



**W8LAP/r**  
146.620 - 100Hz  
442.750 + Open  
[www.w8lap.com](http://www.w8lap.com)



# WAVEGUIDE



Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

March

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2007

*The next regular meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, March 13 —7:30 p.m.  
at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911)  
2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.*

## The Editor Sez:

Last month's Waveguide was lost due to a hard drive failure that took out all my email, address book, everything, while we were in Florida. I have recovered some of what was on the drive, but there is still a two week void that was not backed up! Now that we are back in Michigan that should not be a problem until next winter when we go south again!

## The Treasurer Sez:

Hello to everyone. I hope that you survived the cold weather without too much of a problem. It was so cold that I managed to stay in the house and get on HF for many of the days. It felt good to put some new contacts in the old log book.

The treasury is still in fine shape, as the only major expense in February was the payment of the ARRL property insurance. We have received two pre

registrations for the August Swap and Shop. Which means that I have to get busy and think about August. Boy how time flies. The electric bills for the repeater shack are up but that is to be expected this time of year and they are not out of the ordinary.

All things considered it has been an uneventful month. So until next month  
73 Bill Miller kd8vp

## The Trustee Sez:

How is the repeater working? I ask you the readers this question in the news simply because I sure am not hearing very many of you using the repeaters. They do work and quite well I might add. So why aren't you using them? The general comments at the club meeting is that we should buy new equipment. I ask in my conservative way, WHY, no one is using what we have now. Give me a reason to want to update by using what we have now more.

I am still working on finding out which repeater controller is best and have narrowed it down to two. My favorite is the CAT 1000B by ComputerAutomation Technology Inc., because of the software to program

it. The other is the ARCOM RC210 by Arcom Communications. You can check them out on the web to see for yourself. <http://www.catauto.com> and <http://www.ah6le.net/arcom>.

Perry Gwinn KG8ID has a CAT 1000B and like it very much. Perry has the 440 machine up near North Branch. He has volunteered to let me see the software and how it works, but I just haven't been able to make the connection with him. I promise you that I will be in touch with Perry soon.

That's all for now  
73 until next month. Bill Miller kd8vp

## From the mailbag:

From the Michigan Secretary of State's web page [http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-15719\\_15730-157624--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-15719_15730-157624--,00.html)

## Renewal Instructions for blue plate owners



### Michigan's new standard license plate

Beginning Jan. 1, 2007, Michigan has a new standard license plate (white background, blue letters) that replaces the blue standard plate (blue background, white letters). Public Act 177 of 2006 requires the Department of State to stop issuing, renewing, replacing or transferring the blue plate.

The new standard plate is clean in design, rust-resistant, tamper-proof and easily identifiable. Unlike the blue plate, whose color scheme made it difficult to see at night, the new plate's fully reflective background makes it much more visible.

### Tab Placement Instructions

The year tab should be placed in the upper right hand corner of the license plate with the exception of motorcycle plates. Motorcycle tabs should be placed in the lower right hand corner of the license plate.

### When it's time to renew

If you have a blue plate, you will have a couple of options when it is time to renew it:



- You may choose the new standard plate as a replacement. There is no fee for the new standard plate, other than your regular registration fee. Personalized or ***amateur radio blue plates*** can have their current letter-number configuration transferred to a new standard plate. If you wish to order the new standard plate before your blue plate is up for renewal, you will pay a \$5 replacement fee and your new registration and tab will expire on the same date as your current registration and tab.
- You may select another license plate. The department issues a number of attractive license plates, including the new Spectacular Peninsulas plate (\$5 fee), the university and special cause fundraising plates (\$35 fee) and the Olympic plate (\$25 fee). Orders for these plates can only be processed by mail or at a branch office. For more information about all of the department's plates and renewal options, please refer to [The License Plate Renewal Guide](#).

[bold emphasis by the editor!]

## *Hints & Kinks...*

Larry F6FVY has created a small "point and click" interface (<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator>) to Google Maps that gives your QTH-locator (grid square), and coordinates. There is also a full screen page (<http://f6fvy.free.fr/qthLocator/fullScreen.php>) that allows entry of a 6-char grid square, to which the map will be automatically centered and zoomed.

After listening to those ops in the Caribbean having \*so\* much fun this weekend, wouldn't it be nice to do it yourself? <http://www.qsl.net/oh2mcn/license.htm> and <http://www.dxholiday.com> will help you get started on the licensing process. And don't forget <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/> (Thanks, Bob N7XY and Paul K4UJ)

Jim KG0KP offers this easy, no-filing way to expose the brass body material of a PL-259 for soldering. "A drill press, a wooden jig clamped in a drill vise, and a quarter inch drill bit (a normal one, not those goofy new ones with the outer cutting point) used like a countersink bit (just cone the hole) does this 'filing' in a jiffy. Easy and quick." (Thanks, Jim KG0KP)

If you worry about the size of wire for ground plane radials, Steve N0SM provides a sample calculation. "Say you are dumping 2000W CW into the vertical antenna, and it has a base impedance of 34 ohms. Ohm's Law says that you've got a current of around 8 Amps total. If you're dividing that up among 60 radials, that's 130 mA per radial, well within the current handling ability of AWG26." And that's how to figure it out!

In the spirit of "Use It Up, Wear It Out, Make It Do", Julius N2WN has found a good use for the new plastic coffee cans. "The 39- and 52-ounce cans are excellent forms for winding coaxial choke baluns, almost exactly 6 inches in diameter. I've also used them as weatherproof housings for matching components and switching. Holes can easily be made and sealed in them (I use hot glue or RTV). If you goof on a layout, it's not a big deal. They work fine for low power applications (no information on

high power). I use the smaller ones for beverage component housings."

L.B. Cebik W4RNL has written extensively on Moxon antennas (<http://www.cebik.com/moxon/moxpage.html>) including design figures for various bands. If you're interested in this antenna, the Web site is worth a look. (Thanks, Dave AB7E)

Looking for that perfect 160-meter 5/8-wave vertical holder-upper? Try <http://www.arizonaballoon.com> for some Kytoons that will get your heart thumping! The Helikites at <http://www.allsoophelikites.com> are also guaranteed to get you thinking. (Thanks, Jim W1PID and Nigel G8IFF)

One great aspect of ham radio is life-long learning. Not many of us have time to go back to school, but there are some great on-line simulations at <http://tinyurl.com/luwko> of many technical topics. I

like the projectile, myself! (Thanks, Jim K7WA) No one is ever happy with the speed of a wireless connection after using it three times. Here's a product that's sure to return the gleam to your eye if data speeds just aren't quite up to expectations - <http://j-walk.com/other/wifispray> (Thanks, Andy N6JLJ)

Jerry K4SAV contributes three Web sites that offer free antenna modeling software based on the NEC-2 software. "The free demo version of EZNEC 4.0 (<http://www.eznec.com>) is fully functional except for limiting you to 20 segments, which will be good only for simple antennas. Download the EZNEC 4.0 Demo program. The EZNEC help file contains many answers to your questions. Another option is MMANA-GAL, based on MININEC, available at <http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca> 4NEC2 is a full blown version of NEC2 including an optimizer, downloadable at <http://home.ict.nl/%7Earivoors/Home.htm> Have fun!

*...Tnx ARRL CONTESTER'S RATE SHEET 21 February 2007*

## Upcoming Swaps...

**March 17 - Marshall** –Michigan Crossroads Swap, Marshall H.S., 8 a.m.—1 p.m. T.I 146.66- or 146.52 Info: [www.w8df.com](http://www.w8df.com)

**March 18—Toledo, OH**—Toledo Hamfest / Computer Fair, Lucas Co. Rec. Center, 290` Key St., Maumee. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. T,I. 147.870- Info: [www.tmrahamradio.org](http://www.tmrahamradio.org) or 419-535-6594

**April 21—Highland**, - Swap-n-Shop, Milford H.S. 2380 Milford Rd., Highland 8 a.m.-1 p.m. T.I. 145.49- (67hz PL) Info: [www.qsl.net/w8ydk](http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk)

**May Dayton**—Hamvention

**June 16—Midland**– Midland Hamfest

**June 17—Monroe**— Monroe Hamfest

**Be Radio-Active  
Participate  
Get on the air!**

## Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

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

### Officers

President, Bob Erskine, W8RAE.....248-628-3401  
Secretary, Jim Mazzola, KC8YMF.....810-796-2610

Vice-Pres., Chris Azelton, KC8TWL..810-245-0073  
Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

### Committees & Appointees.

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD  
Club Historian.....Bill Hetchler, KC8SHI  
Skywarn Coordinator.....Pete Headrick KB8RSG  
Field Day Chairman.....Bill Miller, KD8VP  
Two Meter Net Mgr.....Charlie Whipp, KC8JBK  
Public Information Officer...

Club Call TrusteeW8LAP.....Bill Miller, KD8VP  
VE Coordinator.....Al Wilson, N8NPR  
Swap & Shop Chairperson.....Bill Miller, KD8VP  
Meeting Refreshments.....Bill Miller, KD8VP  
Newsletter Editor.....Hank Kohl, K8DD

### 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.

## Volunteer Exam Session:

The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be **January 13, 2007** at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron, MI.

### **Pre-registration is now required for the Volunteer Examinations.**

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

This year we will be sending the schedule to area clubs, school districts and posting at the Radio Shacks.

2007 sessions will be:

March 10  
April 14  
May 12  
June 10  
July 14  
August 11  
September 8  
October 13  
November 10  
December 8

For further information call Bob Herbert, K8WMW, at 982-1561

## For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale:

I want to buy your old ham/electronic/tube gear. I'm particularly looking for the Heathkit Mohawk that I built and sold to Dave Burch four decades ago.

Contact Mike, AA8K, at: [stepsisters@comcast.net](mailto:stepsisters@comcast.net) or 810-987-8873

---

For Sale

HW-8 Handbook—covers HW-7, 8 & 9 \$15

K7QO Code Course CD \$ FREE

COM port boards, ISA, 2 ports \$3.00 ea

100' Rohn 45 tower with antennas, house, large garage, dipoles, vertical & wire antennas. Will not split. \$negotiable.

Contact Hank K8DD at [k8dd@k8dd.com](mailto:k8dd@k8dd.com) or 810-721-0708

---

**Be Radio-Active  
Participate**

## **N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR March 2007**

~~~~~  
80 METER FOXHUNT (QRP CW) (Ends after 3/20)

EST/EDST: EACH Tuesday 9 PM to 10:29 PM

Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

~~~~~  
40 METER FOXHUNT (QRP CW) (Ends after 3/22)

EST/EDST: EACH Thursday 9 PM to 10:29 PM

Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

\*\*\*\*\*  
Daylight saving starts Mar 11 - 0200 AM local

~~~~~  
Idaho QSO Party (Ph/CW/Dig) ... QRP Category

Mar 10, 1300z to Mar 11, 0100z and

Mar 11, 1300z to Mar 12, 0100z

Rules: [http://www.nt4tt.com/main\\_page\\_link/nt4tt.htm](http://www.nt4tt.com/main_page_link/nt4tt.htm)

~~~~~  
Oklahoma QSO Party (CW/Digital/Phone) ... QRP Category

Mar 10, 1400z to Mar 11, 0200z and

Mar 11, 1400z to Mar 11, 2000z

Rules: <http://okdxa.org>

~~~~~  
AGCW QRP Contest (CW) ... QRP/QRPP Category

Mar 10, 1400z to 2000z

Rules: [http://www.agcw.org/agcw-con/2007/Englisch/agcw\\_qrp\\_e.htm](http://www.agcw.org/agcw-con/2007/Englisch/agcw_qrp_e.htm)

~~~~~  
Elecraft QSO Party (CW/SSB/Dig) ...QRP Category

Mar 10, 1500z to Mar 11, 1500z

Rules: <http://www.elecraft.com>

Second Class Operator's Club Marathon Sprint (CW) .. QRP Contest!

Mar 10, 1800z to 2400z

Rules: [http://www.qsl.net/soc/contest\\_s.htm](http://www.qsl.net/soc/contest_s.htm)

---

North American Sprint (RTTY) ... QRP Category

Mar 11, 0000z to 0400z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php>

---

UBA (Belgian) Spring Contest (CW-80m) ... QRP Category

Mar 11, 0700z to 1100z

Rules: [http://www.uba.be/hf\\_contests/rules\\_en.html#](http://www.uba.be/hf_contests/rules_en.html#)

---

Wisconsin QSO Party (CW/SSB)...QRP Category

Mar 11, 1800z to Mar 12, 0100z

Rules: <http://www.warac.org/index.htm>

---

Ten-Ten Mobile QSO Party (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category

Mar 17, 0001z to 2359z

Rules: <http://www.ten-ten.org/calendar.html>

---

BARTG Spring RTTY Contest

Mar 17, 0200z to Mar 19, 0200z

Rules: [http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk/Contests/07\\_rules.htm](http://www.bartg.demon.co.uk/Contests/07_rules.htm)

---

Russian DX Contest (SSB/CW) ... QRP Category

Mar 17, 1200z to Mar 18, 1200z

Rules: [http://www.rdxo.org/asp/pages\\_rulesg.asp](http://www.rdxo.org/asp/pages_rulesg.asp)

---

QRP ARCI HF Grid Square Sprint (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*

Mar 18, 1500z to 1800z

Rules: <http://www.qrparci.org>

---

AGCW VHF/UHF Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Mar 17, 1600z to 2100z

Rules: [http://www.agcw.org/agcw-con/2007/Englisch/agcw-d10\\_e.htm](http://www.agcw.org/agcw-con/2007/Englisch/agcw-d10_e.htm)

---

Virginia QSO Party (CW/SSB/Dig) ... QRP Category

Mar 17, 1800z to Mar 19, 0200z

Rules: [http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA\\_QSO\\_Party/QSOParty.htm](http://www.qsl.net/sterling/VA_QSO_Party/QSOParty.htm)

---

RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*

EDST: Mar 18, 9 PM to 11 PM

UTC: Mar 19, 0100z 0300z

Rules: <http://fpqrp.com>

---

NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint \*\*\* QRP CONTEST! \*\*\*

EDT: Mar 21, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM

UTC: Mar 22, 0030z to 0230z

Rules: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/contests.html>

---

CQ World-Wide WPX Contest (SSB) ... QRP Category

Mar 24, 0000z to Mar 25, 2359z

Rules: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html>

---

Atlanticon

Mar 30 - 31

Info: <http://www.njgrp.org/atlanticon/>

---

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL) and others for assistance in compiling this calendar.

# 2007 Skywarn Class

LAPEER EAST  
AUDITORIUM  
(933 SAGINAW STREET)

March 29, 2007  
AT  
7:00 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

**FREE**  
and  
Open to the Public

\* \* \* \* \*

New  
This  
Year !!

*Pre-Registration at:*

[www.lapeercountvemd.org/skvwarn.htm](http://www.lapeercountvemd.org/skvwarn.htm)

**SPONSORED BY:**

*Lapeer County Office of Emergency Management  
Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association  
National Weather Service*

*photograph by Mary Stikeleather*

# SKYWARN TRAININGS

- Skywarn spotter training sessions are held to train individuals on how to accurately observe such weather phenomena as wall clouds, funnel clouds, tornadoes, shelf clouds associated with squall lines, and clouds that resemble funnel clouds and tornadoes but really aren't.
- In addition, topics covered during Skywarn training are:
  - ⚡ the role of the spotter, the NWS and emergency services;
  - ⚡ a recap of significant weather events during 2006;
  - ⚡ the necessary atmospheric conditions for thunderstorm development;
  - ⚡ tornado classifications;
  - ⚡ severe weather safety tips;
  - ⚡ severe weather terms used in National Weather Service products;
  - ⚡ what to report to the National Weather Service; and,
  - ⚡ how to report information to the National Weather Service.
- Skywarn training presentations usually last around two hours, with a scheduled break included.
- Skywarn spotters are essential to the National Weather Service, law enforcement and fire officials, and emergency managers. Among other things, spotters:
  - ⚡ provide valuable information on the severity of thunderstorms;
  - ⚡ allow downstream communities to understand the severity of thunderstorms moving toward them; and,
  - ⚡ allow the National Weather Service to gather information which helps verify the warnings it issues.
- Those who volunteer to be Skywarn spotters offer a valuable service. At a minimum, it is asked that Skywarn volunteers review procedures by attending a Skywarn spotter training session every two years.
- Spotter training is open to members of the general public, law enforcement, fire officials, and amateur radio operators, among others. We look forward to your participation in Skywarn!

## 2006-2007 L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

PLEASE PRINT:

CALL SIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY ,STATE, AND ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE : \_\_\_\_\_ LICENSE CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

SKYWARN NO.: \_\_\_\_\_ RACES NO: \_\_\_\_\_

ARES MEMBER YES\_\_ NO\_\_ E-MAIL ADD.: \_\_\_\_\_

ARE YOU AN A.R.R.L. MEMBER: YES\_\_ NO\_\_

L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP IS \$12.00 PER YEAR, RENEWABLE EACH YEAR ON **OCTOBER. 1ST.** FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$20.00. ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP \$4.00. IF YOU WISH AN AUTODIAL NUMBER FOR THE REPEATER THERE IS AN ADDITIONAL \$3.00 CHARGE. Financing available.

**Lapeer County Amateur  
Radio Association**

P.O. Box 12

Hadley, MI 48440-0012