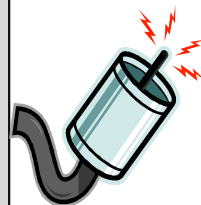




The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
May 2016



President's Message, by Joe Miller KJ8O

As mentioned by our state section manager, Larry Camp WB8R, a few weeks ago, we were enjoying our second attempt at spring this year. And with some of the cold weather lately, maybe it has become a third attempt.

First some good news. In cooperation with the Livonia Amateur Radio Club, a combination Geocaching and Fox Hunt Event will be held at Bien Park in Livonia on Saturday, May 14. The teams will assembled at 9:00, the gun will sound at 10:00 and after the last team returns, lunch and prizes will follow, probably around 12:00. You do not have to be either a geocacher or a foxhunter to participate, but if you have a hand held radio and/or a GPS receiver, please feel free to bring along. Full details were included in the last Michigan Section newsletter, and will be forwarded on request to anyone who is interested. Hopefully, no one will have to trek through the mud to get there.

May is also the time when 20,000 or more hams get together for their annual trek to Dayton Ohio for the 65th Hamvention. This will make my 10th straight year that I have attended, and as always, am looking forward to going.

Along with spring, Field Day is practically right around the corner, and plans are being formulated to make another for the club this year, after the disastrous weather conditions that we had last year forced us off the air.

Some special mentions go out to several OCARS members this month. The Hawaii DXpedition team of Greg Stobbs N8GAS, Jim Vigne KB8TXZ and Doug Basberg N8VY for their activation of five different national parks from the big island in Hawaii. I have not heard any of the numbers yet, but I am sure we will be hearing them at the monthly meeting.

Thanks also goes out to members who worked the Michigan QSO Party this year. I have not heard the final numbers at this point, but would like to acknowledge Ken Stuter W8KRS for his help. As for me, I went to River Raisin National Battlefield armed with the MFJ Big Stick antenna and 100 watts and managed to make 90 contacts before the start of the contest, and another 120 during the QSO Party, before giving up at 5:00 pm, in part due to the broadcast station on 7,250 and the cold winds coming in from Lake Erie.

Also, please see the last page as it highlights the robotics activities Nathan Craig KD8QWF.

Last and certainly not least, our own Jim Vigne KB8TXZ instructed a CW class during March and April and had a good number of participants. Although I was not able to attend most of the sessions, I was so inspired, that I bought one of the MFJ Code Practice Oscillators that was discounted \$10 in honor of Marconi's birthday after seeing the advertisement in the ARRL website.

On the other hand, all too often, things do not always go the way we like, and in the words of the ancient philosopher, it is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness.

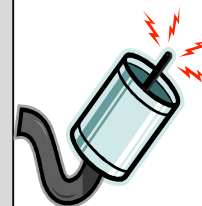
For the May meeting, Mark Shaw K8ED has agreed to talk about the National Traffic System. Mark graciously agreed to come to our club meeting after having passed along some traffic on one our nets several years ago, and at a meeting, our members expressed an interest in learning more. It should be a very informative presentation.

Hope to see you at the May meeting, and please feel free to bring a friend.

VY 73 de Joe, KJ8O, OCARS President



The Feedline
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Monthly Newsletter
Mary 2016



Siren Testing:

Saturday, March 5, 2016, at 1:00 pm. Please check contact Larry Hornsby at 248-421-2617 or by e-mail at: kb8pod@att.net for a siren

OCARS Meetings:

Tuesday, May 3, monthly meeting at 7:30, Mark Shaw K8ED about NTS
Tuesday, June 7, monthly meeting at 7:30, Field Day
Tuesday, September 6, monthly meeting at 7:30, tentatively Larry Camp WB8R

Meeting location:

Bethany Baptist Church, 1375 Hiller Rd., Waterford
doors open at 7:00, meeting begins at 7:30

Social Gathering:

Wednesday 10:15 – 11:30 am, Village Place restaurant
S.W. corner of Dixie Highway and Andersonville Rd., Waterford

Officers and Directors:

President:	Joe Miller KJ8O	Directors:	Tim Pepper K8NWD
Secretary:	Scott Craig N2OPQ		Al Bailey K8SIX
Treasurer:	John Eldred N8FNN		Fred Holmes W1SKU
Trustee:	Brad Nowak N8SNM		Jim Vigne KB8TXZ

OCARS Net:

8:00 pm (local time) on the Clarkston Repeater, 146.840 MHz, p.l. tone 100 Hz,
Joe KJ8O is net control and welcomes participation from all area hams.

Checkins:

Dates are local time, Monday evenings, with number of check-ins, and NCS:

March 1: no report	April 5: 21 - KJ8O
March 8: no report	April 12: 20 - KJ8O
March 15: 20 – KJ8O	April 19: 9 – KJ8O
March 22: not held	April 26: 18 – KJ8O
March 29: 13 – KC4LJT	

Website:

www.qsl.net/w8tno maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ

Contact information:

w8tno.ocars@gmail.com or kj8o.ham@gmail.com (for an immediate response)

Great Lakes Division:

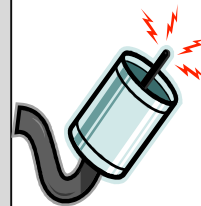
<http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org/>

Michigan Section:

<http://www.arrl.org/sections/view/michigan> (updated on the 15th of the month)



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
May 2016



Upcoming Hamfests

- May 7, 2016 Cadillac Hamfest, Cadillac, MI
<http://wexaukeearc.org/documents/Amateur%20Radio%20and%20Computer%20Swap%202016v2.pdf>
- May 14, 2016 Chassell Hamfest, Chassell, MI <http://ccraa.net/>
- May 20-22, 2016 Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH <http://hamvention.org/>

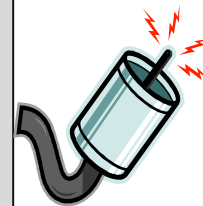
Upcoming Contests and/or Operating Events

- May 7 -8: New England (6 states), Delaware, Indiana, 7th Call Area (8 states) QSO Parties (be sure review contest rules as times, operating modes are different for each contest.
- May 28-29: CQ Worked Prefix (CW) <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/>
- For the complete listing, see:
<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2016/May%202016%20CORRAL.pdf>

Good luck and have fun!



The Feedline
Oakland County Amateur Radio Society
Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
May 2016



From Larry Hornsby, KB8POD

The May siren test will be held at 1:00 p.m. on May 7, 2016. We are looking for hams to check sirens on that day. I know some of you will be working or may have other commitments, but this would give you a chance to check a siren need where you work. It doesn't make any difference if you are in the Northwest Section as long as you are in Oakland County. If you can hear a siren, then you can check the physical parts of the siren before the test and still report on the operation. If you can reach the Clarkston Repeater on 146.840 MHz or call me at [\(248\) 421-2617](tel:2484212617) then I will take your report. We still have 58 sirens in our area to report but the county has approximately 170 still to check. I am sure you can see the need for your help.

The net will start at 12:15 p.m. on the 7th but you are more than welcome to register beforehand to request a siren location. I gladly look forward to receiving email at kb8pod@arrl.net or I can be reached at [248-421-2617](tel:2484212617). I am gone a lot but I try to always have my phone with me.

Thank you for your help in the past and I look forward to talking to everyone on May 7th.



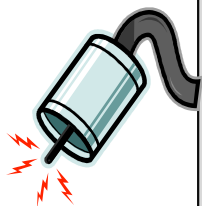
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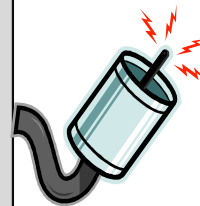
From Mike VanBuren, WD8S

It's time again for the OAK APPLE Run, This year it will be held on June 4th in Downtown Royal Oak. I need to get a commitment from everyone again. Please answer this Email it makes my job a little easier. The Race again is in the Downtown area. The Pre race meeting will be held on Wednesday June 1st at the First United Methodist Church in Royal Oak, 320 W .Seventh Street at 6:30 were they will serve pizza, Soda and the race official will be there along with the Police that we will be working with. At this meeting I will give every one there paper work for the corner'(s) I need you to cover. This year we will be using the D.A.R.T. 146.64 100hz PL and net control will be Near the Start Finish Line . If you can not make the Pre race meeting and I can still count on you we can do this via Email. The more help we get the easier the job becomes. We will again use the Blue Radio tee shirts the day of the race and if you work the race you can get a race shirt both of these will be supplied by the race committee. The Coarse has Changed, Start Finish Line will now be on Lincoln near Troy street. We will need more help this year. To cover all of Lincoln from Troy Street to the Boys and girls Club near Campbell we about 18 more hams needed to cover all the race coarse, So some helpers will have to cover more than one corner. I am working with the race committee to make this change smooth. An other change will be on Fourth Street, from Kayser to Main street, All race traffic will be sent up to Third because of construction on forth street. I will get map to everyone. I am also being told that all races will start at the same time. Not sure how that will impact the race but will have more information at the Pre race meeting.

Mike Van Buren WD8S@Comcast.net



The Feedline
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Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962
Monthly Newsletter
May 2016



OCARS Meeting Minutes for 04/05/2016

Scott A. Craig N2OPQ, Secretary

Members socialized inside and outside from 7:00 to 7:55pm

Meeting called to order at 7:55pm by Joe KJ8O, president.

Business Meeting:

We had 19 people in attendance at the April meeting.

Prior meeting minutes accepted by Ned, KD8FCD. Paul, N8LEF, seconded. Carried Unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was given by John Eldred, N8FNN. Motion to accept by Paul, N8LEF. Seconded by Doug, N8VY. Carried Unanimously.

Old business:

Dan Krause, WD8SCL, from the West Bloomfield Township government has identified a space for us for kit building. We will work out the details as time comes.

Polo Shirts \$23. If interested see Jim Vigne, KB8TXZ.

New Business:

We discussed our club participating in National Parks On The Air. <https://npota.arrl.org/>. It was previously proposed that we set up a station at the River Raisin National Battlefield in Monroe, MI. Due to the amount of red tape and new rules discovered on operating there, we decided not to hold a NPOTA club event there as we would be too limited in what we can do.

Recognition of several members who participated with the ARRL sweepstakes held in November 2015 with 100 or more points:

*Ken, W8KRS
Gary, KD8EWG*

*Doug, N8VY
Mike, AC8TE*

*Greg, N8GAS
Joe, KJ8O*

Upcoming Michigan QSO party on Saturday April 16th thru 17th. Looking for scores to be submitted for the club.

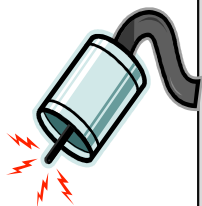
Mark Shaw presenting at the May meeting on NTS. Mark has been licensed since 1963.

Field Day is coming up ! Mark your calendars!

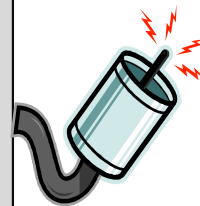
June 25th thru June 26th, 2016.

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

We'll be setting up within 24 hours before the 2pm Saturday start time. Tear down is right after 2pm Sunday.



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OCARS Meeting Minutes for 04/05/2016 (continued)
Scott A. Craig N2OPQ, Secretary

June 25th thru June 26th, 2016.

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

We'll be setting up within 24 hours before the 2pm Saturday start time. Tear down is right after 2pm Sunday.

Siren test on a Wednesday this month (April) in recognition of severe weather awareness week. Note that the USECA repeater (147.180 MHz) was down – transmitter range not as great as it once was.

-- break from 8:22pm to 8:42pm --

8:30pm Feature presentation

Repeater Use 101

Tim Smith, K8NWD

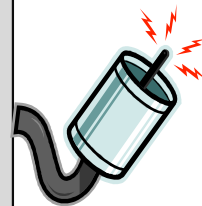
Tim noted his observations of how people use the repeaters and explained some of the misconceptions people have on why they do what they do. He showed pictures and diagrams of the Clarkston repeater, explained why we hear the letter P in morse code (P for PL – Private Line), use of time of timers on our radios, and helped us understand how receiver voting works on the repeaters that utilize it.

The 50/50 winner was Tim, K8NWD. His share of the 50/50 came to \$22.

Meeting adjourned about 9:10pm.



***The Feedline
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Monthly Newsletter
May 2016***

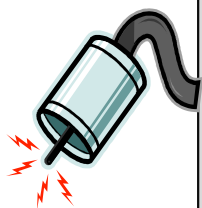


Traders' Post – as a courtesy to our membership, OCARS offers this service. Please feel free to send an e-mail to the editor (and president) Joe Miller KJ8O at kj8o.ham@gmail.com no later than a week before the scheduled publication.

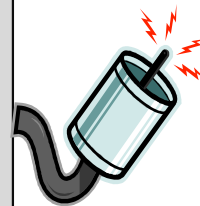
MFJ Antenna Tuner, roller inductor able to handle a maximum of 300 watts input, asking \$130. If interested, please contact George WD8INW at 248-673-3062

Tim K8NWD has a Kenwood TS-530 along with a matching tuner AT-230 and matching speaker SP-230. Asking \$400. Contact Tim at: 248-701-9915 or at k8nwd@att.net

Joe KJ8O has a color monitor for an Amiga 500 computer (remember those?) and is free to a good home. Contact him at 248-224-8864 or kj8o.ham@gmail.com



The Feedline
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Monthly Newsletter
May 2016



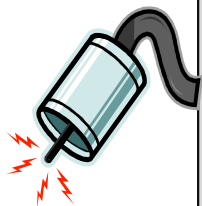
Dragon Naturally Speaking software

Every once in a while, I have a QSO in PSK31 that is so interesting, that I just have to share some of the details with fellow club members. About a week ago, I had the pleasure of contacting a disabled veteran from the first Gulf War. He started telling me that he has difficulty typing into a keyboard and has been quite successful using Dragon Naturally Speaking software to convert his voice into digital form which is then input to his digital software which is then transmitted. He did note that he has tried other voice recognition software for PSK31, but others have not worked as well.

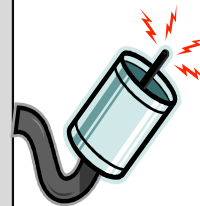
He went on to mention that this is commercial software and sells for \$99. (see http://shop.nuance.com/store/nuanceus/Custom/pbpage.resp-dragon-home-bf-2013-digital?utm_medium=ps&utm_source=bing&utm_campaign=dragon&utm_term=dragon%20naturallyspeaking&cvokeywordid=33|308077&cvosrc=ps.Bing.dragon%20naturallyspeaking for more details). He did mention that it does take some time for the software to get acclimated to the user's speech, and that there some add-ons available that will assist in the operation. Although, I was not able to find out anything from the company's website, I would have to believe the computer will need a second sound card to properly operate.

Being on the receiving end, this software converts speech exactly as heard, so I did have to adjust some seeing certain phrases that voice operators frequently use, but digital operators do not. I would think that as one gets used to the software, they will make some small modifications to their transmitted text.

In conclusion, I thought it was great. I have not tried the software myself, but I will also say that I am very interested in giving it a try. I hope to report my experiences in an upcoming Feedline. Thanks for listening.



***The Feedline
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Monthly Newsletter
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Nathan Craig KD8QWF activities

Here's a short 7 minute video Nathan put together showing some of the happenings at the 2016 FIRST (Robotics) Championship which involved teams from 39 countries.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJ2UiH4C5oA>

He took all the video shown and produced the final video. Still tired from it. :)

Here's some news articles about the championship we were just at.

http://www.bizjournals.com/stlouis/morning_call/2016/04/first-robotics-championship-takes-over-downtown-st.html

<http://www.usnews.com/news/photos/2016/04/29/photos-first-robotics-championship-brings-students-to-st-louis>

<http://www.firstinspires.org/about/first-host-20000-students-at-worlds-largest-robotics-competition>

39 countries represented. Over 40,000 attendees.

Our team is a high school FRC Team 4362, Gems Robotics out of Brighton, MI.

<http://www.firstchampionship.org/>