

# THE ROCK REPORTER

The Official Publication of the Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society

VOLUME 49 EDITION 02

W8NJH

FEBRUARY 2009

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JOIN US AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2009, AT 7:30 LOCAL TIME, IN THE PLYMOUTH CITY HALL, AT 201 S. MAIN ST.

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## FROM THE SHACK

The new year is getting off to a rather soft start, at least radio propagation wise. The HF bands are still proving to be somewhat of a challenge with poor propagation, and in my case at least, they have been very noisy all through the evening. I am confident though that things will get better with time. I have now lived through almost 5 cycles and conditions always do get better. Even with the poor band conditions, I was able to work approximately 29 DXCC entities in the month of January, including Artarctica, so a band opening does happen, you just have to be there when it does. As I mentioned last month, patience is certainly a virtue now when conditions are poor.

The Stu Rockafellow ARS has a new member this month. John Dellinger, KN8B, has joined Stu Rock and we are glad to have John join our ranks.

As I mentioned in last months newsletter, for those of you who live North of Five Mile Road, the Sheldon Road overpass at the C&O Railroad crossing is now open as of Friday, December 12.

It has been decided that when paying your dues, all checks should be mailed directly to our treasurer, Dave (K8EDR) to his home address. (See the list of society officers in the newsletter for Dave's address). Or bring your 2009 dues to our February meeting. Our monthly meetings are once again being held in the council chambers on the second floor of the Plymouth City Hall. Our February meeting will be held on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

The January meeting included the second part of the video

on the D-Star operating mode for VHF. The D-Star video is the first of several video presentations being planned for this year. We will keep you up to date as to the particulars of each meetings video agenda. Will, W8USR has provided the DVD to our club in the past.

Please remember our monthly Stu Rock net on the second Tuesday of the month on the 146.92 repeater. We are enjoying an increase in check-ins every month. We encourage everyone to to check-in and see what we are all about. During each net, we have a Q and A session primarily to help those who may be having a problem with station set up, antennas, TVI or BCI, or any other problems getting their station up and running. Anything related to ham radio is a good topic to talk about. Remember the second Tuesday of the month and check-in to our net, perhaps we can help get you get 'radio active'.

A couple of weeks ago, I e-mailed a 'Questionnaire' to all of the Stu Rock members. So far, I have received replies from only 9 individuals. I sure would appreciate it if all who received my e-mail would respond back to me. I would hope that from your responses to the questions, I can gain some incite as to what interest in ham radio the members have and therefore plan meetings that will be of most interest to all of you. I myself have little if no interest in 2-meter or 440 operations but really enjoy HF operating, especially CW DXing on 20 and 40 meters. If programs were provided only in my narrow field of interest, I doubt it if many of you would care for that. So please, when you can, let me know how you enjoy hamming and what you would like to see happen with our club this year.

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Mark your calendar for the next Stu Rockafellow ARS, which held on February 17, 2009. It will be held at the usual place, at the Plymouth City Hall. The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m., but folks are usually start filing in around 7 o'clock. If any of you have a friend who is a ham or is interested in learning more about ham radio, why not bring them along to our next meeting? That would be a great opportunity for them to ask a question or two about our hobby.

Remember, it's all about Ham Radio.

73, de John, K8DSL



### Meeting minutes November 2008

1930 Meeting called to order by President, John - K8DSL

Pledge of allegiance was recited

Introductions – 2 new members John KN8B and Richard K6VEM

Approval of Minutes for November as printed in Rock reporter

Approval of Treasurers report as presented

Old Business:

Whitefish report

Rich W8VS said certificates are done and mailed

Will W8USR reported said the Livonia Clubs also did their QSLs

Chuck KB8WHQ read a letter from the Plymouth City

Police thanking the club for Halloween Patrol activities

John K8DSL reported 11 check ins for Stu Rock net last week don't forget the next net is Tuesday Feb. 10th before the next club meeting on Feb. 17th

John K8DLS talked about the up coming CQ CX contest. This is a classic radio laid back contest. Break out the old Collins, Drake, and Heathkit rigs for this one. Check QST or the ARRL web site for details.

New Business:

John K8DSL reminded all that the 40 meters? CW net is still active on Monday and Wednesday at 7:00 PM on or about 7.055, all are invited to join in or just listen.

Future Fox Hunt Discussion

Bob K8HHP has a Fox transmitter almost ready to go. John K8DSL suggested a meeting at Plymouth Park this spring for a chat about the event.

John also brought up several ideas:

New club QSL cards

Club badges

Club membership certificates

A discussion followed. Dave K8EDR will bring a prelim drawing for a QSL card next meeting. Everyone seemed to think these were good ideas but no action to no taken yet.

An idea was brought up to have a club 50th year special event operation in Jan 2010. Again everyone thought this was a good idea but no action to be taken yet.

Max K3DBY read an interesting article about Ham Radio going extinct in the near future.

Gerry W8WQU has a repeater link on Echolink. Frequency is 146.490

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Motion to Adjourn was put forward. Approved and the meeting ended. Video on Digital voice followed.

We watched the second half of the Digital Radio presentation, which dealt with D-Star.

### Stu Rockafellow CW Net

Every Monday and Wednesday night, several Stu Rockers meet for a CW net on 7.055 kHz at 7: p.m. We try to keep our conversations short but everyone who wishes can join in and say a few words. It also is a great way for those of you who are either old time CW operators who just want to use their CW skills on a regular basis, or are newcomers to the mode but would like some chat time. We keep the speed down to whatever wpm code speed suits the skill of the particular operator. 15-17 wpm is the norm but slower speeds are not a problem. Please join us when you can.



### TRAINING

02/28/09 10:00 AM & 04/18/09 10:00 AM Sponsored by  
Wayne Co. RACES and Garden City Emergency

Management:

In the Maple Wood Community Center,  
31735 Maplewood in Garden City. 48135

03/30/09 7:00 PM Sponsored by Wayne County RACES  
and the Livonia ARC:

In the Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile Road  
in Livonia (East of Farmington Road) 48154

Contact: Sharon Keller at 734-427-3934

### WEB SITES

#### CHECK OUT THE STU ROCK WEB SITE

[WWW.qsl.net/w8njh](http://WWW.qsl.net/w8njh)

[www.n8mt/  
members.mint.net/n1bug/prop/aumon/aufr.html](http://www.n8mt/members.mint.net/n1bug/prop/aumon/aufr.html)

[www.dxer.org](http://www.dxer.org)

Aurora ActivityMap:

<http://sec.noaa.gov/prmap>

Mega Converter Web Page:

<http://www.megaconverter.com/mega2>

Antennas

<http://www.pi4cc.nl/link/bc.htm>

[www.cebik.com/radio.html](http://www.cebik.com/radio.html)

CONTESTS AND DX

[HTTP://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/](http://HTTP://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/)

INTERNATIONAL CALL LOOK-UP

[http://www.buck.com/cgi-bin/do\\_hamcallexe](http://www.buck.com/cgi-bin/do_hamcallexe)

NAME TAGS & OTHER HAM STUFF

[www.qslusa.com](http://www.qslusa.com)

National Weather Service, Detroit

[www.rh.noaa.gov/dtx](http://www.rh.noaa.gov/dtx)

Logging Programs

[www.n3fjp.com](http://www.n3fjp.com)

R.A.D.A.R.

<http://www.qsl.net/wr8dar>

Local Hams in your neighborhood

<http://www.vanityhq.com/maps/enterzip.html>

SATURDAY BREAKFAST LOCATION

Each Saturday, the Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society meets for breakfast at George's Senate Coney Island 39430 Dun Rovin Dr. Northville, MI It is off Haggerty between 5 and 6 Mile on the west side of the road. There is a light at that intersection. The restaurant sits up on a hill The breakfast is at 9:00 AM every Saturday. Talk-in is on the K8RUR 146.92 repeater. You do not need to be a member or a Amateur Operator to attend. Everyone is invited to attend! We would love to see you there!



FEBRUARY

CHUCK VANVLECK	KB8WHQ	04
ROBERT WITTMER	KB8DID	05
RICHARD GIBSON	K6VEM	06

MARCH

MARK CAMPBELL	KC8ORH	06
DAVE MELTON	K8LJX	10
BOB SCHANK	K8HHP	17

CLUB DUES ARE DUE.  
 MAIL IN THE FORM PRINTED  
 BELOW TO:  
 33765 TAWAS TRAIL  
 WESTLAND, MI 48185-6933  
  
 BETTER YET, BRING IT TO  
 THE NEXT MEETING.

REMEMBER

If you don't see your name listed in the birthday box, the secretary does not know your birthdate

Want to listen to the Shuttle communications?  
 Check out 145.530 Simplex

STUROCKAFELLOW A.R.S. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Send this form along with the appropriate dues to Stu Rock A.R.S., 33765 Tawas Trail, Westland, MI 48185-6933

Name: ----- FCC Call: ----- Date of Birth: -----  
 Address: ----- City: ----- State: ----- Zip: -----

Phone Number: -----  
 ARRL Member?: -----  
 E-Mail Address: -----  
 School Name: -----  
 License Class: -----

- \$20.00 Regular Membership (hold FCC license)
- \$15.00 Retired or Student (hold FCC license)

- \$20.00 Associated Membership (No FCC License)
- \$15.00 Retired or Student (No FCC License)

**SECOND TUESDAY NET**

CHECK INTO THE STU ROCKAFELLOW  
TUESDAY EVENING NET ON THE SECOND  
TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:30 LOCAL  
TIME ON 146.920 REPEATER AND BECOME A  
MEMBER OF THE "HONOR ROLL" ROLL CALL  
NEXT MONTH

**NET CONTROL OPERATORS**

FEB 19, 2009	M. BEHRENS	W3DBY
MAR 10, 2009	D RIETZEL	K8EDR
APR 14, 2009	C. VANVLECK	KB8WHQ
May 12, 2009	D. QUARLES	W8RIF

(\* = New Operator)

Interested in becoming a Net Control Operator?

Contact Chuck VanVleck 734-453-7377 or  
emermgnt@aol.com

The following Stations checked into the Stu  
Rock Tuesday Night Net on January 13,  
2009 and are now on the "Honor Roll":

DICK	KW8B	JIM	KD8GFC
BOB	K8HHP	JOHN	K8DSL
JOHN	WB8DEG	MAX	W3DBY
BRUCE	W8YFL	CHUCK	KB8WHQ
DAVE	K8EDR	BRUCE	KC8SQI

Net Control was DON, W8RIF

**SWAPS**

February 15, 2009 Livonia ARC  
Civic park Senior's Center  
Livonai, Michigan  
Talk-in: 145.350 (PL 100)  
Contact: Fred Deschenes, W8GHK  
(734) 513-8784

Web: [www.livoniaarc.com/](http://www.livoniaarc.com/)

April 18, 2009 Milford ARC  
Milford High School  
2380 Milfrod Road  
Talk-in: 145.490 (PL 67)  
145.520 (Backup)  
Contact: Rose Moore, KC8NQ  
(810) 632-5174  
web: [www.qsl.net/w8ydk](http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk)

June 21, 2009 Monrow County Comm. Asso.  
Monrow CountyFairgrounds  
3775 South Custer Road  
Monrow, Mi  
Talk-in: 146.72/12  
Contact Fred VanDaele 734-242-9487  
Web: [www.mcrca.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.mcrca.org/hamfest.htm)

**NOTICE****NOTICE**

At the February meeting join us for a video presentation about Amateur Radio

## 2008 & 2009 Society Officers

President	K8DSL	JOHN EBEJER
	k8dsl@wowway.com	734-420-1606
Vice President	W8VS	RICH BARKER
	parabarker@sbcglobal.net	810-229-6996
Secretary	WB8DEG	JOHN DAUGHERTY
	wb8deg@arrl.net	(810) 227-7837
Treasurer	K8EDR	DAVE REITZEL
	edraarch@att.net	734-427-3472
Club License Trustee	K8DSL	JOHN EBEJER
	k8dsl@wowway.com	734-420-1606
Gov. Liaison & S.E. Officer	AA8NT	Glenn Ungarten
		248-489-9509
Repeater Trustee	W8QGE	Dave Barker
	w8qge@arrl.net	734-207-2004
Newsletter Editor	KB8WHQ	Chuck VanVleck
	emermgnt@aol.com	(before 8 pm)734-453-7377
Meetings	W8USR	William Sopha
Chairman	will@sopha.org	313-533-8548
Special Events	(Your Name?)	
Chairman		
2008 Field Day	Rich Barker	810-229-6996
Chairman	W8VS	
Training Officer	WA8DHP	Bruno Walczak
	bruno-ceil@att.net	734-464-8928
Dogs in the	OPEN	(YOUR NAME?)
Park Chairman		

## 2009/2010 EVENT CALENDAR

JANUARY 2009

13 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
 20 Tuesday Rock Meeting 7:30 pm  
Dues are due  
 18 Hazel Park Swap  
 (2 Rock tables) ?

FEBRUARY 2009

10 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
 15 Livonia ARC Swap  
 (2 tables)  
 17 Tuesday Rock Meeting  
 7:30 PM

MARCH 2009

10 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
 18 Rock Meeting 7:30 pm  
  
 (LAST CHANCE TO RENEW  
 YOUR MEMBERSHIP)

APRIL 2009

14 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
 21 Rock Meeting 7:30 pm  
  
 25 March of Dimes Walk  
 8 AM - 1 PM  
 (We need you)

MAY 2009

12 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
  
 19 Rock Meeting 7:30 pm

JUNE 2009

09 Rock Net 7:30 PM  
 16 Rock Meeting 7:30 pm  
  
 27 & 28 Field Day Weekend

JULY 2009

04 Township Picnic at Twp  
 Park (Rock members  
 welcome)  
 14 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
 23 Dogs in the Park ?  
  
NO GENERAL MEETING

AUGUST 2009

11 Rock Net 7:30 pm

NO GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 2009

08 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
 15 Rock Meeting 7:30 pm  
 (PATROL SIGNUP)  
  
 19 ARC Bike Ride Comm.

OCTOBER 2009

13 Rock Net 7:30 pm  
 29 Rock Meeting 7:30 pm  
 (PATROL SIGNUP)  
 30 & 31 Halloween Patrol

NOVEMBER 2009

03-06 White Fish Point  
 Special Event Stations?  
 15 Rock Net 7:30  
  
 22 Rock Meeting 7:30 pm

DECEMBER 2009

09 Rock Net 7:30 PM  
 16 (Christmas Dinner) 6:00 pm  
  
2010 Dues are due

**THE STU ROCKAFELLOW AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**

224.94 OUT 223.34 IN Repeater Covering Southeastern Lower Michigan



PLYMOUTH CITY HALL

Club meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM local time except July and August.

Meetings are held in the Plymouth City Hall, 201 S. Main Street, in Plymouth Michigan

Check us out on the Web : [www.qsl.net/w8njh](http://www.qsl.net/w8njh)

STU ROCKAFELLOW A.R.S.  
201 S. MAIN STREET  
PLYMOUTH, MI 48170

LABEL

!!! If you move, please advise us of your new address!!!!