



**The Feedline**  
**Oakland County Amateur Radio Society**  
**Organized 1937, ARRL affiliation 1962**  
**Monthly Newsletter**  
**May 2015**



**President's Message, by Joe Miller KJ8O**

Technically, spring began in late March, but effectively, we have enjoyed/endured weather that has been warm one day, cold the next and back to warm again. Just as recently as a week and half ago, I saw snow in the morning, again at lunchtime, a third time at about 7:00 pm and a fourth time at about 8:00 pm where the visibility was less than a couple hundred of feet. But now that it is May, along with warmer weather, there are a lot of ham radio activities to keep one's interest alive and well. The first weekend is what I call the super state QSO party as the six states in New England, the eight states in the 7<sup>th</sup> call area, as well as Indiana and Delaware will all be active this weekend. The second weekend, is the MARS (Military Auxiliary Radio System) crossband test, where MARS stations will be transmitting on frequencies outside of the amateur radio service, and hams will respond using amateur radio frequencies. This will involve the ability to operate on split frequencies, but is a great orientation to working DXpeditions, most of whom operate on split frequencies.

The third weekend is the Dayton Hamvention, and unless there is a sudden change in plans, I will be going there for my ninth straight year. If any club members are interested in going down for the day, the Miller family bus will be leaving at 5:30 and can accommodate three passengers. If interested, please let me know. Those who have been there will agree that there is nothing like it.

Closing out the month of May will be the CQ CW Worked Prefix Contest, which runs for two full days.

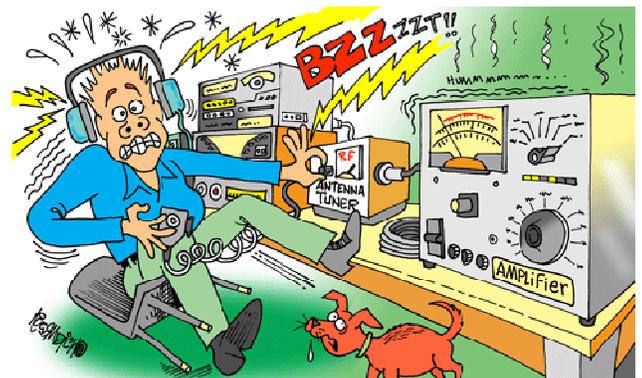
Of course, ham radio isn't only about contests. While going through the logs from our Monday night OCARS nets, which I record in logging software beginning in November 2012, there are now a number of our members who have checked in at least 100 times.

I have to thank everyone who checks into this net. Being a friendly net, there is information being passed along that may never be mentioned in a formal meeting. We meet every week on the Clarkston Repeater (Thanks Tim) at 146.840 using a 100 Hz p.l. tone. If you have never checked in, or it has been a while, please feel free to join us whenever you can.

Another item that I wanted to mention this month, is that the Great Lakes Division Director, Dale Williams WA8EFK, publishes a monthly newsletter, which he has named "Dale's Tales". He commented this month that many clubs reprint his newsletter in club periodicals either in whole or in part. I will say that a number of our members are already receiving his e-mails, so in the future, I will start including only the link on the ARRL webpage where non-subscribers are free to read his newsletter whenever they wish. This can be found at: <http://www.arrrl-greatlakes.org/> and underneath Dale's picture is a link that will take you to the current newsletter. While I am at it, the Great Lakes Division website contains a lot of great information regarding various volunteer assignments, DX bureau, ham radio news, and legislative matters.

Last, but not least, is the Michigan Section ARES website <http://ares-mi.org/> which has a lot of useful information within Michigan. Please look here as well.

Until next month, happy hamming. 73 de Joe





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**Siren Testing:** May 2, 2015, at 1:00 pm. Please check into the Clarkston Repeater to volunteer.

**Upcoming OCARS Meetings**

Tuesday, May 5, monthly meeting at 7:30, Russ W8UZZ will bring his mobile Jeep

Tuesday, June 2, monthly meeting at 7:30, Field Day

No meetings for July and August

Tuesday, September 1, Monthly meeting at 7:30 Note this will be BEFORE Labor Day this year.

**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

<b>Officers and Directors:</b>	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:

- April 6	<u>22</u>	KJ8O	- April 20,	<u>17</u>	KJ8O
- April 13	<u>22</u>	KJ8O	- April 27,	<u>21</u>	KD8TXZ

**Website:** [www.gsl.net/w8tno](http://www.gsl.net/w8tno) maintained by webmaster Scott Craig N2OPQ

**Contact information:** [w8tno.ocars@gmail.com](mailto:w8tno.ocars@gmail.com) or [kj8o.ham@gmail.com](mailto:kj8o.ham@gmail.com) (for an immediate response)

**Great Lakes Division:** <http://www.arrl-greatlakes.org/>

**Michigan Section ARES:** <http://ares-mi.org/>



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**Upcoming Hamfests**

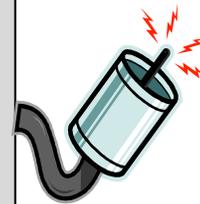
- May 2, 2015                      Cadillac Swap, Cadillac, MI  
<http://wexaukeearc.org/>
- May 9, 2015                      CCRA-KCRA Hamfest, Chassell, MI (Upper Peninsula)  
<http://ccraa.net/>
- June 6, 2015                      Independent Repeater Association, Hudsonville, MI  
<http://www.w8ira.org/>
- June 7, 2015                      Chelsea Swap and Shop, Chelsea, MI  
<http://www.wd8iel.com/>
- June 21, 2015                      Monroe Hamfest, Monroe, MI  
[http://www.mcrca.org/index.php?page=hamfest&keep\\_session=2114201193](http://www.mcrca.org/index.php?page=hamfest&keep_session=2114201193)
- July 9, 2015                      Michigan Section Summer Outing Hale (Lupton), MI  
(please see me if interested in attending, KJ8O)

**Upcoming Contests and/or Events**

- May 2-3                              New England QSO Party, 7<sup>th</sup> Call Area QSO Party,  
Indiana QSO Party, Delaware QSO Party
- May 9                                  MARS Crossband Test
- May 30-31                              CQ WPX (CW)
- June 27-28                              Field Day



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***May 2015***



**OCARS Meeting Minutes for 04/07/2015**

Scott A. Craig N2OPQ, Secretary

Members socialized from 7:00 to 7:30pm

Meeting called to order at 7:30pm by Joe KJ8O, president.

**Business Meeting:** There was no March (2015) meeting because of the weather and hazardous driving conditions.

Ken Stuter, W8KRS, received a Triple Play Award 50 states, digital, voice, and CW. See <http://www.arrl.org/triple-play> for information on this award.

Mike Ellis, formerly KB3QIY, received a new extra class callsign, AC8TE.

The Treasurer's report was given by John Eldred, N8FNN. Motion to accept by Greg Siemasz, W8VIJ. Seconded by Ken Stuter, W8KRS. Treasurer's report was accepted.

Feedline and February minutes were sent out on Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015. Motion to accept minutes for January were accepted by Gary Truhn, KD8EWG. Tim Pepper, K8NWD seconded. Motion carried. No one objected.

**Old business,** Jim Vigne KD8TXZ has OCARS Golf Shirts for \$23. If interested see Jim Vigne, KB8TXZ.

Michigan QSO party sponsorship was \$60, now a plaque is \$70. Ned Keating, KD8FCB motions to spend \$70. Ken Stuter, W8KRS seconds the motion. Unanimous vote to accept.

Club insurance policy cost to renew is \$200. Motion by Greg Siemasz, W8VIJ to accept. Chris Shubert, KD4LJT seconds. Accepted.

The Michigan QSO Party begins on April 18<sup>th</sup>, Saturday and runs from noon to midnight local time. See <http://www.miqp.org/> Looking for volunteers to participate and submit logs noting our club's participation. Tim Pepper, K8NWD volunteers. Ken Stuter, W8KRS would like to but thinks he will be on Lake Huron that day. We need 3 to 4 members at least. Tim took first place QRP division one year.

**Note that ARRL Field Day is right around the corner.** <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

Joe spoke with the director at Springfield Oaks. We're all set for the last weekend in June to be there. For the GOTA (Get On The Air) station we've had special event callsigns in the past such as K8O. We have the option of using the callsign of the person who will be the head of the GOTA station. Asked for input on which callsign



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to use. Everyone said they would like a special event callsign. Joe to submit K8O as first choice, W8O as second choice, and N8O as third choice.

On April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1pm there will be an Oakland County siren test and it's on this date due to it being severe weather awareness week. If interested in checking a siren please contact Larry Hornsby, KB8POD. Larry is looking for someone to replace him as coordinator for the siren tests in our region. If interested can contact Larry Hornsby, KB8POD, or Jim Richards.

We have a couple guys interested in kit building, QRP or otherwise. We'd like to do something with this. First we need to find a location. Such a place needs to have the ability for us to store equipment and parts and be locked up. Ned Keating, KD8FCB says he can provide all the parts we ever need. It's desired that such an activity should be ongoing for the club. Greg Siemasz suggested he could talk to some people about the possibility of using his church's fellowship hall. Need to work out what we offer to pay to cover utilities and space, as well as when and how often we would want to use the space. Note that the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club in Traverse City once did kit building. <http://cherrylandarc.com/>. The Waterford Senior Center is only open during the day. The Waterford CAI building is possible but was noted as being a high cost. Our weekly Monday night net is now in the ARRL Net Directory: <http://www.arrl.org/resources/nets/client/netdetail.html?mfind=3582>

It was noted that there would be no Milford Amateur Radio Club Hamfest this year as their club is fading away.

There was a coffee break after the business meeting from 7:55pm until 8:16pm.

#### **April Presentation – Fox Hunting**

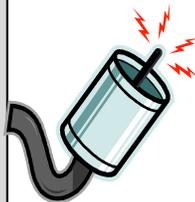
A video was presented on Fox Hunting put together by the South Shore Fox Hunters Association. Terms noted such as a "Fox Box" which was a transmitter inside of a military ammo box and the "Fox Den" which is the area where the fox/transmitter was placed.

Rick donated a book titled Riding the Shortwaves: Exploring the Magic of Amateur Radio by Don Keith N4KC. The 50/50 drawing consisted of 2 drawings this month. One for 50% of the cash, the other for the book. Scott Craig, N2OPQ, won the book, Charlie Kamachos KD8HNL won the cash and donated it back to the club.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47pm.



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Equipment for sale:

The following items are being sold by Robert Hocking. If interested, please contact him at [robertjhocking@gmail.com](mailto:robertjhocking@gmail.com)

Package	Brand	Part Number	Description
1	ICOM	IC-F14/S	VHF 2 meter handheld
	ICOM	CP-17L	Cigarette lighter cable
	ICOM	BC-160	Desktop charger
	ICOM	CS-F14	Cloning software
	ICOM	LCF14	Leather case with clip
	ICOM	HM-158L	Speaker microphone
	ICOM	BP-240	Alkaline battery case
	ICOM	FASC25V	136-150 MHz standard antenna
2	Vertex	VX-150	VHF 2 meter handheld
	Vertex	VAC-400	Desktop rapid charger w/cigarette lighter adapter
	Vertex	YA-1-RBLS	Serial programming cable & ADMS-1F programming software
	Vertex	SPM1149	Lapel speaker microphone
	Vertex	LCC-150/TT	Leather carry case
	Vertex	ATV-8C	6" whip antenna
3	Uniden	BC200XLT	Bearcat 200 channel handheld scanner
4	Federal Signal	449142-02	Rotating amber beacon, 12 volt, 175 FPM, airport rated
	Federal Signal	439238-95	Spare 55 watt halogen long life lamp



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**SIREN TEST MAY 2, 1:00 p.m.**

It has been a short time since the last test but it is time again to go out and check sirens. Everyone has done a fantastic job! We are well on our way to having checked all the sirens in the North West Section of Oakland County. We still have 40 sirens to check and there are always some that are repaired or the County has requested a recheck. What a start. We have 3 “Hot Sirens” this month that need to be checked. They are Brandon Township BND-04, Groveland Township GRV-09 and Springfield Township SPF-09. If you would like to check one of these, please let me know A.S.A.P. I will wait to choose the one I will cover until after I know if the hot ones are covered. WE have 6 sirens already requested so that leaves a lot for anyone would like to help out again this month.

All of this is happening because you and your friends are taking a little time to help prepare for the possibility of a storm hitting our area. Please consider taking a few minutes and checking a siren this weekend. Check ins are at 12:15 p.m. on the Clarkston Repeater and the test will take place at 1:00 p.m.

I am looking forward to talking to many of you on Saturday.

73, Larry KB8POD sub net control officer for the Early Warning Siren Test, North West Section of Oakland County.





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**Buying a watch in 1880 -- history you probably didn't know**

If you were in the market for a watch in 1880, would you know where to get one? You would go to a store, right? Well, of course you could do that, but if you wanted one that was cheaper and a bit better than most of the store watches, you went to the train station!

Sound a bit funny? Well, for about 500 towns across the northern United States, that's where the best watches were found. Why were the best watches found at the train station? The railroad company wasn't selling the watches, not at all. The telegraph operator was. Most of the time the telegraph operator was located in the railroad station because the telegraph lines followed the railroad tracks from town to town.

It was usually the shortest distance and the right-of-ways had already been secured for the rail line. Most of the station agents were also skilled telegraph operators and that was the primary way that they communicated with the railroad. They would know when trains left the previous station and when they were due at their next station. And it was the telegraph operator who had the watches. As a matter of fact, they sold more of them than almost all the stores combined for a period of about 9 years.

This was all arranged by "Richard," who was a telegraph operator himself. He was on duty in the North Redwood, Minnesota train station one day when a load of watches arrived from the East. It was a huge crate of pocket watches. No one ever came to claim them. So Richard sent a telegram to the manufacturer and asked them what they wanted to do with the watches. The manufacturer didn't want to pay the freight back, so they wired Richard to see if he could sell them. So Richard did. He sent a wire to every agent in the system asking them if they wanted a cheap, but good, pocket watch. He sold the entire case in less than two days and at a handsome profit. That started it all. He ordered more watches from the watch company and encouraged the telegraph operators to set up a display case in the station offering high quality watches for a cheap price to all the travelers.

It worked!

It didn't take long for the word to spread and, before long, people other than travelers came to the train station to buy watches. Richard became so busy that he had to hire a professional watch maker to help him with the orders.

That was Alvah.

And the rest is history as they say. The business took off and soon expanded to many other lines of dry goods. Richard and Alvah left the train station and moved their company to Chicago -- and it's still there.

YES, IT'S A LITTLE KNOWN FACT that for a while in the 1880's, the biggest watch retailer in the country was at the train station.

It all started with a telegraph operator: Richard Sears and his partner Alvah Roebuck!



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**Oak Apple Run in Royal Oak**

It's time again for the OAK APPLE Run, This year it will be held on May 30th in Downtown Royal Oak. I need to get a commitment from everyone again. Please answer this e-mail, it makes my job a little easier. The race again is in the Downtown area and I need your help but this year we are opening up for your friends or family in volunteering.

I will assign two posts next to each other if you can get a friend or family member to help. You can use cell phone or just watch to keep problems under control. The Pre-race meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 27th at the First United Methodist Church in Royal Oak. We will continue to use 147.510 Simplex and net control will be at the corner of Main and Fourth. If you can not make the Pre-race meeting and I can still count on you, I can do this via Email and get a tee shirt for you. If you have another club or group that would like to help have them drop me a line. The more we get to help the easier the job becomes. We will again use the Blue Radio tee shirts and if you work the race you can get a race shirt.

**Mike VanBuren**  
**WD8S@comcast.net**

**Note: Their address is: 320 W. Seventh St., Royal Oak, MI 48067 USA**

