

W8LAP

www.w8lap.com

LCARA Waveguide



June

Published Monthly by The Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association 2005

Upcoming Swap & Shops

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

Sunday, June 19, Monroe Monroe Hamfest and Computer Show, 7:30 a.m. Monroe County Fairgrounds. T.I. 146.72- Info: www.mcraa.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, June 14 —7:30 p.m.
At the Lapeer County Central Dispatch
Center (911) at 2332 W. Genesee Street
in the basement.*

The Prez Sez

Bob Erskine, W8RAE

Well the first big holiday is over. Those that I did not see at Op Care I trust had a safe and pleasant week end. Those that I DID see thanks for your energy and input. The work at the rest area was taken care of thanks to you..

I want to wish Therese all the best at MSU and thank you for all that you have done for the LCARA in the short time that you have been involved in the hobby. Also wishing you all the best in your future and the years to come. I hope to see all of you at the June meeting as well as at this years field day event..

73 Bob

Memorial Day Operation CARE...

Doug Donner Jr. KC8ZCF
Memorial Day Operation Care.....

Or should it be more appropriately named, "Operation I Don't Care"? Based on the low number of people willing to help out, this might be the case.

Folks, once again, this is the biggest fund raiser for the club and only happens 3 times a year on the summer holidays. Everybody in the club should be aware of that by now. A lot of people believe in this activity. Several people walked up each day and put money in the donation jar just because they liked what we were doing. Even Sgt. Beasley stopped in to say "Hi" and to see how things were going. For those who don't know, Sgt. Beasley is the State Trooper from Lansing in charge of the Operation Care program. He thought everything looked good. I figure he was pleased because I didn't receive any hate mail from him this week.

I would like to thank the workers at the 5 Lakes Rest Area for all of their help over the weekend. One of the workers, Tom Oliver, even spent time on 2 of his days off helping out. And because of Kathy Hyde, a 5 Lakes Rest Area worker, we're introducing Lemonade for the July 4th weekend (just don't tell her, I'll never hear the end of it!). The amazing thing is, we had as many if not more non-club members come out and help. They helped because of the cause and not the

Operation CARE? (Continued on page 3)

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.

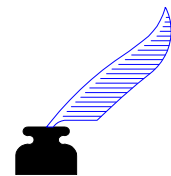
Board of Directors' monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at Tim Horton's at 7:30PM (Check on the W8LAP repeaters).

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 May 10, 2005



The meeting opened at 7:30 P.M by Club President, Bob W8RAE with Pledge and introductions.

Guests: Ed McCurdy, KD8BBX and John Millett K8JM

Upgrades and Advances: None

Hospital/SK Reports: None

Presidents Report (Given by Bob, W8RAE): No additional information on the North remote site

Vice Presidents Report (Given by Therese, KC8PEZ): She will resign at next months meeting. We will be looking for nominations for VP to finish out this years term

Secretaries Report (Given by Doug Jr., KC8ZCF): accepted as read. Motion made by Dave KD8DLW and 2nd by Sheri KD8AWV

Treasurer's Report (Given by Bill, KD8VP): Accepted as written. The first of the 2 towers was sold for \$500.00. It was picked up the night of the meeting

Emergency Coordinator Report (Given by Doug Jr., KC8ZCF): All Official Emergency Station appointments have been canceled. We are seeking one here in Lapeer. Gave overview of Frankenmuth MS Walk, asked if there would be interest in working local walks.

Break: 7:55 to 8:20

Old Business: There is no additional information on the North receive site. Bob will contact Mary on 5/11 to find out what is required to get rid of second tower. Operation Care; still looking for volunteers. A sign up sheet is being passed around.

Minutes (Continued on page 3)

Contributors to this newsletter:

Doug, KC8ZCF Bob, W8RAE

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

Welcome New Members

Tom Oliver (honorary)

(Continued from page 1) **Operation CARE?**

reward. Every member of LCARA should thank the non-members for their time. It is because of them we did as well as we did, even with shutting down early on Monday. I thought it would be a nice gesture to invite them to the Christmas Party, and have done so on behalf of the club. I don't believe anyone would have a problem with making them honorary club members.

The schedule from the weekend is being attached so everybody can see how many openings we had. Please thank those who gave their time over the weekend. I would personally like to thank the following for taking time from their holiday and helping out:

Hank, K8DD

Bob, W8RAE

Dick, KC8VHA and son (sorry, I forgot his name)

Joe, KC8JRY and daughter, Anne

Sheri, KD8AWV (for securing donations and supply runs) and daughter Bobbi (and Cheyenne, the mini beast)

Tom Oliver, rest stop employee who came out on both of his days off to help

Herb, KB8NLE

Chuck, WA8UCS

Frank, K8MFK who sent in bridge reports all weekend.

People love them!

The bottom line is this, public service. We are here to handle emergency communications and perform public service as well as have fun on the air. On the form submitted to the District 3 EC every month, I have to report the number of hours of public service we've performed. This is then turned into a dollar amount that is used for many different things (saving bands, fighting BPL interference, fighting antenna bans etc.). Over and above that, a lot of time is spent on many levels to make sure that Operation Care is run in a fashion that meets its goals, accident reduction and saving lives. Simply stated, you might save a life or 2 by spending 3 hours of your weekend on the "Hill".

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.

Once again, we need people to sign up for 4th of July weekend. This time around, we will close down during the time slots that are not filled. If that means we are only open for 3 hours a day, that's the way it goes.

I also ask that if you sign-up for a shift and can't make it, please call and let someone know. The repeater is monitored all weekend in case someone on the hill needs supplies or assistance. To sign up and then not show is inexcusable, to say the least.

Is it time we stop Operation Care and relinquish our permits to some other group that CAREs about the cause? This is a question we should discuss very shortly. It's possibly a good discussion topic at the next meeting.

Doug Jr., KC8ZCF

See the Memorial Day Operation CARE schedule on the next page!

(Continued from page 2) **Minutes**

New Business: None

50/50 won by:???

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:45 motion by Josh N8CFS, and 2nd by Ed, KC8EGR

Submitted By: Doug Donner Jr., KC8ZCF Secretary



RadioShack

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Just North of I-69 on Van Dyke (M-53)
In the Farmer Jack Plaza

SPECIAL Through June 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.

Memorial Day 2005 Operation Care

Saturday

Friday 05/27

05/28

Sunday 05/29

Monday 05/30

	Friday 05/27	05/28	Sunday 05/29	Monday 05/30
6:00 AM. To 9:00 AM		Hank K8DD Bob W8RAE	Hank K8DD Bob W8RAE	Hank K8DD Bob W8RAE
9:00 AM. To 12:00 PM		Dick KC8VHA <u>Tom olliver</u>	Doug KC8ZCF <u>TOM olliver</u>	Bill KC8SHI <u>Doug KC8ZCF Chuck UCS</u>
12:00 PM. To 3:00 PM	Set-up at 11:00 Doug KC8ZCF Bob W8RAE Dick KC8VHA	JOE KC8JAY <u>ANNE Doug KC8ZCF</u>	Doug KC8ZCF	Bill SHI <u>Doug ZCF Shut-Down</u>
3:00 PM. To 6:00 PM	Doug KC8ZCF	Dick KC8VHA <u>Doug KC8ZCF</u>	Herb KB8OLE <u>Doug KC8ZCF</u>	
6:00 PM. To 9:00 PM	Doug KC8ZCF	Doug KC8ZCF	Doug KC8ZCF Pete KB8RSG Cindy KB8WOB	Shut Down at 6:00 PM Bill KD8VP
9:00 PM. To 12:00 AM	<u>Bobbi</u> Doug KC8ZCF	<u>Bobbi</u> Doug KC8ZCF	<u>Bobbi</u> Doug KC8ZCF	

If anything comes up, my cell phone number is (810) 614-7952 or call on the repeater. Doug, KC8ZCF

Show your club colors

The following items with the LCARA logo are available. Your name and call sign 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.

Be RadioActive— Participate!

Contesting & DXing

For Sale—Contest station—Package deal—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, Butternut HF6V vertical. Killer 6 Meter location! 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



Operation C.A.R.E.

Summer is in the air.....and time for Operation Care to continue 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, 4th of July and the Labor Day weekends.

If you think you might be there, contact Doug Jr., KC8ZCF and let him know what day(s) and time(s) you can be there. There are still some very prime times open. Hope to see you on "the hill". And if you can't be there, don't worry about it—there probably won't be anyone else there either. Oh, never mind. I guess.

June 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 ARES Net 442.750	3	4
5	6 ARES Net 146.62	7 Board meet- ing—Tim Hor-	8	9 ARES Net 442.750	10	11
12	13 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	14 LCARA Meeting	15	16 ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM	17	18
19	20 ARES Net 146.62	21	22	23 ARES Net 442.750	24	25
26	27 ARES Net 146.62	28	29	30 ARES Net 442.750	1 Will YOU support the	2 July 4 Op CARE?

The EC Sez...

Doug Donner Jr., KC8ZCF

As spring turns to summer in Michigan (yes, we did have a spring), the threat of hazardous weather moves to the forefront. From a spotter activation standpoint, we have only been activated by the National Weather Service once. This resulted in checking into the NWS net on standby status.

The subject of this month's article is Net Control Operators. As mentioned at many meetings in the past, we need more trained/willing net control operators. These operators would not only be needed to serve as Net Control on the Monday night nets, but also in the event of an emergency. What would happen of a large scale emergency occurred that required net operation over several days? With only 2 or 3 NC operators around, we would run out of people quickly. Add to that the possible need to run more than one net at a time, and I hope you can see where I'm going with this.

Running Net Control is relatively painless and easy to learn. It would be nice if enough people would be interested so that we could rotate operators so no one (i.e. Charlie, KC8JBK) would have to be there every Monday night. In addition, I would like to create a list of eligible NC Operators who could be called on to start a net in case an emergency is declared.

It would be nice to have these operators in place by this falls SET. Dale Williams and the Michigan Section leadership are expecting every county to participate and I'd hate to disappoint.

On a side note, if anyone is interested in being a liaison between the LCARA net(s) and any other net, either VHF/UHF/HF or packet, please let me know. We currently have liaisons with Army MARS, QMN CW net, SATERN net, and the Thumb and Mid-Michigan Traffic Net. More than one liaison for each net is fine and encouraged. When I become a deer hunter, I quickly realized that one of anything is never enough. That's it for now.

73,
Doug Jr., KC8ZCF

The Red Planet is about to be spectacular!

This month and next, Earth is catching up with Mars in an encounter that will culminate in the closest approach between the two planets in recorded history. The next time Mars may come this close is in 2287. Due to the way Jupiter's gravity tugs on Mars and perturbs its orbit, astronomers can only be certain that Mars has not come this close to Earth in the Last 5,000 years, but it may be as long as 60,000 years before it happens again. The encounter will culminate on August 27th when Mars comes to within 34,649,589 miles of Earth and will be (next to the moon) the brightest object in the night sky. It will attain a magnitude of -2.9 and will appear 25.11 arc seconds wide. At a modest 75-power magnification Mars will look as large as the full moon to the naked eye. Mars will be easy to spot. At the beginning of August it will rise in the east at 10p.m. and reach its azimuth at about 3 a.m.

By the end of August when the two planets are closest, Mars will rise at nightfall and reach its highest point in the sky at 12:30a.m. That's pretty convenient to see something that no human being has seen in recorded history So, mark your calendar at the beginning of August to see Mars grow progressively brighter and brighter throughout the month.

Share this with your children and grandchildren. NO ONE ALIVE TODAY WILL EVER SEE THIS AGAIN.

Submitted by Bob W8RAE

From Siliconvalley.com

Good Morning Silicon Valley

Posted on Tue, May. 03, 2005

Dismantling monuments of electronics' fading past HAM RADIO ANTENNAE, ONCE PRIZED BY FANS, HAVE BECOME EYESORES

By Mike Cassidy Mercury News

Sometimes the past gives way stubbornly.

Sometimes it takes muscle, Liquid Wrench, cussing and more Liquid Wrench. Sometimes it takes Dave Aronovitz, a man who provides palliative care for the artifacts of a fading, if not dying, form of communication.

Aronovitz is a self-made expert in the art of disassembling the soaring steel towers that support home-based ham radio antennae. Today he is 35 feet up in the air, harnessed to a tower working like a dog to tear it down. The Menlo Park house to which it is attached is going on the market and the real estate agent says the homely steel structure is a curb-appeal crusher.

``Twenty years ago that would have been a selling point," says Rich Shapiro, a handyman working across the street.

``Now it's an eyesore."

Pretty much. Unless, like Aronovitz, you see beauty in the tower. Or beauty in what it represents.

Without the tower, you have no place for your antenna. Without an antenna, your transmitter is no good. Without your transmitter, you can't get on your ham set and talk to someone down the block or around the world.

<http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/business/columnists/gmsv/11551968.htm>

The tower, adorned with a non-functional TV antenna and a couple of radio antennae, has a space-age look -- which mostly serves as a reminder that the space age dawned a generation ago. The contraption and others in other back yards stand as monuments to communication before WiFi, cell phones, DirecTV and the Internet.

Amateur radio was where it was at -- the place to reach out to old acquaintances and new friends. The instant messenger of its time.

Back on the ground for a break, Aronovitz tells his radio story. Bought his first back in 1956 at the local Radio Shack. A Hallicrafter SX 99. Saved for an eternity, mowing lawns, shoveling snow, working at the grocery for 90 cents an hour.

All for those nights as a 12-year-old in the basement of his Massachusetts home. Tubes glowing. The hum, static and whistle of the set.

``There is something about those old analog radios," Aronovitz, 60, says, ``and the experience of tuning them in."

Like the world, the radios have gone digital.

Laid off from Sun four years ago, Aronovitz now hunts for the old models on the Web and elsewhere.

``When they are fully restored," he says, ``they are almost works of art."

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

He started selling the rehabs on eBay. Those sales led some to ask whether he'd be interested in old towers.

Some asking were widows of old hams who had died. Some were old hams themselves -- plenty young when they put the towers up, but not so young now.

He sells those he can. Junks the others. This one, he thinks, might work out for the West Valley Amateur Radio Association, his club.

"Ham is going through a transformation," Aronovitz says.

About 680,000 people hold amateur radio licenses in the United States, says the American Radio Relay League. But the ham population is aging. And the number of new applications for licenses is down, says the Federal Communication Commission.

The towering antennae are no longer welcome in some planned developments. Working people no longer have the time to sit in front of the ham set. The Internet has become the gateway to the world for many.

And so from time to time, Aronovitz is called on to deliver us from our past.

He does so stoically. A man who well understands that sometimes the past gives way stubbornly.

Operation CARE

Unscramble the words below to see what Operation CARE is all about and what makes it work:

1. ltreevuon_____
2. eofefc_____
3. doeealnm_____
4. pelh_____
5. cvesire_____
6. eruoystc_____
7. ooppcrn_____
8. noshttiorm_____
9. rarteil_____
10. lpsheer_____
11. dluheecs_____
12. miet_____
13. rweta_____
14. sassit_____
15. opstupr_____
16. roznteapi_____
17. roaorrbtce_____

Hide your keyboard before you go on vacation!

The office gang sometimes leaves a surprise for you when you return from vacation. Like your keyboard, for example.



Join the ARRL!

ARRL is the national membership association for Amateur Radio operators.

The seed for Amateur Radio was planted in the 1890s, when Guglielmo Marconi began his experiments in wireless telegraphy. Soon he was joined by dozens, then hundreds, of others who were enthusiastic about sending and receiving messages through the air--some with a commercial interest, but others solely out of a love for this new communications medium. The United States government began licensing Amateur Radio operators in 1912.

For more information contact the ARRL at:
225 Main Street, Newington CT 06111-1494

Voice: 860-594-0200

E-mail: hq@arrl.org or Internet: <http://www.arrl.org/>

"Let Your Fingers do the Talking — Morse code"

Mike, N9BOR

Tired of reading about Contest and DX and all this CW stuff by Mike, N9BOR and the famous Joe Walsh? I'm sure it really gets boring reading about it, too! Did you do something in the past few months interesting? Write it up—we'll correct the spelling and make it sound even more interesting! Bet that's more interesting than CW!

**Be Radio-Active
Participate**

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