

W8LAP/r
146.620— 100Hz
442.750 + Open

www.w8lap.com



LCARA WAVEGUIDE



October Published Monthly by The Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association **2005**

Upcoming Swap & Shops

October 2, Sunday, 8 a.m. –3 p.m. Goshen, IN N.
Indiana Hamfest & Computer Expo, Elkhart Co. 4-H
Fairgrounds Tickets \$5, tables \$15, electric \$10 (own
cord) DXCC Card Checking, VE Exams, Info: www.Goshenarc.org/hamfest

October 9, Sunday, 8 a.m.—12 p.m., Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo ARC & SW Michigan AR Team, 23rd Annual
Hamfest, Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds Tickets \$5,
tables \$12, trunk space \$5 DXCC Card Checking. Info:
Info@kalamazoohamfest.com

**October 30, Sunday, 8 a.m.—1 p.m., Sterling
Heights,** 20th Annual Utica-Shelby Emergency
Comm.Assoc. Hamfest American Polich Century Club,
33204 Maple Lane Drive Tickets \$5, tables \$15 for 1st,
\$10 2nd. VE Exams Info: hamfest@k8uo.net

**November 19-20, Saturday 9-4, Sunday 9-3 Fort
Wayne Hamfest** Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum
Exposition Center, 4000 Parnell Ave. Tickets \$5, parking
\$3 tables prices vary Info: www.fortwaynehmfest.com

Special Event Station—N8SE

October 11th and 12th will be the EDS / SATERN
Exercise at Camp Echo Grove located at 1101 Camp
Road, Leonard, Michigan. **A Special Event Station**
using SATERN Club call of N8SE will be held
Tuesday night the October 11th from 5 PM to 9 PM
(break 6-7 for supper). We will be using frequencies
of 3.952 on 80 M, 7.265 on 40 M, 14.265 on 20 M and
145.565 simplex on 2 M as well as Lapeer and/or
USECA repeaters.

The Christmas Party

The LCARA Christmas Party will be held this coming
December on the regular meeting night of December 13 at
the Country Side Banquet Hall in Imlay City, just north of
the Imlay City Fairgrounds. As last year, the Christmas
Party is **free** to members and their spouse or guest.
(except for the bar, which is cash!)

*The July Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, October 11 —7:30 p.m.
At the Lapeer County Central Dispatch
Center (911) at 2332 W. Genesee Street
in the basement.*

PA Power & Light ending trial of 'broadband over power lines' Internet access method it helped pioneer proved unprofitable.

By Sam Kennedy Of The Morning Call
October 4, 2005

PPL Corp. is abandoning the futuristic technology that provides high-speed Internet access, or broadband, through electrical wires and power outlets.

The Allentown power company announced Monday it is terminating its "broadband over power lines" trial because the technology proved unprofitable. Its subsidiary, PPL Broadband, will cut Internet access to 300 residential customers in the Lehigh Valley at the end of the month, the company said.

The decision is a rejection of a potentially market-shifting technology by one of the companies that has pioneered its use.

[This may not be the death of BPL, but it is another nail in its coffin! — editor]



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NEW UNIFIED AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE EXAM AS PROPOSED BY ARRL

The new unified amateur radio test has been announced and is here. A few important changes have been made. The new test has been designed in order that the same test can be given for all license classes. To qualify for the higher classes of license, all you have to do is score better on the test. This makes things so much simpler for VE's.

=====

Please PRINT (that means no squiggly lines)
YOUR NAME (what they call you) _____

ADDRESS (where you live) _____

BIRTH DATE (when you were born) _____

EXAM INSTRUCTIONS:

Make a circle (one of these round things O) around the letter of the best answer! This is so we know what your answer to the question is!

1. You TALK into a microphone with your
A. Hands
B. Feet
C. Toes
D. Mouth
E. Armpits
2. When you talk into a microphone, you talk into
A. the front
B. the back
C. the top
D. the bottom
E. the wire
3. "HEADPHONES" are worn over the
A. Knees
B. Eyes
C. Toes
D. Ears
E. Lips
4. What do you do with the AC line cord coming out of a power supply?
A. Hold it in the air to pick up signals
B. Pull on it to start the motor
C. Talk into the plug to get real "skip DX"
D. Hook it to your antenna
E. Insert the plug into a source of power
5. A "two meter" radio is:
A. twice as strong as a one-meter radio
B. two one-meter radios in series
C. a CB with two meters on the front panel
D. a good doorstop
E. a monoband radio

6. A "ten-foot mast" is how long?
A. Three meters
B. Ten pounds
C. Two meters
D. Tree-top tall
E. Same length as basketball hoop is high
 7. A "Triband antenna" is made to work on how many bands?
A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
E. 10
 8. The "Marconi" antenna is named after:
A. Marconi
B. Mantovani
C. macaroni
D. Dean Martin
E. martini
 9. What colors of DIODES can you buy at a Radio Shack store?
A. Red, blue and black
B. Red, yellow and green
C. Orange and brown
D. I am color blind so this is a discriminatory question and I should automatically get a waiver on this question.
E. I have no intention of ever using DIODES, so don't care what color they are.
 10. What color of SLURPEE can you buy at 7-11?
A. Red, blue and black
B. Red, yellow and green
C. Orange and brown
D. I am color blind so this is a discriminatory question and I should get another waiver on this question. I now have two questions right.
E. All the above
 11. You have just installed your new mobile rig in your vehicle and you are still parked at the curb, you need to pull out into traffic and you are talking to another station?
A. You put down the mic long enough to signal that you intend to pull away from the curb
B. You keep on talking and just pull out in traffic
C. You open your left rear door to signal that you want to pull out in traffic, while calling CQ DX on the repeater
D. You install a light bulb at the top of your antenna so that it will flash when you are talking on the radio and people will then know to let you out
- END OF EXAM.
YOUR SIGNATURE _____
=====

SCORING:
Get FOUR correct and you get an EXTRA!!!! Get TWO right and you get a GENERAL!!! Get ONE right and you get a TECHNICIAN! Get None right. Go back out in parking lot and study another five minutes. When you are done, come back in and try again.

If your e-mail address changes please let KD8VP and K8DD know so you get club email!

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,
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).

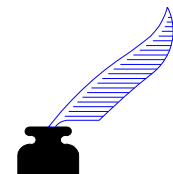
Newsletter

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 September 13, 2005



Meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the American flag
Introductions followed with two visitors, Eric Liagre, and Ed McKurdie KD8BBX.
Steve N8EN was listed in the Disabled report. Steve had a back operation.
Bob W8RAE read the August meeting minute, in Doug's absence, Tom KGOZN moved the minutes be approved, Hank K8DD seconded.
Bill KD8VP read the treasurers report, Hank K8DD moved to accept, KGOZN seconded.
Bob W8RAE reviewed his negotiations with Country Side Banquet Hall for a Christmas party to be held on December 13th 2005. Party to be open to all paid up members of LCARA, with their spouses. Motion to proceed with plans for the party by Ed W8NCJ, seconded by Hank K8DD.
Bob W8RAE brought up the elections of officers and suggested postponing until next month due to not having a quorum of board members present. Ed W8NCJ made a Motion to postpone elections until the October meeting. Tom KGOZN seconded the motion with the addition of advertising the elections in the Wave Guide news. All present approved.
Bill KD8VP brought up the possibility of getting a gift for Mr. And Mrs. Corrie, for there putting up with storing the Rohn tower on their property. It was decided that a gift of a fruit basket would be appropriate. To be purchased for less than \$100.00. Moved by Ed W8NCJ, to purchase gift for less than \$100.00. Seconded by Hank K8DD. All approved.
Ed W8NCJ Discussion about the September 17, 2005, ARRL Emergency communications day. Discussion followed about who would be on the air.
With no further business Tom KGOZN moved to adjourn, Hank K8DD, seconded.

Submitted by KD8VP

Contributors to this newsletter:

Doug, KC8ZCF Bill, KD8VP
CW Writer Mary Stikeleather

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

Welcome New Members

Hints and Kinks...

Phenolic plastics are handy for a number of applications but are rarely found in the home improvement and hardware stores. John WOUN points out that these materials can be found at

http://www.professionalplastics.com/cgi-bin/main/co_disp/displ/pgfnbr/3/sesent/00. Close to a dozen can be found by using the pull-down menu "Search By Name". Joe W4TV also recommends McMaster Carr at <http://www.mcmaster.com>.

L.B Cebik's Web site has a good article on making your dipole a bit more broadbanded: <http://www.cebik.com/trans/wb.html>. While you're there, take in the article on the venerable Zepp antenna at <http://www.cebik.com/gup/gup12.html>. (Thanks, Tom W7WHY and Tony KTONY)

This neat tip for making nice, straight cuts in potentiometer shafts could also be put to use cutting any kind of metal rod. Chuck the rod in a drill press or drill that is locked in a vise. Turn the drill on at low speed and use a hacksaw blade to cut them while they rotate - like cutting them with a lathe. (Thanks Rick KC8AON)

Need a small clock to place on your computer desktop? Bill W6WRT contributes a freeware program from Alpha Clock (<http://www.arnis.net/soft/aclock>) that he thinks is "just right" - not too big, not too small, and just enough controls to make it look the way you want.

Tnx ARRL Contest Rate Sheet for September 07, 2005



FCC SETS ASIDE MAINE AMATEUR'S LICENSE RENEWAL

The FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) has set aside its grant of license renewal to Glenn A. Baxter, K1MAN, of Belgrade Lakes, Maine.

In early June, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) proposing to fine Baxter \$21,000. In the NAL, the FCC alleges that Baxter has violated several sections of the Part 97 Amateur Service Rules. The list includes rules proscribing interference with ongoing communications, transmitting communications in which he has a pecuniary interest, failure to provide information the FCC requested, engaging in broadcasting, and failure to exercise control of his station.

On July 31, Baxter responded to Simmons' set aside notification to assert that the FCC has "intentionally violated my constitutional rights of due process" by not renewing his timely filed renewal application. Baxter said it's his "legal position" that he may continue to operate K1MAN "indefinitely," until a final legal determination in the case.

(Always wondered how he could get away with his "broadcasts"...ed.)

"So important is this knowledge (Morse), so frequent its benefits, that we have long thought that it should be imparted in the public schools, along with the ability to swim and first aid."

Learning the Telegraphic Code

Published by the American Radio Relay League

Be Radio-Active Participate



"If it ain't CW, it ain't ham radio."

— Tim, K8TJ



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

SPECIAL Through December 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!

Help Wanted

Anyone who has done anything involving Ham Radio, geocaching, or anything worth sharing with the group. There has to be someone out there that knows something worth passing on to their fellow members.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH



FINAL TEST

“Test time” has arrived! Let’s see how much you have learned over the last month on becoming better prepared... Here is your disaster scenario...

It's 2:00p.m. on a Tuesday afternoon and you just learned about a tornado touching down in the City of Lapeer and it is traveling eastward towards City of Imlay City. There are rumors that another one went thru the northern end of the county (Columbiaville, North Branch, etc.) You hear your home might have been destroyed!

QUESTION #1: Where are you? Where is your family

QUESTION #2: Where would you stay and for how long would you be able to stay there??

QUESTION #3: If your kids are in school, do you know what the schools plan are for your them?

QUESTION #4: Do you have your insurance company's phone number readily available?

QUESTION #5: Do you have cash on hand? Remember, ATMs, banks and credit card machines do not work when the power is out.

QUESTION #6: Since this is during most peoples work day, what is your employer going to expect of you? What should they REALLY expect from you?



SHARE YOUR ANSWERS WITH YOUR CO-WORKERS AND SUPERVISOR.

Corner Writings

By CW Writer

Why CW as a traffic handling mode?

Many amateurs who have never heard a CW net in operation mistakenly view CW as an inefficient mode for traffic handling. Nothing could be further from the truth. In reality, those who have become proficient at both modes can tell you that, in most cases, CW is more efficient than phone for the transmission of record message traffic over High Frequency circuits. While it is true that some of today's more robust digital modes outperform CW on point-to-point circuits under good propagation conditions, when propagation degrades, the advantages of CW are clearly demonstrated. In addition, CW, with its emphasis on brevity and efficiency of communications is ideally suited to network operations.

Radiotelegraph nets in general, will typically clear two to three times more traffic than a phone net under typical HF propagation conditions.

CW is inherently more accurate than radiotelephone for the transmission of record message traffic.

When propagation conditions render HF phone nets unusable, QMN continues to function efficiently as demonstrated by the reliable daily transmission of

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.

NWS precipitation reports throughout the 1996-1997 winter solar minimum; at a time when phone nets were collapsing due to interference, fading, and other propagation problems.

Learning to operate on CW nets takes a little time, however, one's efforts are rewarded through access to an efficient, highly survivable emergency communications network. In addition, once you are comfortable operating on CW nets, other Amateur Radio operating activities, such as CW DX contests and so forth will seem simple!

Give your CW speed a boost while supporting America's oldest and first traffic net...**QMN!**

October 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	4 LCARA Board meeting	5	6 ARES Net 442.750	7	8 Volunteer Exam Port Huron
9 Kalamazoo Swap & Shop	10 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	11 LCARA Meeting	12	13 ARES Net 442.750	14	15
16	17 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	18	19	20 ARES Net 442.750	21	22
23	24 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	25	26	27 ARES Net 442.750	28	29 Volunteer Exam Lapeer
30 USECA Swap & Shop	31 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM			ARES Net 442.750 9:30PM		

Contesting & DXing Low Band Hints...



Several conversations about using antenna SWR analyzers on 160-meter and 80-meter antennas prompt me to point out a few cautions. Antennas of this size can pick up a substantial amount of RF from local broadcast stations. This often upsets the RF detector circuits in the analyzer, giving completely erroneous readings. You can tell that something funny is going on by using a transmit power meter to make a few measurements and comparing them to what the analyzer says. Significant disagreements in SWR levels or in changes with frequency indicate a problem. I often use a broadcast-reject receive filter (see next item) at the output of the analyzer, but remember that the filter will "color" the results as the filter cutoff frequency is reached. Sometimes, there is no substitute on 160-meters, particularly, for using a transmitter at 10 W output or less to test

antennas. Remember, too, that with a wavelength measured in hundreds of feet on the low bands, you may be electrically closer than you think to interacting antennas, metal buildings, and parallel conductors.

To get rid of a strong local AM-BC station signal, Bill W4ZV recommends the Par Electronics BCST-HPF broadcast reject 7-pole elliptic receiving filter, available from Universal Radio at <http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/filters/4426.html>. The minimum attenuation below 1700 kHz is 41 dB. The housing has an SO-239 receptacle for both input and output. There is also a bypass toggle switch to take the filter out of line.

Fishing for Signals?...

For hanging temporary wire antennas, Mark KJ7BS reports using a Black Widow fishing pole available from Cabela's Outdoor Supply (<http://www.cabelas.com/>). The poles are 20' long and taper to a narrow tip with an eyelet on the end. He reports success using it for holding up a vertical with a loading coil and radials.

...ask Hank, he's got a couple

My First HF Antenna

My son-in-law KG4SSP came up from Tennessee and wanted to get his IC-706 on the air while in Michigan. We began by placing the triple mag mount on the folding chair and then decided we needed height. The photo tells the rest.
73, KC8TWL



**Be
RadioActive
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