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442.750 + Open

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# LCARA Waveguide



**February**

Published Monthly by The Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

**2006**

## Upcoming Swaps...

**February 4**, 9 a.m.—2 p.m. **Negaunee**—  
Hiawatha ARA, Negaunee Twp. Hall, 42 Hwy M-  
35 T.I. 147.27 (100 Hz) Adm: \$4, tables \$6  
Info: **N8PKN**, 906.225.6773 [www.qsl.net/k8lod/](http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/)  
February 11 **Traverse City** info: [www.carc.tc](http://www.carc.tc)

**February 19**, 8 a.m.—12:30 p.m. **Livonia**—  
Livonia ARC, Livonia Civic Community  
Recreation Center, 15100 Hubbard Rd. T.I.  
145.35 Adm: \$5, tables \$16 Info: **W8WSJ**,  
734.673.5071 or 734.513.8784,  
[swap2006@larc.mi.org](mailto:swap2006@larc.mi.org); [www.larc.mi.org](http://www.larc.mi.org)

**March 28**, 8 a.m.—1 p.m. **Marshall** MI  
Crossroads Hamfest, S. MI ARS & Marshall H.S.  
Industrial Arts Club, Marshall H.S., T.I. 146.660 (-  
) and 146.52 simplex. Adm: \$5, tables \$1 per  
foot Info: Bill Booth 269-965-1415

*The Next Meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, February 14 —7:30 p.m.  
At the Lapeer County Central Dispatch  
Center (911) at 2332 W. Genesee  
Street in the basement.*

## The EC Sez

Doug Donner Jr. KC8ZCF

Howdy everybody, and Happy New Year to those I haven't talked to. It's good to be back at the club meetings again, at least for as few months. 2006 is off and running and it looks like a busy year is brewing,

A few items to take note of:

**Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006** 5:30 P.M to 7:30 P.M.—  
Please mark your calendars for Operation ICAD (Imlay City Airline Disaster), as it's called, thanks to Hank. This is the counties bi-annual SET. This year's event will test the counties response to an airplane crash. My understanding is this is because we (Lapeer County) are in the Bishop Airport flight path and should work on putting a plan in place.

At the January 17<sup>th</sup> planning meeting, F.Lt. Patrick McCreedy, MSP Lapeer County Post Commander, gave a

*The EC Sez (Continued on page 4)*

## The Prez Sez

Bob Erskine, W8RAE

It was a pleasant surprise to see so many at the January meeting. A sign of things to come??

Even though I am not a real DX/Contester I do enjoy the adventures of those involved especially when it is captured on film. I got the impression that those at the meeting were of the same feeling. Tnx Hank and crew.

I hope to make my first swap of the season on Feb 4th. With the strange weather we have been having I wonder if anyone has been working on their antennas?? If you have how about sharing the project with everyone at the meeting on Feb. 14.

Should have more info on the up and coming exercise in March at the meeting.

Till then hope everyone survives the big do in Detroit..

73 Bob W8RAE

## The Treas Sez

Bill Miller, KD8VP

Hello to all members, this month of January has been rather uneventful for the club treasury. Just the usual expenses for phone and electric.

I was pleasantly surprised to see the electric bill still in the low thirties dollars this month, past years has seen it over fifty dollars for this time of year. It has been a really mild winter so far hasn't it?

President Bob has been in contact with the company that has quoted the painting of the repeater tower and I have received, what I consider a preliminary quote in writing along with a copy of their insurance certificates. Without which the school will not let them work on school property. The quote schedules the painting for after school is out in June.

I talked to several people at the school administration about possibly making our renewable lease for a longer period of years due to the expense that we were willing to put into the tower. It was said that it would be brought up at a board meeting and discussed, but since our lease does state that we were responsible for appearance and maintenance, it was unlikely they would be willing to negotiate beyond the present three year renewable lease. Our present lease is up for renewal in 2007. You can bet that I will be beating the drum for at least a five year lease.

Remember that the next club meeting falls on Valentines Day, so as a treat, bring your XYL to the club meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the next club meeting February 14, 2006.

73 Bill KD8VP

**Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association**

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

**Officers**

President, Bob Erskine, W8RAE.....248-628-3401  
Vice-Pres., Chris Azelton, KC8TWL..810-245-0073  
Secretary, Jim Mazzola, KC8YMF.....810-796-2610  
Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

**Committees & Appointees.**

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD  
Club Call TrusteeW8LAP.....Bill Miller, KD8VP  
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.

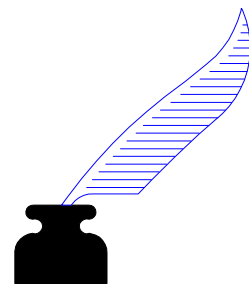
**Board of Directors'** monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Tim Horton's at 7:30PM (Check on the W8LAP repeaters).

**Newsletter**

Items for the newsletter may be called to the Editor at 810-721-0708, sent by Mail (Box 88, Attica, MI 48412), or as an ASCII or Word to k8dd@arrl.net The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

**LCARA Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911)  
January 10, 2006 Meeting of LCARA**

Bob-W8RAE - Opened meeting @ 7:35 with Pledge.  
Bob-W8RAE - Introduction of Members and Guests (25 present)  
Bob-W8RAE - Reported out on the Christmas party. 40 or so in attendance.  
Bill-KD8VP - Treasurers report was read.  
Ed-W8NCJ Motion to Approve//Tom-KG0ZN Seconded//No discussion//Motion Passed.  
Bob-W8RAE- Son is maintain website, any changes please contact Bob.  
Chris-KC8TWL Reported that on mining accident in West Virginia. Surviving worker was ham radio operator. Operators are being asked to send QSL cards. Address P.O. Box 223 Philippi, W. Virginia, 26435.  
Bill-KD8VP – Trustees report, Software for repeater was M.I.A. Bill contacted S-Com and received a new updated copy of software. N/C  
Bill-KD8VP - Lapeer County Press had picture of new County Emergency Vehicle. After much discussion, will contain an Amateur Radio station onboard.  
Doug – KC8ZCF County SET will be conducted on March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Simulation will be an airplane crash in Imlay City.  
Hospital adding equipment in new addition to enable Amateur radio communication is there and ready for use when needed.  
Open discussion on the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday this year. If will be a 5 day Operation Care. Need volunteers. Bob – W8RAE asked for volunteers to head up each holiday event this year.  
Ed – W8NCJ - Motion made that the Executive Board draw up guidelines and procedures for Operation Care so the requirements are understood and volunteers will understand just what they have to do and when. Charlie – KC8JBK – Second// Discussion preceded motion. Motion passed.  
Move to Break @ 8:12 byBob-W8RAE  
Back to session @ 8:27  
Educational and entertaining program for the night was put on by Hank K8DD on his Expedition to Saint Pierre and Miquelon Island.  
50/50 drawing was won by Dick – KC8VHA  
Bob-W8RAE - Entertained motion to Adjourn//Cindy-KB8WOB Seconded//Motion Passed. @ 9:20 pm



# February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	4
5	6 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	7 Board meeting—Tim Horton's . 7PM	8	9	10 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	11 Orlando Hamcation Hamfest
12 Orlando Hamcation Hamfest	13 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	14 <b>LCARA Meeting</b>	15	16	17 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	18 ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW
19 ARRL Int'l DX Contest CW	20 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	21	22	23	24 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	25
26	27 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	28	1	2	3 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	4

## Volunteer Exam Session

The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be **February 11, 2006** at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorrin Blvd, Port Huron, MI.

Pre-registration is NOT required. Bring picture ID, the original and a copy of your present license and the original of any Certificate of Successful Completion (CSC) you may hold. The current fee is \$14.00. For further information call Bob Herbert, K8WMW, at 982-1561

The following are the dates scheduled for the 2006 Port Huron Volunteer Exam Team sessions:

February 11, 2006  
 April 8, 2006  
 June 10, 2006  
 August 12, 2006  
 October 14, 2006  
 December 9, 2006

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*(Continued from page 1) The EC Sez*

presentation on his 2 week deployment to New Orleans right after hurricane Katrina. During that time, he drew comparisons with issues that might arise here in Lapeer County. During the question and answer session, John Biscoe, Lapeer County Controller/Administrator, asked about the amateur radio presence in the disaster area. Due to his involvement in the actual search and rescue, he was unaware of ham radio activity. Bob, W8RAE and I were able to fill him in on the contributions from ham radio. He made a comment that amateur radio should be tested during the SET. We are going to have a set of objectives just like all the other responders. I'm hoping everybody will be able to participate, if for nothing else than just to check into the net at the beginning.

I was told that a dinner is being planned for the people who participate in the exercise. More information will be forthcoming. I do need a count by February 14<sup>th</sup> to turn in so the planners know how much food to have on hand, so if you can participate, please let me know.

**Thursday, March 23, 2006** – 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM – Skywarn Training at Lapeer East High School. Remember, renewing Skywarn every 2 years is a requirement to participate in weather nets.

**ARES Membership cards** are expired. We will be getting new ones made up in the next few months. I'm hoping to take pictures starting at the next club meeting. It might be nice to use the same picture for new RACES cards at the end of the year.

That's about it for this time. If anyone has any questions about the SET or Skywarn training, don't be afraid to drop me a line.

73 everybody,

Doug Jr. KC8ZCF

## Hints & Kinks And Other Things

W5UN has updated his great Web page about putting PL-259's on 75ohm hard line. (<http://web.wt.net/~w5un/pl259.htm>) "It is really simple, and seems very reliable. I made a couple of test connectors on the bench and it worked fine. I found that the open cell center insulation type had a center conductor too large to fit inside the center conductor of a PL259. You can't simply file it down because it is copper clad aluminum and you won't be able to solder to aluminum. I used a Dremel tool to put a slot in the hard line center conductor. I squeezed the slot shut and ended with a copper clad center conductor that would fit the PL259 center." (Thanks, Gary W9XT)

Rebuilding antennas made of aluminum tubing often hits a snag when you're trying to clean out the inside of overlapping joints. Skinned knuckles, sore fingers, and a

less-than-satisfactory result often result. When the topic came up on the TowerTalk reflector, Scotchbrite pads wrapped around a screwdriver and gun cleaning brushes were the most commonly mentioned tools. For loosening up any hardened lube or anti-oxidation compounds, WD-40, carburetor cleaner, or brake cleaner got glowing reviews (with a caution that rubber gloves and good ventilation are in order, particularly for cleaning solvents.)

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## RM-11305 and RM-11306 by K9LA

The FCC is currently inviting public comments on two Petition for Rule Making documents: RM-11035 and RM-11306.

RM-11305 was written by a group called the Communications Think Tank. The group consists of W8MW, WA3VJB, W8ER, WD8BIL, W9AD, and K3XF. Their proposal discontinues mandatory segmentation of our HF bands by mode. They propose an "any mode can operate anywhere" approach, with a voluntary system of coordination. They cite the Canadian system and 160-meters as existing examples of what they are proposing. They propose retaining the segmentation of bands by license class, but any mode could be used in the segment.

RM-11036 was written by the American Radio Relay League. Their proposal shifts the amateur service from mandatory segmentation of our HF bands by mode to mandatory segmentation by emission bandwidth. For the most part it would be a three-tier system: a 200 Hz bandwidth segment, a 500Hz bandwidth segment, and a 3500 Hz bandwidth segment. This is best seen in the table starting on page 23 of their proposal. Their proposal recognizes and accommodates legacy emissions that do not meet the above bandwidths -- for example, double sideband AM.

Regardless of your leanings on these proposals, please take the time to read them and comment on them. Information on RM-11305 (Communication Think Tank) and a link for comments to the FCC can be found at <http://www.w8ji.com/rm-11305.htm>. Information on RM-11306 (ARRL) and a link for comments to the FCC can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2006/01/09/2/?nc=1>

Pat K8PC reports that large plastic cat food containers make excellent waterproof protectors for switches and connectors. No noticeable UV damage was visible after a summer's use. Those of you that don't have easy access to empty cat food containers might want to make a stop by your local household good emporia. January is a prime month for

*(Continued on page 5)*

sales on things like containers and storage accessories as we all try to return the house to its pristine pre-holiday state.

Here's a neat way to make guying points for verticals made from large aluminum tubing. "Cut a 4-inch length of PVC pipe the same ID as the tubing OD. Slit it lengthwise with a table saw blade that will remove 1/4 inch or so of material. Stick a screwdriver in the gap to spread the pipe open slightly and slip it over the tubing. When you get to where you want it to go, pull out the screwdriver and the pipe will hug the tubing. Clamp it with a hose clamp. Next, take a PVC coupling and drill holes for guy ropes evenly spaced around the coupling. Slip this over the top of the tubing and move it down until it rests on the slit pipe. Engage the two pieces with a rubber mallet." Photos can be found at <http://www.n6rk.com>. (Thanks, Rick N6RK)

TECHNICAL LINK OF THE WEEK - Why buy a toupee when you could just get one of these? <http://www.skygeek.com/40592g-01.html> (Thanks, Bob N6TV)

## Be RadioActive Participate!

[This is coming to Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association via a sizeable Homeland Security Grant. Watch for information in the next month]

### **Paclink AGW...**

#### **a Modern AX.25 WL2K Packet Client**

#### **Compatible with POP3/SMTP E-mail Clients**

**Rick Muething, KN6KB**

**Vic Poor, W5SMM**

#### **Overview:**

Paclink AGW is a new implementation of a flexible, easily configured Winlink 2000 (WL2K) radio E-mail client that interfaces with most popular E-mail client programs such as Microsoft Outlook Express. Essentially Paclink AGW adds packet radio and Telnet channels for WL2K connectivity to Outlook Express. Paclink AGW is intended for use with the Winlink 2000 system including B2F protocol that supports attachments, mixed addresses and tactical addresses. Paclink AGW uses the AGW Packet Engine to support a large number of TNCs and allows sharing TNCs across applications. Figure 1 shows the interfaces between the Paclink AGW program and the other subsystems that complete the WL2K Packet client.

#### **Interfaces.**

One implementation feature is that Paclink AGW uses standardized TCP or Telnet protocols for communicating between all major subsystems. The TCP connections are normally on the same computer, but could be located remotely on a LAN or accessed via the Internet. This

allows, for example, accessing Paclink AGW remotely over the Internet using any standard POP3/SMTP client with the correct user, password and firewall settings.

Another significant aspect of the Paclink AGW architecture is its use of existing POP3 and SMTP compatible E-mail clients to provide most of the user interface, message addressing, composition, management and display functions. This is very important in emergency applications where keeping familiar user interfaces is critical.

Paclink AGW requires only one E-mail account to access its multiple prioritized channels. Paclink automatically routes E-mail sent via user clients via the best available channel. This "insulates" E-mail client users from details such as Telnet or Packet routing and redundant radio paths. Paclink AGW requires only a few menus to set up and has a wizard which automatically sets up accounts on the popular MS Outlook Express client.

#### **Tactical Addressing:**

Paclink AGW now adds a powerful tool of Tactical Addressing to the Winlink 2000 system. Tactical addresses can be easily generated (e.g. REDCROSS-22@winlink.org) and now sent over standard ham radio channels (with normal amateur call signs). Winlink 2000's dynamic routing always tracks the path messages take and eliminates the need to create and maintain any routing tables. WL2K automatically registers new Tactical Addresses into the system and insures no duplicates are permitted.

#### **Summary:**

Paclink AGW is a new modern tool that gives popular E-mail clients AX.25 packet and Telnet access to the Winlink 2000 system. It should find many applications in expanding Winlink 2000's emergency messaging systems. Paclink is written in VB .NET for Windows 2000 and Win XP and requires the Microsoft .NET framework. Paclink is free for amateur radio use. Commercial applications should contact the authors.

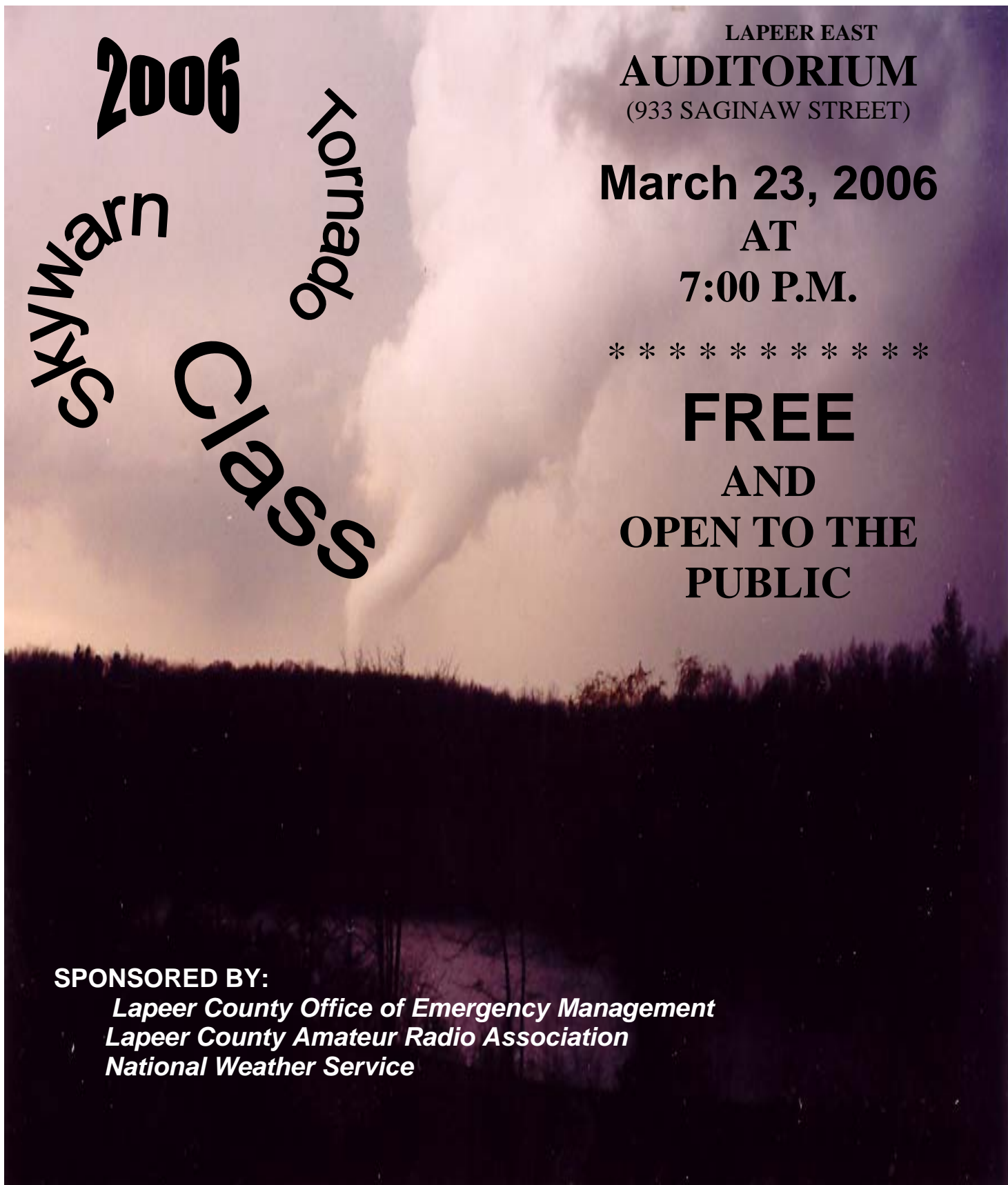
#### **References:**

[1] Winlink 2000...A Global Ham Message Transfer and Delivery Network;  
Rick Muething, Vic Poor, Hans Kessler, and Steve Waterman. 19<sup>th</sup> ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Sept 2000.  
<http://www.winlink.org/>

[2] Telpac and Paclink--Streamlined AX.25 Packet Server and Client for a full service Ham Radio Messaging Network. 22<sup>nd</sup> ARRL and TAPR Digital Communications Conference, Sept 2003

[3] The AGW Packet Engine by George Rossopoulos, SV2AGW <http://www.raag.org/sv2agw/pepro.htm>

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**March 23, 2006**  
**AT**  
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## 2005-2006 L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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### Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 12

Hadley, MI 48440-0012