hz*

Nets:

LCARA Club Net

Every Sunday night @ 8:30pm

Burning River Traffic Net

*Every Evening @ 9:30pm
Alternate Frequencies:
147.030 MHz or 146.460 MHz simplex*

Skywarn net will be anytime as requested by NWS

Emergency Nets as needed anytime

*Thanks to the **Lorain County Chapter of the American Red Cross** for the use their facility for our monthly meetings and exams.*

Monthly Meeting Minutes

January Meeting Minutes

The January meeting of LCARA was brought to order at 7:35 by Pres. Brian Hellinger. 9 members were present:

In attendance were:

- Joe Shapko N8OUB
- Deano Shook KB8WNA
- Richard Stirzaker KB8MIS
- Carl Rimmer W8KRF
- Brian Hellinger N8VUB
- Larry Sherman KA8HKQ
- Jim Stirzaker WA8UGC
- Bill Penfield W8GET
- Pat Sweeney K8PJS

Joe K8OUB presented the treasurers report. W8KRF moved to accept and KB8MIS seconded. The motion passed by a majority vote.

Brian asked if the minutes as published in the newsletter are accepted. Jim WA8UGC moved to accept, seconded by KB8MIS, and passed.

Brian mentioned that the old repeater at the college was being replaced and thought it would be a good idea to try to sell it on ebay. Larry KA8HKQ moved that the old repeater be sold on ebay. There was a brief discussion. Brian asked if anyone had an ebay account. W8KRF said it did but did not feel he could accept the task of selling and shipping the unit. He suggested that the club establish an ebay account for this purpose. The matter will be tabled until more details are available.

Since Clark N8PZD was not in attendance due to being called out on a service call, Brian N8VUB gave the technical report. On Thursday, January 17, he and Clark went to St. Joes to remove the antenna from the tower. It appears an outside contractor is responsible for the antennae being altered. The extent of damage is not been determined yet. Mrs. Michaels was extremely upset that the policy regarding antenna placement was not followed by the contractor. She will be pursuing the matter.

The Clarksfield site is missing parts. There is also a problem with the voter which will be investigated by Clark. If it is not user repairable, Brian will contact Chris Mise and see if he will look at it. Clark suggests that we replace to voter with a dictator.

Club Notices

=====
Net Control operators needed for the Sunday Evening Net. If you are interested please contact of Brian Hellinger (N8VUB@yahoo.com)
=====

It is time to renew your membership. Go to the website and print off the application form and mail it to the address indicated along with a check for \$15.00.
=====

The **Gateway** system is being updated. There will be multiple groups available. More details will follow. Check the website for updates.
=====

The Technician class has been postponed indefinitely due to a lack of participants. There is a good possibility that a General class will be offered in March. We are awaiting the ARRL to finish the General class PPT presentation and other materials. Check the website for updates.
=====

Swap and Shop

If you have items you would like to place here, send an email to Carl W8KRF at w8krf@arrl.net. Please include the name, model number and description of the item, the condition of the item and any conditions of the sale or trade, the price, and contact information in the form of your name and a telephone or cell phone number. The item will be displayed here for 3 months or until it sells. Please notify me if and when you do sell the item.

Public Service

REPEATER TIPS (*Reproduced in part with permission of and thanks to TSRAC ARNB*)

(With many new operators coming on the band it helps to run a few Repeater Tips to be helpful. Here are a few that are meant to be helpful and not critical).

PAUSE BETWEEN EXCHANGES: Someone with a high-priority need for the repeater may want to break in, also, repeaters are configured so that a pause in the transmissions is necessary to reset the timer.

PROPERLY IDENTIFY: ID with your call at ten (10) minute intervals. Don't "over ID". You give the call of the other station only on the *initial* contact and at the *end* of the contact as a courtesy operation since someone may want to call that party. (Actually, under the revised rules you only have to identify your own station).

BE COURTIOS: A repeater is like a telephone party line and requires the same kind of cooperation in its use.

DON'T OVERPOWER THE REPEATER: This distorts your modulation.

DO SUPPORT YOUR REPEATER: Installing and maintaining a good machine is a very expensive undertaking, requiring thousands of dollars. Continual "dead-beats" are stealers of others' time and investment in the repeater.

DON'T FORGET, AMATEUR RADIO EXISTS BECAUSE IT IS A SERVICE, not just a hobby: Contribute to public service aspects of VHF FM communications, such as accident reporting and road dangers or hazards. Participate in the training drills for emergencies (i.e. WX nets are good examples of this). Checking into nets where possible is a form of supporting the repeaters for a time of need. The FCC feels that nets are the best conservators of frequency that is possible since many stations are on one single frequency rather than on many others.

DON'T MONOPOLIZE A REPEATER: Continue conversations but pause periodically to see if anyone needs to make a call or a net is coming up, etc.

DON'T FORGET THAT WHAT YOU SAY OVER A REPEATER CAN BE HEARD OVER HUNDREDS OF SQUARE MILES: by anyone with an inexpensive scanner or monitor. Some are potential hams. If they like what they hear, they may want to get licenses and join in. Don't leave bad impressions by making thoughtless or off-color remarks.

DON'T GIVE SPECIFIC LOCATIONS: when leaving your mobile gear unattended at shopping centers, etc. "Hamburglars" may be listening. The same warning goes for vacations, trips, etc. It doesn't hurt to say that "Uncle Joe is watching the premises" or your police dog is on duty, etc.

DON'T FORGET: L.C.A.R.A. encourages the use of its repeater. A repeater in use is one that is immediately ready for emergency calls. When a traveler or strange call is heard on the repeater, make them welcome or see if you can be of any help.

THIS IS A FRIENDLY REPEATER – It is YOU that makes it so.

Education Section, LCARA

Once again, I want to reiterate how important it is for those of us who want to provide emergency communications services to support agencies to take FEMA courses offered on line. ICS Courses are universally accepted with all Disaster groups and are free. To enroll in ICS-100 and ICS-200 go to: <http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp> When you get your Completion Certificate in your e-mail be sure to save it. There is no easy way of retrieving it from FEMA if you loose it. Secondly, some organizations will request a copy of it to keep in your records if you want to work for them during disasters.

73's Richard J. Stirzaker KB8MIS

Brian mentioned the Tabletop Drill that was held at the Red Cross. All affected agencies were present. The drill started at 8:30Am and ended at 12:00PM. A scenario was presented and each agency described how they would respond. It was determined that hams would be most effective during the first 24 hours of the event.

Richard KB8MIS reminded the group of the FEMA courses. (See above under Education Section) Brian, as EC for Lorain County, is trying to get information from the ARRL. He would like to establish a better ARES presence in the county.

Joe K8OUB mentioned the NWS training session will be held on March 24—6PM at Gates Medical Center in Elyria. Check the NWS website for details.

Under old business, Rich reminded the members of the upcoming Technician class which begins on January 28. Check out the LCARA website for updates.

A new member application was introduced for acceptance. Jeff KB8ZUN was voted in as a member by a majority.

Carl W8KRF, the current webmaster for the LCARA website on qsl.net, would like to move the site. Currently, qsl.net is not allowing downloads of large files such as the newsletter. Qsl.net is meant to only host ham homepages and it not a full fledge web hosting server. It was mentioned that there is a homepage on LorainCounty.com which was placed there by Bill KB8FU. We will work on getting access to this site. Carl will check into other hosting services and report back at the next meeting. For those who may not be aware of the website address, it is: www.qsl.net/lcara .

Brian reported that the Gateway is up and running. A new update will be installed within the next few weeks which will provide us with multiple groups. After the system has been updated, more information will be provided. Please check the website for up-to-dated information as it becomes available.

Brian reminded everyone of the LCARA net on Sunday nights at 9:00PM. He is looking for Net Control Stations. If you would be interested in assisting with this net, please contact Brian.

A motion to adjourn was made by Deano KB8WNA, seconded by Bill W8GET.

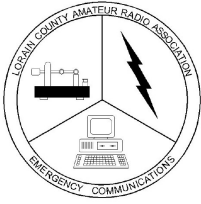
The meeting adjourned at 9:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Rimmer W8KRF

For Pat Sweeney K8PJS

Note: Pat is also the acting Treasurer and was very busy with membership applications, so the minutes were prepared by Carl W8KRF



Lorain County Amateur Radio Association, Inc

2929 West River Rd, North
Elyria, Ohio 44035

www.qsl.net/lcara

Mini Application

Name: _____ Call Sign: _____ ARRL Member? Y/N
Address: _____ Phone #: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
License Class: _____ Expiration Date: _____
E-Mail Address: _____ Birth Date: _____
Signature: _____ Date: _____

Meetings: 3rd Friday of each month at 7:30 pm. Doors open at 7:00 pm
Meeting held at American Red Cross—2929 West River Road Elyria

Dues:
Regular Member \$15/year (Prorated @ \$3 plus \$1 for each month remaining in the calendar year for new members.) A second family Regular Member at the same address \$10/Year (Prorated @ \$1 for each month) Additional family Regular Member at the same address \$5 (Prorated @ \$1 for each month)

Associated Members \$7.50 year (Not Prorated) Novice class licensees or non-licensed individuals with an interest in electronics, communications and/or public service. Non-voting