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LCARA Waveguide



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

Upcoming Swap & Shops

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

The Treas Sez

Bill Miller, KD8VP

Hello to everyone. I would like to remind everyone that October is the start of our fiscal year, and that membership renewal is required at this time. Membership in LCARA is still only \$12.00 per year for individuals and \$20.00 for family's, due to the fantastic efforts of the members that participate in Operation Care and the Swap and Shop. The Labor Day Op-Care brought in a record amount of donations even after expenses. Great job gang!

Due to the fact that we have done so well, the club has again decided that it would be appropriate to totally fund the Christmas Party at the Country Side Banquet Hall in Imlay City. An invitation is extended to all PAID UP members and their spouses. Since you are having a night out at the clubs expense it is important that you renew or become a member before Tuesday, December 13, 2005. Please if you plan on coming to the Christmas Party convey your reservation to me or the President, Bob W8RAE, by December 1, 2005 so that we can prepare the Hall for the number of couples coming. Reservations can be made by phone at, 810-797-5329 or e-mail kd8vp@juno.com or for Bob via e-mail bobnjo@worldnet.att.net.

Thank you and best regards,
William F. Miller KD8VP Treasurer

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!)

You must let Bill KD8VP or Bob W8RAE know if you will attend so there are enough chairs!

*The July Meeting will be held on
Tuesday, November 8 —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

First of all I want to thank Jim KB8YMF for stepping up and taking on the Secretary's job for the LCARA. I'm sure I speak for the rest of the board in that we will help whatever way we can. Also I want to thank Doug.KC8ZCF for the outstanding way he has handled the duties of EC and club secretary.

At the T&C on the 15th it was good to see Steve N8EN back at the table with his usual snack. Now we have to get his tower up for the winter DX season.

I am still working on the club Christmas party. I need to have a list of who plans on being there. So when you come to the meeting please look for the sign up sheet. . I told the people at the banquet hall that we would have about the same amount as last year. They can handle more but we have to know well before Nov. 21. KC8PEZ has agreed to do her outstanding imitation of the old geezer in the red suit.. One last thought , the party is a freebie to those who have paid there club dues. lets see if those that are planning on being there on the 13th can give to our TIGHT TREASURER HIHI... One other thought if there is a particular program that anyone of you would to see please let any of us on the board know. Its tough enough to read our wives minds let alone yours... See you at the meeting 73 Bob W8RAE

ARRL News	Page 6
Calendar	Page 3
Contesting & DX	Page 6
License Class	Page 6
Generators	Page 4
The EC Sez	Page 5
The Minutes	Page 2



CONTENTS

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) October 11, 2005 Meeting of LCARA

Bob, W8RAE, opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bob, W8RAE, announced that Ed Oyster, W8NCJ, had gone in for bypass surgery.

Chris, KC8TWL, read the minutes from the September meeting, Charlie, KC8JBK, moved they be excepted, and Lester, KB8LRE, second, all approved.

Bill, KD8VP, read the treasurers report with a special note to a job well done at the Labor Day Operation Care. Bruce, N8EXN, moved they be excepted, and Charlie, KC8JBK, second, all approved.

Bob, W8RAE, announced that everything was a go for the Christmas Party, to be held again at the banquet hall in Imlay City. He has arranged for the party to be held on Tuesday, December 13, 2005. This takes the place of the regular meeting.

Bill, KD8VP, announce that the board had talked about, buying new repeater equipment or getting the tower painted by professionals. It was decided at the board meeting, that quotes for the painting of the tower would be sought. If the quotes were within reason a delegation would go to the school board and ask for a longer term lease of the tower sight in exchange for painting the tower. Thus getting something in exchange for our expenditures.

There was discussion about checking out the antenna system on the 440 repeater, as some thought that it was not performing as it should. Bill agreed to do that.

Bob, W8RAE, brought up the postponed nominations for officers. Hank, K8DD, nominated Bob, W8RAE, for president, Charlie, KC8JBK, nominated Chris, KC8TWL, for vice president, and Lester, KB8LRE, nominated Bill, KD8VP, for treasurer. There was a problem getting a nomination for secretary, and Jim, KC8YMF, volunteered. Charlie, KC8JBK, moved nominations be closed, second by Dick, KC8VHA. All were elected by acclamation.

Break.

50/50 donation drawing was held with Kim, KC8YXZ, winning.

Charlie, KC8JBK, moved that meeting be adjourned, and Lester, KB8LRE second.



Contributors to this newsletter:

Doug, KC8ZCF Bill, KD8VP Bob, W8RAE
Mary Stikeleather

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

Welcome New Members

November 2005

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Board meeting—Tim Horton's .	2	3 ARES Net 442.750 9:30 PM	4	5 ARRL SweepStakes CW
6 ARRL SweepStakes CW	7 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	8 LCARA Meeting	9	10 ARES Net 442.750 9:30 PM	11	12
13	14 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	15	16	17 ARES Net 442.750 9:30 PM	18	19 ARRL SweepStakes SSB
20 ARRL SweepStakes SSB	21 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	22	23	24 ARES Net 442.750 9:30 PM	25	26 CQ WW CW Contest FP/K8DD
27 CQ WW CW Contest FP/K8DD	28 ARES Net 146.62 9:30PM	29	30	ARES Net 442.750 9:30 PM		

Why is this space empty?

Think about it!

Volunteer Exam
St. Clair County Library, December 10, 10 AM Walk-ins welcome

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.

**Be Radio-Active
 Participate**



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.

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

The Winter season is coming—Ice Storms, Winter Storms, Trees Down — And the lights go out — Be prepared!

The following information, developed by the Red Cross with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Fire Protection Association (publisher of the National Electric Code ®) and the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, is provided to address questions about using a generator when disaster strikes.

1. Purchasing a Generator

If you choose to buy a generator, make sure you get one that is rated for the amount of power that you think you will need. Look at the labels on lighting, appliances, and equipment you plan to connect to the generator to determine the amount of power that will be needed to operate the equipment.

For lighting, the wattage of the light bulb indicates the power needed. Appliances and equipment usually have labels indicating power requirements on them. Choose a generator that produces more power than will be drawn by the combination of lighting, appliances, and equipment you plan to connect to the generator including the initial surge when it is turned on. If your generator does not produce adequate power for all your needs, plan to stagger the operating times for various equipment.

If you can not determine the amount of power that will be needed, ask an electrician to determine that for you. (If your equipment draws more power than the generator can produce, then you may blow a fuse on the generator or damage the connected equipment.)

2. Using a Generator

The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. Follow the directions supplied with the generator. Every year, people die in incidents related to portable generator use.

Under no circumstances should portable generators be used indoors, including inside a garage, carport, basement, crawlspace, or other enclosed or partially-enclosed area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows or using fans will not prevent CO buildup in the home. The CO from generators can rapidly lead to full incapacitation and death, but CO can't be seen or smelled. Even if you cannot smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to CO. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air RIGHT AWAY - DO NOT DELAY.

Because you may have windows open to get fresh air while the power is out, be sure to place the generator away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow CO to come indoors. To avoid electrocution, keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect the generator from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up on poles. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator.

It is a good idea to install battery-operated CO alarms or plug-in CO alarms with battery back-up in your home, according to the manufacturer's installation instructions. If CO gas from the generator enters your home and poses a health risk, the alarm will sound to warn you. Test the battery frequently and replace when needed.

3. Be sure to turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Store fuel for the generator in an approved safety can. Use the type of fuel recommended in the instructions or on the label on the generator. Local laws may restrict the amount of fuel you may store, or the storage location. Ask your local fire department for additional information about local regulations. Store the fuel outside of living areas in a locked shed or other protected area. Do not store it near a fuel-burning appliance, such as a natural gas water heater in a garage. If the fuel is spilled or the container is not sealed properly, invisible vapors from the fuel can travel along the ground and can be ignited by the appliance's pilot light or by arcs from electric switches in the appliance.

4. Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet, a practice known as "backfeeding." This is an extremely dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer. It also bypasses some of the built-in household protection devices.

5. Future Considerations

The only recommended method to connect a generator to house wiring is by having a qualified electrician install a power transfer switch. This switch must be installed in accordance with the National Electrical Code® (NEC), which is published by the National Fire Protection Association, and all applicable state and local electrical codes. Call a qualified electrician or check with your utility company to see if they can install the appropriate equipment.

For power outages, permanently installed stationary generators are better suited for providing backup power to the home. Even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded. This may result in overheating or stressing the generator components, possibly leading to a generator failure. Be sure to read instructions that come with the generator to make sure you operate it within its limitations for power output.

The EC Sez...

Doug Donner Jr., KC8ZCF

Howdy everyone, Where is time going too? Can you believe it's November already. Some follow up on things talked about over the last few months.

- Our SET this year is complete and went ok, considering it was conducted with no notice. We had 4 check-ins to a net started for a fictitious emergency. We scored roughly 30 points for the 10 minute net. It sets a bench mark to improve on in the future. I know a better SET scenario will certainly help.

- In a few weeks, I will get our report card for the summer Skywarn season, and have an outlook for the winter season. I'll include that in next month's article.

- At this point, there aren't any plans for a winter Skywarn training class. If there is any interest, Mary Stikeleather said she would arrange one. Pass the word and let's see if there is any interest.

- I'm still looking for a volunteer or two to help with the planning for the SAR communications team. If anyone is interested, please let me know. The next EC meeting is quickly approaching and I'd like to have a name to supply.

- To view an interesting concept in "Go-Kits", check out the Michigan ARPSC website (www.mi-arpssc.org) and click on the "Ideas_Training" page. Talk about being prepared for anything.

The following items are from the October 19, 2005 ARRL ARES Newsletter and are interesting reading. They're just a couple of items on where Amateur Radio might be heading, based on experiences from the hurricanes down south. If you don't get the newsletter, you can subscribe on the ARRL home page.

+ Towards A National Data Base of Amateurs with Skills

I believe I have now seen reference to three different databases of volunteers for future deployments. The ARES community should take a lesson from the Red Cross: the Red Cross volunteers that I worked with on the Gulf coast were notified in a timely manner and requested to deploy because the Red Cross had a database of their skills. ARRL should have one, too. While this is certainly not a trivial project, it's not rocket science either.

If the ARRL is really serious about improving Amateur Radio assistance in times of disaster, addressing this issue should be at the top of the organization's list. Katrina demonstrated that trying to gather the information after the fact just isn't effective. Here's a project that is tangible and demonstrates ARRL's commitment to making Amateur Radio more relevant in the public safety communication arena. -- Steve Bonine, KB9X [The author provided disaster relief work at Hattiesburg and Stennis, Mississippi].

+ More on ARES as NGO

The American economy is commoditized: each chunk of the "value chain" from finding raw material to waste product removal is undertaken by purpose-designed organizations whose business it is to be the best in their slice of the economy. With service organizations, those who would serve must demonstrate more than good intentions -- they must demonstrate competency in skill and organization. The old ways, collegial, often improvised, and "more heart than head" are insufficient -- and ruled out by served agencies (customers).

ARES represents a fine outline of a proven structure. But it depends too much on ad hoc, local circumstances and cannot be easily replicated nationally, depending exclusively on the available resources of the local amateur community. There are varying standards of performance, skill level, and commitment. Wouldn't it be better to treat ARES more like a franchise, locally owned and operated, but with national brand identity, purchasing power, quality control and organizational control?

Consider the multifaceted attacks on Amateur Radio from BPL, wireless communication interests, the Internet, and we see that a unified response to emergency amateur communications becomes almost a necessary prerequisite to our survival as a service, to speak nothing of what we can offer the American citizenry if properly organized.

In short, I too recommend the ARRL move ARES towards an institutionalized NGO, an equal player at the table with the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and others who have made the effort in time, organization and money to institutionalize their "value proposition" such that it need not be recreated with each local change in the political wind. Fact is, this is no longer our decision: it has been made for us by the powers that be. -- Joseph Ames Jr., W3JY, Delaware County (Pennsylvania) AEC ARES/RACES <www.delcoares.org>

Some feedback regarding your FINAL NOTE in the latest ARES newsletter: My response when I am addressed with this issue of Amateur Radio's viability is, "IT'S SIMPLE AND IT WORKS." When I was operating at the command center following Hurricane Charlie, a note on the white board at the command console had a quote (with date and time) from one of the Incident Commanders. It read: "Amateur Radio is the only reliable communications into the affected area." The old KISS principle surely seems to apply here. -- Fred Kleber, K9VV

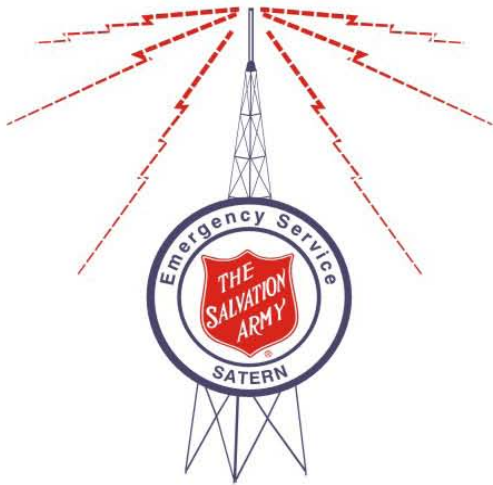
Lastly, don't forget to cast your ballot for Great Lakes Division Director and Vice Director.

Well, that's it for now. Till next month...

73,

Doug Jr., KC8ZCF

EC, Lapeer County



Ham Radio Classes Now Forming

As a licensed ham radio operator you can:

- Serve your community
- Talk to other Hams on the radio
- Meet new friends
- Have your own individual call sign

Metropolitan Detroit SATERN will be holding a course where **YOU** will learn everything you need to earn your entry level FCC **amateur radio** license and begin to **talk on the radio with other hams** in the area.

November 5, 12 and 19
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
The Salvation Army
Eastern Michigan Division Headquarters
16130 Northland Drive
Southfield, MI 48075

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

For more information please contact:
Calleen Austin, Training Coordinator
248-443-5500 X 347
or email at: calleen_austin@usc.salvationarmy.org

ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio
Helping HAMS since 1914
1-800-32-NEWHAM



Contesting & DXing On the road again!



Going on the DX trail again. In about 17 days six of us will board a Northwest airplane and take off for Halifax, Nova Scotia. After spending the night in Enfield, NS, just north of the Halifax airport, we board an Air Saint Pierre flight for—where else? - Saint Pierre Island in the Atlantic Ocean just south of Newfoundland, Canada. The next day we depart Saint Pierre Island for the island of Miquelon, which is just north of Saint Pierre and is the only other inhabited island in the group of islands that make up the DXCC entity of Saint Pierre & Miquelon Islands.

We will be gone for a total of 10 days, taking two days each way and—the main reason for going—the CQ World Wide CW Contest on the weekend of November 25, 26, & 27 (actually 0000Z November 26 to 2359Z November 27). The group is made up of AC8W, Stan from Marysville, MI; K8AQM, Ted from Adrian, MI; K8DD, Hank from Lum, MI; K8GL, Greg from Saginaw, MI; K8MM, Ian from Lapeer, MI; and Kurt from Toledo, OH.

This is going to be a Field Day type operation—we are taking five radios, several 30 ft military masts, a German Spiderbeam for 20, 15, 10 Meters, a TA-33jr beam, two verticals for 40 Meters and dipoles for 80 and 160 Meters. And three amplifiers—a solid state MFJ amp, a Heathkit SB-200 and a Yaesu FL2100. Several hundred feet of RG8X coax, spare connectors and adapters along with 4 or 5 laptops for logging (nobody uses paper logs anymore, do they?).

Look for us before the contest (there will, contrary to possible popular belief, some SSB, RTTY and PSK-31 operation), during the contest on CW and after the contest for a day or two on all modes.

We are also taking a radio capable of 6 Meters—there is a 5 element Yagi there—and a satellite radio to get on some of the satellites that we will be able to access. So there are plenty of frequencies to look for us.

Locals may request a QSL from K8DD for personal delivery. All others QSL direct to K8NA—callbook address.

Meaningful Entry-Level License Privileges are Top Priority, ARRL Says

NEWINGTON, CT, Nov 1, 2005--The ARRL again has urged the FCC to provide meaningful operating privileges to entry-level Amateur Radio licensees, including access to HF, even if it doesn't want to create a new license class. Commenting in response to the FCC's July 9 Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235, the League also stood by its stance that the Commission retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for Amateur Extra applicants, but do away with it for General applicants.

"Retaining Morse telegraphy as a requirement for only the Amateur Extra class license, in ARRL's view, places Morse telegraphy in a proper, balanced perspective," the League told the Commission October 31, the deadline to comment in the proceeding. Reply comments are due November 14.

The FCC's NPRM&O proposed eliminating the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all Amateur Radio license classes but denied requests to create a new entry-level license class with limited HF privileges. The League said the FCC needs to finish the job of license restructuring it began in 1998 by reviewing operating privileges for all classes--especially at the first rung of the licensing ladder.

"The elimination of Morse telegraphy, absent a more thorough review of operating privileges in the Amateur Service, will not address the ascertained flaws in the only entry-level license class," the ARRL asserted, referring to the Technician license. "That license class is not attracting or keeping newcomers in its present configuration, and it needs fixing right now."

The ARRL argued that if the FCC will not create a new Novice class license as the League had suggested in its earlier Petition for Rule Making (RM-10867) in the proceeding, it should modify Technician operating privileges instead. The present licensing regime limits Technicians to VHF bands and above, "leaving newcomers to the Amateur Service isolated from their peers holding higher class licenses," the ARRL said. "The Technician class is, for too many, a 'dead end' to what might otherwise be an active, progressive interest in Amateur Radio, technical self-training and incentive-based educational progress in the many facets of the avocation."

The ARRL reminded the FCC that its restructuring plan enjoyed the support the two Amateur Radio licensees in Congress--Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR) and Rep Mike Ross, WD5DVR (D-AR).

Eliminating the Morse requirement for General class applicants

"creates an anomaly with respect to the Technician class license," the ARRL noted. "If the telegraphy requirement for the General class license is eliminated, the distinction between the Technician class licensee and the Technician Plus class licensee will have disappeared completely." Therefore, the League contends, there is a logical basis for affording Technician licensees entry-level HF privileges.

Those privileges would be very basic under the League's plan, which takes into account the FCC's proposal to adopt the ARRL's so-called "Novice refarming" plan in WT Docket 04-140. The ARRL had earlier proposed the same privileges for a reconstituted Novice license.

Under the ARRL plan, Technicians would have telegraphy and data privileges on 3.55-3.7 MHz, 7.05-7.125 MHz and 21.05-21.20 MHz at 100 W output and on 28.05-28.3 MHz at 50 W output. The League wants the FCC to provide HF phone and image privileges to Technicians on 3.9-4.0 MHz, 7.2-7.3 MHz and 21.35-21.45 MHz at 100 W output, and on 28.3-28.5 MHz at 50 W.

The time is right to take a look at the operating privileges of Amateur Radio license classes, the ARRL said in its filing, "because the entry-level license class is demonstrably neither attractive to newcomers nor encouraging in terms of retaining the interest of license holders."

To back up its assertions, the League pointed to surveys it conducted in 1992 and 2003. Nearly half of the licensees responding in the latter poll indicated that they were not currently active in Amateur Radio--up 30 percent from the earlier survey. "The number of inactive Technician class licensees is 46 percent," the ARRL noted, adding that more than a quarter of Technicians responding in 2003 said they'd never even been on the air.

The League pointed out that the FCC's proposed across-the-board elimination of the Morse requirement eliminates a simple mechanism for current Technician licensees to obtain HF operating privileges--passing the 5 WPM code exam.

If the FCC does nothing other than eliminate the Morse requirement for the General license, the ARRL commented, it would make no sense to continue to deprive Technician licensees the HF operating privileges that Tech Plus licensees now enjoy.

"To do otherwise is to draw a distinction that is entirely arbitrary," the League concluded. (<http://www.arrl.org>)

2005-2006 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