



## Upcoming Swap & Shops

**Saturday, May 7, Cadillac** Wixaukee ARC Swap, 8:00 a.m. Cadillac Jr. H.S. Adm: \$5.00 T.I. 146.980 Info: [bandb@netonecom.net](mailto:bandb@netonecom.net)

**Fri, Sat, Sun May 20-22, Hamvention** Dayton, Ohio [www.hamvention.org](http://www.hamvention.org)

**Saturday, June 18, Midland** Midland A.R.C. 31st Annual Hamfest. 8:00 a.m. Gerstacker Fair Center, Midland County Fairgrounds. T.I. 147.000+ Info: [www.qsl.nite/w8kea](http://www.qsl.nite/w8kea)

**Sunday, June 19, Monroe** Monroe Hamfest and Computer Show, 7:30 a.m. Monroe County Fairgrounds. T.I. 146.72- Info: [www.mcrc.org](http://www.mcrc.org)

## Field Day is coming!!!

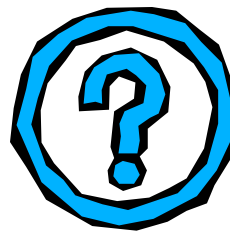
As the coordinator I would like to hear from those of you that would like to participate. The site will once again be Rotary Park, which gives us lots of room to put up several stations.

I would hope that some of you would like to participate, as this is a club event.

Please contact me and I will give you an idea how easy it is to enjoy the fun of this 24 hour event. Check the May issue of QST for the article on Field Day.

73 Bill Miller KD8VP

*The April Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12—7:30 p.m. At the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911) at 2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.*



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## The Prez Sez

Bob Erskine, W8RAE

Hope everyone enjoyed the spring weather over the weekend of 4-23. With the month of May upon us I am thinking about the holiday and the activities that help our bottom line. We will have a sign up sheet for Operation Care. I would hope that the majority of our members can spend sometime at the rest area for at least one shift. Unlike recent years I will be there for at least one time period each day. The sign up sheet will be at the meeting on the 10th of May. I hope to spend Dayton weekend working on my tower and replacing the guys . Until the tenth drive safe 73 Bob

## The PIO sez:

By Bill Hetchler KC8SHI

I found a really exciting way to do some DXing without having the normal equipment. It's called EchoLink and it is a computer based way to communicate with other Hams across the nation or around the world.

The January 2005 issue of QST (pg. 60) gives an excellent introduction to the process and a website for downloading the program for free. I have already contacted amateur operators across Michigan and in five or six other states. The program only requires a basic computer with a good sound card and inputs for a microphone and headphones. Radio Shack has a very good mic and headphone set for a reasonable price that is great for use with the program and equipment.

For those of us who haven't yet acquired their General License or don't have access to HF equipment this is the next best thing and it is a lot of fun.

I also want to know who is available to work the EOC center during weather emergencies. If you would contact me via e-mail I would appreciate it. My e-mail address is [whetchler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:whetchler@sbcglobal.net).

## Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

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

### Officers

President, Bob Erskine, W8RAE.....248-628-3401  
Vice-Pres., Therese Long, KC8PEZ..810-724-6790  
Secretary, Doug Donner, KC8ZCF...810-798-2237  
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)

LCARA Monthly Meeting Minutes from April 12, 2005

The meeting opened at 7:38 P.M by Club President, Bob W8RAE with Pledge and introductions.

Guests: Bill Love, KG4SSP

Upgrades and Advances: None

Hospital/SK Reports: None

Presidents Report (Given by Bob, W8RAE): No program for tonight. We are looking for program ideas. Still looking for an Operation Care Chairperson

Vice Presidents Report (Given by Therese, KC8PEZ): Operation Care is coming up. Please signup to help. Looking into purchasing the ARRL videos for the club.

Secretaries Report (Given by Doug Jr., KC8ZCF): motion to accept as read: Charlie, KC8JBK/Seconded by Hank, K8DD. Motion passed

Treasurer's Report (Given by Bill, KD8VP): Motion to accept as written made by Charlie, KC8JBK/Seconded by Hank, K8DD. Motion passed.

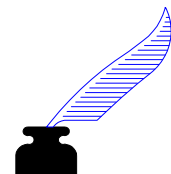
Repeater Trustee Report (Given by Bill, KD8VP):

- Club call has been transferred.
- Battery charger is in service and working fine
- Adjusted the squelch on the 2m repeater back 2 notches

Emergency Coordinator Report (Given by Doug Jr., KC8ZCF): None

Old Business: Bill, KD8VP received (2) separate emails from people looking to buy our towers for \$500.00 each. Bill is

*Minutes (Continued on page 3)*



### Contributors to this newsletter:

Did you do anything? Tell us about it!  
Your name and call should be here!

Welcome New Members

KC8LVL

(Continued from page 2) Minutes

under great pressure to get rid of the tower in his yard. A motion was made by Charlie, KC8JBK and seconded by Hank, K8DD to sell the tower stored at Bill's house. Ed, W8NCJ supported the motion as long as a clause was added to the agreement that stated the tower was being bought as is with no guarantee. The motion was passed. The Tower in Jim's old yard came from the county and requires notifying them before anything can be done. Doug, KC8ZCF, suggested the sale of the county tower be held off until a determination on a North receives site is made. Bill explained that a new place of storage needs to be found and the tower removed from its present location. Ed, W8NCJ suggested that steps should be started in the event that the tower is not needed and can be sold. A motion was made by Charlie, KC8JBK/Second by Hank K8DD to send a letter to Mary Stikeleather explaining our intentions to get the ball rolling. Bob, W8RAE will speak to Robert Carpenter, N8ER about writing the letter.

Break: 8:15 to 8:40

New Business:

- Received a thankyou note from Al Smiley's family for the flowers
- Bill, KD8VP explained I.C. Radio shack not picking up the club's web page hosting for this year. The question was asked about removing the Radio Shack adds from the web site and Wave Guide. Everybody agreed to leave it as is for now, since we still receive the discount. Maybe he can pick it up next year?
- Does anyone have any interest in giving a new ham class, and if so, when should it be done. Still an open issue.
- Ed, KC8EGR claims the Lowell repeater is covering our repeater signal and is concerned they are causing interference. It seems he is listening to them on their output frequency from his house. They aren't keying our repeater.

50/50 won by: Flo, KC8CAB

Meeting Adjourned at: 9:05 P.M.

Submitted By:

Doug Donner Jr., KC8ZCF Secretary

**If you have an e-mail address and would like the Waveguide via e-mail let Bill KD8VP (kd8vp@juno.com) and Hank K8DD (k8dd@arrl.net) know and it will happen. This can help save postage and printing for the club....And the pictures will look better!**

## Field Day is coming!

### Field Day is coming!

By Bill Miller KD8VP

The Lapeer City Council has approved, once again, our use of Rotary Park for Field Day. It seems every year it gets more complicated to get them to allow us the privilege of using their park without having to pay some ridiculous insurance fee. Perhaps if they didn't change City Managers every year it would help.

Clear your calendars for the fourth weekend in June. I would hope that I could get more of you officials of the club to participate, thus maybe more members themselves.



HillCraft Electronics 888-520-2002  
Just North of I-69 on Van Dyke (M-53)  
In the Farmer Jack Plaza

## SPECIAL Through April 31, 2005

- On any small parts (the 270 series Radio Shack Part numbers **20% discount!** with your LCARA membership card ~or~ proof of Amateur Radio License.

We now can order Diamond Antennas and accessories.

Check with us for your wireless networking needs and High Speed internet!

## Volunteer Examinations

The following are the 2005 dates scheduled for the Port Huron Volunteer Exam Team walk-in sessions at **9:00 AM** in the Gilbert-Wilcox Meeting room, 2nd floor, St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorran Blvd., Port Huron, MI 48060  
Apr 9, **Jun 11**, Aug 13, Oct 8, and Dec 10, 2005. Call Bob Herbert K8WMW 810-982-1561 if any questions.

## The EC sez

By Doug Donner Jr KC8ZCF

Well, it's supposed to be spring time in Michigan. It's dropping 4 to 6+ inches of snow as I write this. Anyway, spring time means it's time for the annual walks and events being held for charities. I would like to encourage everyone to get involved in working communications for these events for many reasons:

- It gets us outside in some beautiful weather (hopefully!).
- Gives us a chance to play radio.
- Helps us prepare for operating under net conditions during an emergency.
- Helps get us free publicity by being out in the public. The hours spent on emergency operations, nets and public service activities are converted to a dollar amount to show how useful we are. Remember, out of sight, out of mind.

Here are some events for the next several months and who to contact if you can help. Be sure to tell them you are from LCARA!

1. May 1: Walk America, Metropolitan Park. Contact Dennis at [w8dfg@k8uo.com](mailto:w8dfg@k8uo.com)
2. May 1: MS Walk, Birmingham. Contact Phil at [aa8kr@arrl.net](mailto:aa8kr@arrl.net)
3. May 1: March of Dimes Walk America. Contact Jim at [k8abz@arrl.net](mailto:k8abz@arrl.net)
4. May 1: Grosse Park MS Walk. Contact Hank at [k8trs@juno.com](mailto:k8trs@juno.com)
5. May 7: M.S. Walk in Frankenmuth. Contact me and I can pass along the information to you.
6. May 27 to 30: Operation Care. The club needs your help to make this a success. Contact me to sign-up!
7. May 29: St. Clair Shores Memorial Day Parade. Contact Hank at [k8trs@juno.com](mailto:k8trs@juno.com)
8. June 4: Oak Apple Run in Royal Oak. Contact Mike at [wd8s@comcast.com](mailto:wd8s@comcast.com)
9. June 5: American Diabetes Assoc. Tour de Cure in Brighton. Contact Jeff Albrecht, N8WR at 248-642-3608

Unfortunately, none of the activities I have listed are in Lapeer County. I know we have walks and bike-a-thons as well. Please, help us all by letting any event organizers you might know that we are here and able to assist them by handling their communication needs. It's fun and helps build bonds with the public as well as other clubs. And lastly, volunteer! A large part of ham radio is public service!

73, Doug Jr, KC8ZCF

# May 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	3 Board meet- ing--Tim Hor- tons . 7:30PM	4	5 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	6	7
8	9 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	10 <b>LCARA Meeting</b>	11	12 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	13	14
15	16 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	17	18	19 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	20	21
22	23 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	24	25	26 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	27	28
29	30 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	31				

## Not a well known fact

Cooking oil does wonders to neutralize the glue for the multitude of those little sticky things that EMT's and hospital people stick on you in great quantities to attach their various types of leads!

## How much loss is in your coax?

Here's an easy procedure to make a good approximation of line loss, without disconnecting the coax up on the tower:

1. Connect an antenna analyzer to the feedline in the shack.
2. With the analyzer in swr mode, vary the frequency, observing where the SWR goes through maxima and minima. Pick one of the maxima, in the vicinity of 25 - 30 MHz, noting the SWR and frequency. At that point, the antenna up on the tower presents such an extreme impedance that you are essentially measuring the SWR on an unterminated line.
3. Plug the observed maximum SWR into the following equation:

$$\text{loss (dB)} = 10 \log [(SWR+1)/(SWR-1)]$$

By staying at the high end of the analyzer's frequency range where the SWR maxima have lower values, the effect of imprecision is reduced somewhat.

## The Treas Sez

Bill Miller, KD8VP

Hello to everyone reading the news letter. The month of April was a normal month for LCARA, nothing unusual to report for the month other than the normal expenses for the utilities and an expense for mailing of some newsletters. The membership voted at the last meeting to divest ourselves of the 120 foot tower acquired from Catholic Church in Imlay City, do to the fact that we were offered \$500.00 for it and the fact that storage was becoming a problem. The logistics of moving the tower by the buyer became a problem, so it didn't happen as fast as expected, but the tentative date to load it onto his trailer is now set at April 30, 2005. The price received for the tower exceeds our cost by a little so the club is still profitable in it's endeavors to stay ahead of the game. Some of the old timers will still remember the OLD days when members were begged to pay their dues in advance just so that we could pay the utilities for the month, with that said our current membership should be commended for the excellent shape the club is in financially.

Operation Care and the Swap have contributed greatly to our solvency so anything you as member can do to help out these causes is greatly appreciated. Thank You very much.

73 Bill Miller KD8VP Treasurer

## How to Operate a Radio

(adapted from "How to Operate a Scanner" by Jim Springer)

In this world of complexity and semi-intelligent radios and operators, we are often confronted with vexing situations of electronic recalcitrance. The following six steps are virtually guaranteed to solve almost any radio-related problem you may encounter, whether you realize it or not.

**Step One** - Approach the radio in a confident manner. This will give it the (frequently mistaken) idea that you know what you are doing. This will also impress anyone who happens to be looking over your shoulder and if the radio suddenly starts working, you will be credited with it. If this step fails, proceed to Step Two.

**Step Two** - Wave the manual at the radio. This will show everyone, and perhaps the radio, that you are at least somewhat familiar with the sources of knowledge. You will no doubt have to proceed to Step Three.

**Step Three** - In a forcible manner, recite Ohm's Law directly at the front panel. (Before you do this, refer to an old Handbook to be sure you still remember what Ohm's Law is for.) This may be a traumatic experience for most Extra Class hams, for both you and the radio, and should only be attempted after the first two steps fail.

**Step Four** - Perform "percussive maintenance" by jarring the radio slightly. This may require anything from a three to six foot drop. Most repair shops prefer a concrete floor for this step. This is, of course, a drastic step and if it fails, you have no recourse other than to return it to the factory as "In Warranty", or, proceed to Step Five.

**Step Five** - Add at least one minor accessory to the power supply. This will put an added load on the unit and thereby increase your advantage over it. Should these five steps fail to work, you will have to proceed to six, the most drastic step of all, which is seldom used except as a final resort.

**Step Six** - THINK!

(I was sorely tempted to put out a special April First edition, with all the attendant possibilities of editorial tomfoolery. But this is too serious of a subject to be lightly taken - Ed.)

Here are a couple of events needing your help. The benefits are the good feeling you can get from: (1) doing something for the good of amateur radio (2) volunteerism (3) public service (4) helping the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association.

## 2005 MS150 Bike Tour July 16 & 17

The dates have been set for this years MS150 Bike tour, July 16 & 17. We are in need of operators to work the 2 day event. The MS150 event is the largest Amateur Radio public service event in South East Michigan. It requires a minimum of 75+ amateurs, to cover some 200+ miles of route, plus rest stops, and some 20+ mobile units each day. Each amateur that participates in the two day event supplies his or her own equipment, mainly consisting of a 25 Watt or greater 2 meter FM radio, Magnet Mount antenna, cigarette lighter socket Y adapter, and power cords. Food and lodging for Saturday night are provided for by the MS organization. The event starts promptly at 7am Saturday and concludes late Sunday afternoon after the last rider arrives back. The Saturday night entertainment at MSU is a fun time for all.

If you are interested in participating or need any questions answered, please email Fred, W8FSM - [fred@moses.bz](mailto:fred@moses.bz). We currently have many open assignments for either Saturday, Sunday, and many 2 day assignments as well.

To sign up for the event or get more information visit our website @ <http://ms150.moses.bz>

73, Fred - W8FSM, MS-150 Amateur Radio Communications Manager (ARCM)

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 Fredric S. Moses - W8FSM  
 Chief Technology Officer, Tri-County Wireless  
 240 N. Fenway Drive Fenton, MI 48430  
[fred.moses@tcwireless.us](mailto:fred.moses@tcwireless.us) [fred.blackberry@tcwireless.us](mailto:fred.blackberry@tcwireless.us)  
 Office: 810.433.6767 Fax: 810.629.9227

## Contesting & DXing

Most contesters use the PC to send their CW during contests. What about between contests? A number of non-contest logging programs have a feature that sends CW from the PC keyboard. K1EL (<http://www.k1el.com>) makes the nifty K40 kit that turns a standard PS/2 keyboard into a keyer directly, without requiring a host program - it's completely standalone. Monty N5ESE built the K40 circuit board into a surplus keyboard as described at <http://www.io.com/~n5fc/kb.htm>. K1EL offers several other handy kits, including the WinKeyer that bypasses many of the timing difficulties associated with the use of PC serial ports for keying. (Thanks, Monty N5ESE)



=====  
*I personally think we developed language because of our deep inner need to complain—Lily Tomlin*  
**[Obviously after listening to 75M SSB! -ed]**

## Operation C.A.R.E.

Spring is in the air.....and time for Operation Care to start for the summer!

For anyone who doesn't know what it is, Operation Care is held 3 times per year on the summer holidays at the 5 Lakes Rest Area on I-69. The purpose is to provide a public service by serving coffee, cookies, doughnut holes and assorted items to the travelers that stop into the rest area.

Our mission, keep the coffee flowing, doughnuts filled, and talk to everyone and anyone who wants to chat while on a 3 hour shift. You meet some real interesting people over the course of a weekend on "the hill". You just never know when giving out a cup of coffee is keeping someone from falling asleep at the wheel! Oh ya, we still find time to play a little radio as well. We have been highly praised for our hourly bridge reports!

This is one of the few times the club asks for volunteers to come out and put in a few hours. Operation Care has become one of the biggest fund raisers for LCARA, helping to keep the dues down to their present level. The work is easy, the time investment is short, and no one would have to stay the whole weekend if everyone would chip in even one shift.

We are scheduled to run from Friday afternoon till Monday evening over Memorial Day, 4<sup>th</sup> of July and the Labor Day weekends.

**Be RadioActive—  
Participate!**

### Show your club colors

The following items with the LCARA logo are available. Your name and callsign included at no extra charge.

Tee shirts.....	\$12.00
Sweat shirts, hooded.....	\$30.00
Sweat shirts, long sleeve without hood.....	\$18.00
Golf shirts, grey, yellow or white.....	\$19.00
Nylon jacket, windbreaker.....	\$45.00
Heavier poplin jacket, flannel lined, quilted.....	\$83.00

For XXL add \$2.00 For XXXL add \$3.00 plus MI sales tax.  
 Call Flo Haack, KC8CAB, or contact her at any club meeting to place your order.

### This is your spot!

News reports, upgrades, achievements, rumors, humorous events, questions, sound off, what DX have you worked?, or any reports. Send anything you have to the editor (see page 2) in any form—handwritten, typed, ASCII file, email, disk, chipped in stone, or by packet radio (144.970 WA8DX—do a SEND K8DD).

## The EC sez

Doug Donner, JR KC8ZCF

Everyone active in ARES/RACES should have a "Go Kit" ready to go in case an emergency happens. Many lists have been compiled and can be found almost anywhere on the internet. The following information was taken from the ARRL Field Resources Manual and included here for your reading enjoyment (enter disclaimer here).

### **BASIC DEPLOYMENT EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST**

When responding to an emergency event, or even a training exercise, there is a minimum set of equipment and personal gear you should bring with you to get the job done. Basic items include:

- 2-METER HT • ARES ID CARD
- 2-METER MAGMOUNT ANTENNA AND COAX
- EXTRA BATTERIES • EAR-PHONE • APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
- PAPER AND PENCIL • FOOD AND WATER

The majority of these items should be kept in a "Ready Kit." Just pick it up on your way out the door for deployment. You might also consider the items on the following list for inclusion in this ready kit, designed to allow you to stay in the field for up to 72 hours.

### **EXTENDED (72-HOUR) DEPLOYMENT EQUIPMENT CHECKLIST**

- Snacks • Liquid refreshments • Throat lozenges • Aspirin
- Prescriptions • Toilet articles
- First aid kit • Message forms
- Log books • Shelter (tent and sleeping bag)
- 3 day change of clothes • Foul weather gear
- 3 day supply of water and food • Portable stove; Mess kit with cleaning kit
- Flashlight • Batteries
- Candles • Water proof matches
- Alarm clock • Toolbox
- Electrical and Duct tape • Soldering iron and solder
- Safety glasses • VOM
- Additional Radios, packet gear • Microphones
- Headphones • Power supplies, chargers
- RF Connectors • Antennas with mounts
- Patch cords • SWR bridge (VHF and HF).
- Extra coax • ARRL Standardized Connectors (Molex 1545) [Note: Anderson Power Pole connectors are becoming very popular in many Em Comm areas]

### **Dayton Hamvention Rooms**

Going to Dayton Hamvention?

QRP-ARCI / FISTS has a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn/Homewood Suites in Fairborne, OH. Contact K8DD if you need a room for 2+ nights.

**For Sale:** 100' Rohn 45G tower on 2.5 acres, Cushcraft X-7, tailtwister rotator, dipoles for 80M & 40M, 80M 1/4 wave vertical, 106M inverted-L, HyGain Patriot vertical. 6 pos. antenna switch in the shack. Shack wired for 110 & 220. And a 144/440 Diamond X-50 at 65'. There is even 1300 sq ft living space with 3 BR, 1.5 bath, a finished basement and a 2.5 car garage. Price is negotiable!  
810 721 0708 K8DD

**2004-2005 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