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# WAVEGUIDE



Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

May

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2008

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

## **The Prez Sez:**

Operation CARE starts May23 thru the 26.Help hand out free coffee, orange drink, and ice tea to drivers that need a break. It feels good to give and we make most of our money from Operation CARE to keep the repeater going. So please help. N8NE, Bob

## **The Treas Sez:**

Hi and greeting to everyone. The April report is very uneventful, no great expenses and only minor income. We did get one advance reservation for the swap and shop already though. The electric bill is going down due to less need for heat in the shack and as always the phone bill is the same. Remember that the Memorial Day Operation Care is coming up at the end of May. These Op-Care events pay

our major bills so if you can, please choose to sign up for a stint our at the rest area. It really is very interesting out there. David Erskine has made it easier to sign up on line at the web site so check it out. Or contact Tom Oliver KD8EBY on the 2 meter repeater. 73 for now and Thank you very much. Bill Miller KD8VP

## **The Trustee Sez:**

Hello to everyone. Progress is being made on the new controller for the 2 meter repeater. Perry KG8ID has had me digging up data on the in's and out's of the GE and Yaesu repeaters. He also is prompting me to get the voice recorder and squelch boards ordered so they can be interfaced into the CAT 1000B controller.

I have been out of town most of the weekends of the month of April, and have fallen behind in my repeater work. You might just have to fire me!

See you at the meeting. 73 Bill KD8VP

## **The Secretary Sez:**

Meeting was called to order by Bob N8NE at 7:30 P.M. will the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag and introduction of members and guest.

We have two new members Matt KD8IGE and Tom KD8EDA.

The secretary report was given by Flo KC8CAB. It was approved as read.

The treasurer report was given by Bill KD8VP. The report was approved as read.

Vice Presidents report was given by Chris KC8TWL. The next test session is on May 31st.

There was 150 to200 at Skywarn Class in Imlay City. The next Operation Care is May 23 to 26. We need workers on the hill.

They are going to check out 2 meter antenna. If the is a problem they are going to put up a new 2 meter antenna. The new 2 meter controller we are buying from Perry is in motion. Coffee break was from 7:55 to 8:10.

March of Dimes Walk is April 26th from 8A.M. till noon. We need helpers. They played a tape on Field Day 1985 from Oakland County. A younger Bill Miller KD8VP was on the tape. Hank won the 50/50.

## The EC Sez.....

Summer is here, just about! This month, I'll take a look back on some of the activities so far this year.

### February:

The 2008 Lapeer County Disaster Drill.

As the name implies, this year's event wasn't a full scale exercise as in past years, but a simple day to play radio and show what we could do. The scenario for this drill was a winter storm dumped snow and ice on the area and damaged one of the 800 MHz towers in North Branch. This would, in turn, cause a radio black-out in the North end of the county. Our job was to provide communications between the EOC, Command-1 (the mobile command vehicle), and the fire stations North of Norway Lake Rd. In all, the event went well.

13 operators braved the frigid temperatures to come out and play. Two operators were from Tuscola County. Our plan called for HF operation to North Branch and VHF Simplex between the fire stations. Due to antenna problems, we didn't get to use HF and settled on the repeater to get to net control in North Branch

At the debriefing, some very good ideas came up about how to work out some of the bugs we encountered. We will be having quarterly trainings on equipment, IS courses, etc. Watch for up coming information.

The following operators participated:

Joe KD8CIL  
Charles, WA8UCS  
Sheri, KD8AWV  
Doug, KC8ZCF  
Tom, KD8EBY  
Kevin, KB8TAR  
Joel, WU8Y  
Jack, KD8HDZ  
David, KD8VFO  
Debra, KD8GAV  
Roger, WB8WJV (From Tuscola)

### April:

2008 Skywarn: 179 people turned out for the Skywarn training at Imlay City High School

2008 Walk for Babies: Asked back for a second year, 11 operators (including one CERT Member) came out on a chilly (but sunny) day to provide communications for the

Michigan QSO Party is April 19th from noon to midnight. The Michigan QSO Party is using 10 to 80 meters. Meeting closed at 8:45P.M.

March of Dimes Walk-a-thon. Things went well, including finding (2) lost kids. We look forward to next year's event! The following operators helped out:

Tom, KD8EBY  
Debra, KD8GAV  
Hank, K8dd  
Charles, WA8UCS  
Sean, KD8IFA  
Joel, WU8Y  
Jack, KD8HDZ  
Dan, W1BUD  
Sheri, KD8AWV (With Danny)  
Andrea, CERT Member  
Doug, KC8ZCF



Inquiring Minds want to know, is this their "good" side?

### Upcoming events:

May: Quarterly ARPSC Training. Subject and date TBD  
FEMA IS 100 and 700 courses: Dates TBD

In other news, Greg Alinger (WA8OGJ), District EC for District 3, has stepped down due to health issues. His replacement is Joe Tuscher, (N8OSL). Last, but not least, I have a different Cell phone number. It is now (810) 614-6890. Well, that's it from here. Till next month, 73 everyone,

Doug Jr., KC8ZCF  
EC, Lapeer County ARPSC

THE-PROFESSIONAL-VOLUNTEER  
**"Image is More than Skin Deep"**  
by Wayne Barringer KB6UJW

Volunteer radio operators conduct "training nets" to maintain their skills, test their equipment and to contact others that may be on the same frequency. Just turn the dial on your favorite personal communications service on almost any evening. Somewhere across the bands you're almost certain to hear one or more radio nets being conducted.

Volunteer communicators purchase and maintain their own equipment, funding all of their individual activities...and even some of those activities of organizations in their local area. Some activities support local charity events, field communications at local fairs and parades or the disaster relief organizations in their communities. (But you, as a volunteer communicator, already know all of that.)

And yet, some government leaders appear to be skeptical of using or actively engaging volunteer communicators other than maintaining or sustaining existing RACES, ACS, DCS, or other type capabilities.

Do you consider yourself a "professional" radio operator?

It takes a lot of dedicated effort and perseverance to create that level of image. Unfortunately, it's becoming increasingly very difficult to sustain it. There are some volunteer communicators who are not at all professionals. They are tarnishing the reputation we try to maintain. And their transmission can affect the image others have about us, despite the fact we may be completely innocent.

Each time we use our microphone, it's an opportunity to create, and reinforce, the image we want to portray to others. When radio nets are scripted in advance, it has

the potential to increase the image of each participant as a "professional" to others who are listening on the frequency. When transmissions are "unscripted" however, the "true colors" of the individual can be revealed.

Unfortunately, not every radio operator has the desire to create or support the image of a volunteer professional.

The next time you visit the "left" coast, or are near Los Angeles, why not bring a scanner and "listen in" to 462.700 MHz UHF? If there is a rainbow for radios, it must be coming to LA in the very near future. Why? Because the transmission of these licensed radio operators are just so "colorful"... (NOTE: KEEP THE VOLUME DOWN AS TRANSMISSIONS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN OF ANY AGE!)

But it's not just in Los Angeles. It's virtually on all the bands of the personal communications services. It's a pretty safe bet it is on a frequency near you...maybe on amateur/HAM, or on GMRS, MURS or FRS. The past days of using CB to get help has pretty much gone by the wayside in most areas.

Every time we "key our microphone" is an opportunity to reinforce our image as a "professional" volunteer radio operator. It is more than just "what" we say, it's "how" we say it. The image we desire to portray is partially created through evaluations by those who're listening to the airways and, even without us knowing it, forming their own opinion.

If your local emergency management agency is "listening in" to your organization's frequency, what are they hearing?

### ***Dayton Hamvention time...***

Almost certainly the world's largest gathering of Hams, the Dayton Hamvention is coming May 16 through 19. QRP folk will be gathering too on May 15th for Four Days in May (FDIM). Several club members will be heading south to join in the fun. You going?

### **From the mailbag:**

### **It's Antenna Weather!**

#### **Building a Simple Bidirectional Wire Antenna For Six Meters**

Joel R. Stanley WU8Y  
24 April 2008

With the coming of spring, a young man's thoughts turn to love; baseball fans' thoughts turn to the diamond; hockey fans' thoughts turn to the Cup; and hams' thoughts turn to

Sporadic-E, the Spring Sprints, ARRL June VHF Contest, and the CQ WW VHF Contest. All of those have the six meter band in common. Many popular recently made rigs

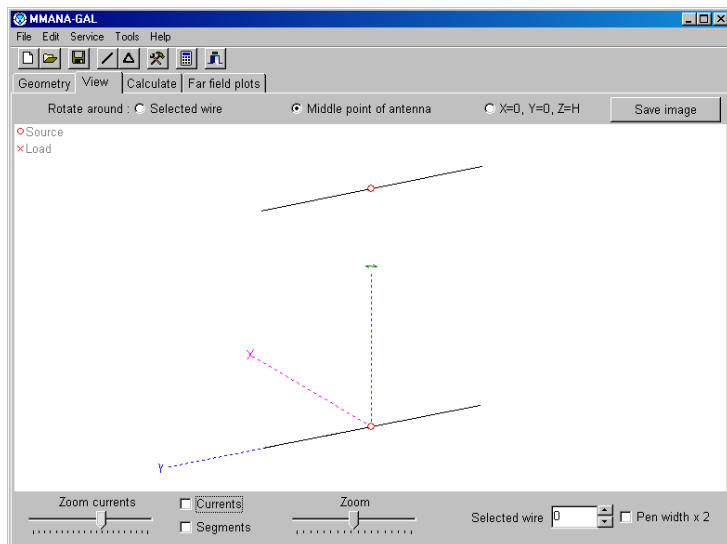
cover the six meter band using CW, SSB, FM, and digital modes such as JT65. Here is a design for a convenient gain antenna for the weak-signal part of the six meter band.

You'll need six insulators, 20 feet of wire, 20 feet of mason's line or twine, at least four feet of RG-58 coax, a 20 oz. soda pop bottle, about 12 cable ties, and 11 feet of twin-lead wire. The design is two dipoles, stacked one above the other, and fed in phase. The dipoles are slightly off-resonance from one another so the pattern is shaped down towards the horizon.

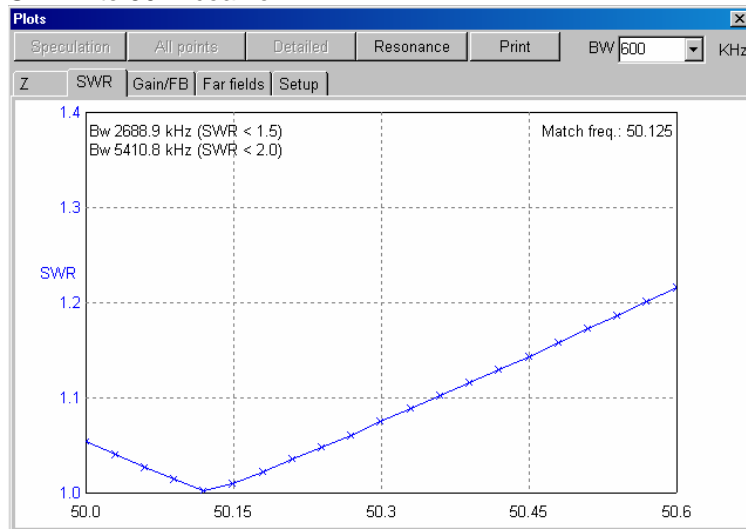
Cut one dipole with legs of length 1.482 m (4 feet, 10 3/8 inches). This is the bottom dipole. Cut the other dipole with legs of length 1.508 m (4 feet, 11 3/8 inches). That will be the upper dipole.

A dipole is a balanced antenna, but coax feed line is inherently unbalanced. So we must make a balun, a balanced-to-unbalanced transformer, to convert the typical rig's unbalanced coax output to the antenna's evenly balanced design. Wind about four feet of the RG-58 into a tight coil of six turns, using the soda pop bottle as a form. The theoretical coil diameter is 6.4 cm (2.5 inches), but the bottle is close enough in size and it's not a critical dimension. Secure the coil together to itself using the cable ties. Connect one end of the coil to the short bottom dipole's feed point. Install a connector of your choice at the other end of the coil.

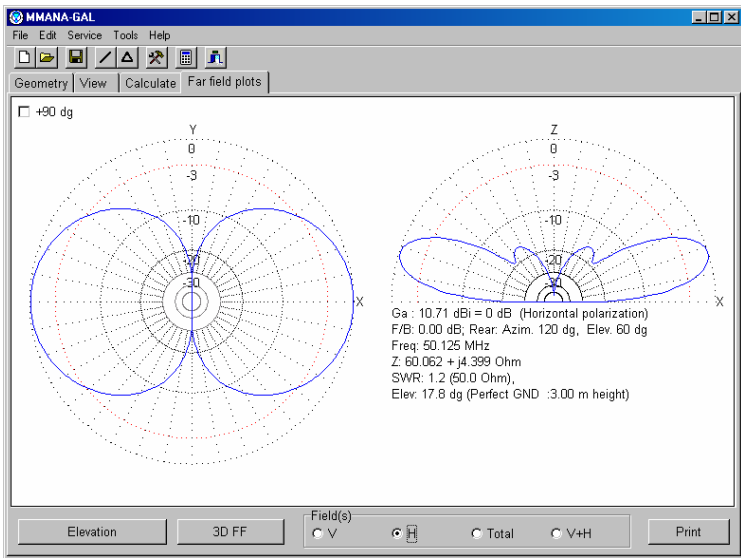
The next step is to put the dipoles into the necessary physical location. Separate the two dipoles' end insulators by 2.990 m (9 feet 9 3/4 inches) and tie the line or twine between them to keep the bottom dipole's ends that specific distance from the top dipole's ends. Now, feed the top dipole by running one half wavelength of the twin-lead from the bottom dipole's feed point to the top dipole's feed point. In free space, a half wave at 50.125 MHz is 2.990 m (9 feet 9 3/4 inches), but in feed line, you have to divide that length by the line's velocity factor to get the correct length. The velocity factor represents the slowing down of the RF as it passes through the (relatively) dense medium of wire. For twin lead, the velocity factor is typically 95%, or 0.95, so a half-wave is 3.149 m (10 feet 3 15/16 inches). Be sure that the twin-lead feed line has an odd number of twists – 1, 3, 5, etc. – between the bottom and the top. That is to ensure the dipoles are fed in phase given the half-wave length of the twin-lead.



This antenna was modeled using MMANA-GAL with the bottom dipole 3.0 m (9 feet 10 1/8 inches) above perfect ground. The results are a maximum gain of 10.7 dBi at 18° elevation and an impedance of  $60.1 + j4.4 \Omega$ , for a SWR into 50  $\Omega$  coax of 1.2.



The horizontal -3dB beam-width is 78° and the vertical, 21°. In the horizontal pattern plot below, we're looking down from above and the antenna elements run along the Y-axis. In the vertical pattern plot, we're looking from the side and the antenna elements run perpendicular to the page.



Why was a bidirectional antenna designed? The densest concentrations of U.S. hams are located in the northeast and in southern California. A great-circle map centered on Lapeer County will show that those places are almost exactly opposite one another from here, almost due east and due west. Why not use one antenna to spray signal in two directions?

The 2008 six meters Spring Sprint is scheduled from 2300 Z on Saturday 10 May to 0300 Z Sunday 11 May. Its rules are at "<http://www.sysadnet.com/vhfsprinrules.htm>". The ARRL June VHF QSO Party will be held 1800 Z 14 June through 0300 Z 16 June. Its rules are at "<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/june-vhf.html>". The CQ WW VHF contest will likely be from 19 July through 20 July. Its rules are at "<http://www.cqww-vhf.com/>".

I hope to hear you on six! 73 de Joel WU8Y

## Traveling?...CEPT Has Changed

The ARRL Web page is reporting "The European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) has revised its table of equivalence between FCC amateur licenses and the CEPT license. Effective February 4, 2008, Recommendation T/R 61-01 (as amended) now grants full CEPT privileges only to those US citizens who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Extra or Advanced class license.

This means that those US licensees who hold an FCC-issued General or Technician license are no longer eligible for full operating privileges in countries where CEPT-reciprocal operation had previously been permitted. US Novice class licensees have had no reciprocal operating privileges under the CEPT provisions.

These changes are the result of a re-evaluation of US and CEPT license classes equivalence by the CEPT's Radio Regulatory Working Group at its meeting January 29-February 1, 2008 in Basel, Switzerland. The Working Group deals with numerous areas of concern including Amateur Radio, and is responsible for applications from countries to participate in T/R 61-01, as well as other Amateur Radio related issues. "Changes in the US license structures and examinations often have ancillary implications beyond the immediate impact upon the US licensees," said Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL Regulatory Information Manager. "While this CEPT change affects several classes of US licensees when they visit Europe and other CEPT signatory countries, it has no effect on their operating privileges at home."

*Tnx Daily DX, February 6, 2008*

# OPERATION PINE TREE

COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE -- MICHIGAN WIDE PLUS  
MAY 24, 2008 0900 – 1500 (9 AM – 3 PM) 80 METER BAND

SPONSERED BY THE:

SO. MI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY (SMARS) W8DF & MICHIGAN WING CIVIL AIR PATROL

CONTACT: 2 LT BILLY BOOTH KD8CDS -- CELL PH. (269) 788 – 8420

EMAIL: [SQJUMPER@AOL.COM](mailto:SQJUMPER@AOL.COM)

### RULES

POWER USAGE IS THE SAME AS FIELD DAY. 80 METER BAND ONLY

The rules are very simple. The power usage is the same as field day, except we will be working the 80 meter band only. Make as many contacts as possible and any contacts outside of Michigan is the plus. At the end of the day please let me know how many contacts you have made. I need to report this to Michigan Wing Civil Air Patrol for evaluation. The Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters in Maxwell AFB, AL. is also watching to see how well this exercise will turn out. There are no prizes to be given out. The only prize in knowing you had a lot of fun.

This exercise will begin from Boyne Mountain in the Gaylord Area and will spread from there to different Civil Air Patrol units throughout Michigan. SMARS will start this exercise from Battle Creek, Michigan in a much similar way. There may be special messages to be sent out to other areas. Those details are being worked out. We are attempting to work a communication exercise along side the Michigan Wing Civil Air Patrol. If you are in an area where there is a Civil Air Patrol unit check them out and



see if there is a way you can work with them on this exercise or contact me if you would like to participate. NOT every squadron will be in this exercise. This is a ground exercise only. If the squadron near you is a flying squadron, they may not be working this exercise. If you have a Senior, Composite, or Cadet Squadron near you ask them to come to your communications sight and work with you.

This exercise can be a great way to let people know what amateur radio is all about. Contact the news media in your area and invite them to come and check it out, or if you have an information officer in your club, put a story in your home town paper.

If you or your club would like to be a part of this fun, please let me know who you are, so we can keep you updated on what is happening. Thanks for being a part of our first attempt on this exercise. We have been told that it "won't work", but I believe there is no such thing a "won't work". Think of this exercise as a field day warm up.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP  
2 LT BILL BOOTH CAP KD8CDS  
SMARS PRESIDENT  
E MAIL: SQJUMPER@AOL.COM

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## It's Antenna Time

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Here in Michigan, the daffodils are blooming and the birds are singing. That means only one thing--it's antenna time! Since my lot is a city lot and not really suited to towers, I mostly play around with wire antennas. Currently, I have a random wire for 80m, a wire ground plane for 20m, and a 40m/30m "fan dipole" that also loads up on 15m and 10m. This year, I want to experiment with two new wire antennas—a horizontal loop and Windom antenna.

### The "Loop Skywire"

The concepts behind the full-wave loop antenna have been known for many years, but the antenna has become more popular after the publication of the article, "The Loop Skywire" in the November 1985 issue of QST. This article is available as a PDF from the ARRL website, if you are a member (<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/tis/info/pdf/8511020.pdf>). A lot more information is available on Internet. Just Google "loop skywire," and you'll find hundreds of references.

Basically, the antenna is a full-wave loop of wire for the lowest band that you wish to operate. For 80m, that would be about 272 feet. For 40m, the length will be 136 feet.

Ideally, you'd like to set up the loop so that the area inside the loop is at its maximum. This occurs when the loop is a circle. Unfortunately, that's usually impractical. From a practical point of view, most guys shoot for a square configuration using four supports.

Another consideration is how to feed the antenna. The Loop Skywire article calls for a coax feedline, but the practice these days seems to favor ladder line. The reason for this is that the SWR on bands higher in frequency than the band for which the antenna was cut can be quite high. Coax is quite lossy when the SWR is high, but that's not the case with ladder line.

How does it perform? Well, it's been my experience that guys with loop antennas often have the strongest signals here at KB6NU. And they seem to get through even when

band conditions are poor. Guys who use them also report that they are great DX antennas as well. So, all things considered, it sounds like it's worth a shot.

### The Windom Antenna

The Windom antenna is an antenna that I've just become familiar with. It's intriguing because, like the loop antenna, it is also a multi-band antenna.

The Windom is a half-wavelength antenna, but instead of feeding the antenna in the middle as you would a dipole antenna, you feed it about 1/3 of the way from one of the ends. At this point, the feedpoint impedance is about 200 ohms. With a 4:1 balun, you can feed it with 50-ohm coax.

The interesting thing about this antenna is that the feedpoint impedance is 200 ohms not only on the fundamental frequency, but it's close to 200 ohms on all harmonics of that frequency. So an antenna cut for 40m, will also have a feedpoint impedance close to 200 ohms on 20m, 15m, and 10m.

You do need a 4:1 balun for this antenna to operate properly. Fortunately, these are not difficult to make. I made one a couple of years ago, just for fun (<http://kb6nu.com/even-more-fun-with-baluns/>). Now, I have an application for it!

There's all kinds of information on the Net about the Windom antenna as well. One of the Web pages I found most useful was written by W8JI ([http://www.w8ji.com/windom\\_off\\_center\\_fed.htm](http://www.w8ji.com/windom_off_center_fed.htm)).

I certainly have my hands full this antenna season. Whatever you decide to put up, remember to be safe.

When Dan isn't thinking about antennas, he's operating CW on the HF bands or teaching ham radio classes. He's just published a printed version of his No-Nonsense Tech Class Study Guide. See his blog, [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com), for more details.

# ARRL Legislative Action Program

(Information used taken from the ARRL website)

As the newly appointed DLAC (District Legislative Action Chairman) I would like to familiarize you with what we are doing, where we're going and how you may help. This process has been proven in the field and at the present time seems to work the best as it is laid out.

What is the ARRL Legislative Action Program? The ARRL Legislative Action Program is designed to make it possible for ARRL members to promote and protect Amateur Radio through coordinated, legitimate political action at the Federal government level.

Why should I become involved in this program? Isn't talking with our Congressmen a waste of time? Federal Legislators frequently vote based upon their understanding of the wishes of their constituents. As a constituent, your opinion is important to them. *Elected officials view their constituents as "resources" and want to hear from them. They need input from their constituents to gauge positions on a piece of legislation and determine how it will impact the voters in their districts. As a licensed Amateur Radio operator, you can provide a valuable resource to your member of Congress. More often than not, the knowledge Legislators have of Amateur Radio is fairly limited. Therefore, your combination of being a constituent and a federally licensed operator can help make a difference by ensuring that your Congressman and staff receive the balanced information they need to make good decisions on Amateur Radio related legislation.*

How is this Program organized? *The ARRL Board of Directors (Board) selects legislation that is to be supported or opposed through the Program. The ARRL Chief Executive Officer (CEO) manages the day-to-day operations of the Program. The ARRL President monitors operation of the Program and reports on this to the Board and, between Board meetings, to the ARRL Executive Committee (EC). The EC ensures compliance with the policies of the Board during periods between Board meetings. Each ARRL Division Director is responsible for the operations of the Program in his/her Division. The Director may appoint a Division Legislative Action Chair (DLAC) to manage on his behalf. The Director or DLAC appoints, trains and manages one or more Legislative Action Coordinators (LAC) for each state in the Division. The LAC appoints, trains and manages Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) to meet with Federal Legislators/Congressmen or with their legislative aides in their offices "back home." The discussions and the materials left after the meetings encourage Legislators to support laws friendly to Amateur Radio. Visits to Legislators' "home" offices are made only when requested by ARRL Legislative Action Program managers through Division officials. These visits may involve key Legislators or all Legislators. Depending on the specific situation, managers in the Program will be requested to have all members in relevant Divisions, states or Congressional Districts to write in support of the ARRL legislative position to their Federal legislators.*

Who chooses which legislation we will support or oppose? The ARRL Board of Directors chooses the legislation to support or to oppose.

Who develops strategies and tactics for the Program? The ARRL President, ARRL CEO, ARRL General Counsel, ARRL Executive Committee and the Congressional Relations firm the League retains work together to develop strategies and tactics to be used in the Program.

Why doesn't the Program operate at the state and local levels of government as well as Federal? Each Section Manager (SM) is encouraged to maintain a program in the Section to support or oppose legislation at the state and local levels. A person known as the State Government Liaison (SGL) typically heads this program. The SGL position was established in Minute 20 of the July 1982 Board Meeting. Persons who participate in the state and local program may also choose to participate in the Federal program and vice versa. To learn more about this state and local program, contact your Section Manager at <http://www.arrl.org/sections/>.

I thought ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and that US IRS rules do not allow it to become involved in lobbying and the law-making process. *ARRL is a tax-exempt non-profit organization as defined by section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. As discussed in the "It Seems to Us" [editorial](#) in the August 2006 issue of QST, "What is prohibited [to us and other tax-exempt non-profit groups] is any involvement in a political campaign. Under the Internal Revenue Code, all section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office. The prohibition applies to all campaigns at the Federal, state and local level, and violating it could result in revocation of tax-exempt status." Also explained in the August 2006 QST editorial, ARRL is allowed to promote or work against specific public policy issues. Issues we have found of significant interest to Amateur Radio include Federal legislation to control excessive interference from Broadband Over Power Lines, Federal legislation to protect Amateur Radio frequencies and Federal legislation essentially to ensure all amateurs are allowed to install an antenna.*

I have often contributed to and worked for one or more political candidates in my area. Do I need to stop being active in political campaigns if I work in the ARRL Legislative Action Program? *No, as a citizen of this country you are encouraged to speak and act for yourself in political campaigns if you wish. If you do this, what you need to do is to ensure that your participation in the political process is clearly understood to represent your own, personal position and actions, and not the position and actions of ARRL. When you act as a private citizen, be certain to wear your "private citizen" hat and not your ARRL hat.*

Who is eligible to participate in the Program? ARRL members who are willing to follow the guidelines of the Program are eligible to participate in it. Members who wish

to become Division Legislative Action Chairs (DLACs), Legislative Action Coordinators (LACs) and Legislative Action Assistants (LAAs) need to participate in a brief training program before making calls on legislators. I am not a member of ARRL, why can't I participate in the Program? We would like to be able to work with all amateurs to make this program as successful as possible; however, Federal IRS regulations place limits on the amount of effort ARRL as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, can devote to nonmembers regarding legislative affairs. We invite you to join ARRL and become a key part in this program. For information on ARRL, go to <http://www.arrl.org/aarrl.html>.

How do participants in the ARRL Legislative Action Program get information and materials needed to call on or write to US Representatives and Senators? *Background information on legislation, the names and addresses of "your" Congressmen, educational leave-behind leaflets and more that are needed to make visits to Congressional offices can be found at the Grassroots link on the Members Only area of [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). This*

[nb4k@arrl.org](mailto:nb4k@arrl.org) 859.472.6690

*information is available to be printed out. Draft letters to Congressmen are similarly available at this same location. So, as you can see there is nothing too hard to do and it doesn't take a lot of time when we work together on legislation.*

If you are interested in helping in this area here is whom you may contact. In Kentucky the Legislative Action Coordinator e-mail for your information is Patrick R Thrush, N4PRT at [n4prt@hamtechtalk.com](mailto:n4prt@hamtechtalk.com), in Ohio send it to Brent C Stover, WD8PNZ at [wd8pnz@yahoo.com](mailto:wd8pnz@yahoo.com), and at this time we are in need of a Legislative Action Coordinator in Michigan. Until one is seated e-mail me NB4K with your information at [nb4k@arrl.org](mailto:nb4k@arrl.org).

If you have any questions on this feel free to call or e-mail me. We need our frequencies and this is just one avenue that we have to protect them.

73

John D. Meyers, NB4K DLAC

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**PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS**  
**this year's FAMILY PREPARENESS DAY**  
**has been set for Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008**  
**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**  
**on the Historic Courthouse Lawn**  
**Downtown Lapeer**  
**More details to follow in the months ahead!**

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**Upcoming Swaps...And Events...**

**May 16, 17,18**—Dayton Hamvention, Dayton OH

**June 1, 2008**—Chelsea Ham and Antique Radio Swap, Chelsea Fairgrounds, info [www.wd8iel.net](http://www.wd8iel.net)

**June 14, 2008**—Midland Hamfest, 8:00 a.m. Midland County Fairgrounds, info [www.qsl.net/w8kea](http://www.qsl.net/w8kea)

**June 15, 2008**—Monroe Hamfest 2008, 7:30 a.m. Monroe County Fairgrounds. Adm: \$6, Table: \$15 info [www.mcrea.org/hamfest.htm](http://www.mcrea.org/hamfest.htm)

**Volunteer Exam Session**

Amateur Radio testing May 31 at 9 AM at the Lapeer 911 center Saturday call bob N8NE at 810 653 3856.

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The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be May 10, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. in the 2nd floor meeting room at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron, MI.

Pre-registration NOT NECESSARY for all sessions during 2008!

Bring picture ID, the original and a copy of your present license and the original of any Certificate of Successful Completion (CSC) you may hold. The current fee is \$14.00. For further information call Bob Herbert, K8WMW, at 982-1561

Dates for 2008 include: May 10, Jun 14, Jul 12, Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 08, Dec 13

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



**Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association**

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

**Officers**

President, Bob Beswetherick, N8NE . 810-653-3856      Vice-Pres., Chris Azelton, KC8TWL..810-245-0073  
Secretary, Flo Haack KC8CAB ..... 810-793-2606      Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP.....810-797-5329

**Committees & Appointees.**

Club Founder.....Hollis Hayes, W8ACD      Club Call TrusteeW8LAP.....Bill Miller, KD8VP  
Club Historian.....Charlie Whipp, KC8JBK      VE Coordinator.....Al Wilson, N8NPR  
Skywarn Coordinator.....Pete Headrick KB8RSG      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.....**It could be you!**

**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 file to k8dd@arrl.net The deadline for submissions is the 20th of each month.

***CW is...***

**It** is a unique, intimate concise and effective communication skill still employed throughout the world.

**It** is the most efficient mode in terms of power required for long-distance communication, least susceptible to interference and most conserving of the radio frequency spectrum.

**It** involves no accent or pronunciation problems, providing a widely understood international language.

**It** employs simpler, more reliable and easily maintained equipment than any other communication mode.

**It** is an equalizer, negating age, speech impediments and dialectical differences, it provides for ready acceptance of youngsters in and adult environment.

**It** is the only radio communications that is understood readily by both man and machine.

## For Sale For Sale For Sale For Sale:

I want to buy your old ham/electronic/tube gear. I'm particularly looking for the Heathkit Mohawk that I built and sold to Dave Burch four decades ago.  
Contact Mike, AA8K, at: stepsisters@comcast.net or 810-987-8873

### For Sale

HW-8 Handbook—covers HW-7, 8 & 9 \$15  
COM port boards, ISA, 2 ports \$3.00 ea

From the estate of N8CQA:  
Central Electronics 10B \$130  
Central Electronics 20A \$130  
One VFO's for above \$75 ea  
30M two transistor transmitter in a Hershey cocoa can \$15  
All offers will be listened to!

Contact Hank K8DD at k8dd@k8dd.com or 810-721-0708

**Be Radio-Active  
Participate**

**And now ..... One way to find where the DX is operating!**

### ***Dx Packet Cluster***

The **WA8DX** Spider Packet Cluster node is available on **144.970**. At present **WA8DX** is receiving DX info via K8SMC in Jackson or N8NM in Waterford.

This is a tool you can use to build your DXCC total, see where people are working stations on both HF and VHF, and even pass messages.

Use your TNC to connect in the command mode and use **C WA8DX** as the command. Once connected you will get a welcome screen that asks for info. You should start to see DX spots right away.

You can also connect via the internet. Telnet to **wa8dx.servebeer.com** port **7300**

Although you can stay connected indefinitely, if you decide to disconnect, type **b** or **bye** and you will be logged out.

You can view an online version of a users manual at: [www.wd1l.net/DXSpider/usermanual\\_en.html](http://www.wd1l.net/DXSpider/usermanual_en.html)

***Remember ... DX Is!***

### **N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR**

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May 2008  
~~~~~

VK/trans-Tasman Contests (80 M Ph) ... QRP Category  
May 10, 0800z to 1400z  
Rules: <http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman/RULES.HTM>  
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FISTS Spring Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category  
May 10, 1700z to 2100z  
Rules: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

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CQM International DX Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category  
May 10, 1200z to May 11, 1159z  
Rules: <http://www.sk3bg.se/contest/cqmidxc.htm>

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SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Category  
May 11, 0000z to 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/>

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Dayton Hamvention (QRP Event - FDIM)  
May 16-18  
Info: <http://www.hamvention.org/>

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HIS MAJESTY THE KING OF SPAIN CONTEST (CW)  
May 17, 1200z to May 18, 1200z  
Rules:  
<http://www.ure.es/hf/concursos/smelrey/basessmreyingles.pdf>

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EU PSK DX Contest ... Low Power (10W) Category  
May 17, 1200z to May 18, 1200z  
Rules: <http://www.eudx.srars.org/>

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All America Contest (CW) ... QRP Category  
May 17, 1500z to May 18, 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.powerline.com.br/cwjf/eng4.htm#regulamento>

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Baltic Contest (CW/SSB) (80 Meters)  
May 17, 2100z to May 18, 0200z  
Rules: [http://www.lrsf.lt/bcontest/english/rules\\_html.htm](http://www.lrsf.lt/bcontest/english/rules_html.htm)

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RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*  
EDT: May 18, 9 PM to 11 PM  
UTC: May 19, 0100z 0300z  
Rules: <http://fpqrp.net:80/fpqrprun.php>

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NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint \*\*\* QRP CONTEST! \*\*\*  
EDT: May 21, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM  
UTC: May 22, 0030z to 0230z  
Rules: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/contests.html>

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MQFD Monthly Sprint (CW/PH/Digital) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
May 24, 1800z to 2200z  
Rules: <http://w2agn.net/mqfdsprint.html>

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CQWW WPX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category  
May 24, 0000z to May 25, 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/awards.html>

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VK/trans-Tasman Contests (80 M CW) ... QRP Category  
May 26, 0900z to 1300z  
Rules: <http://home.iprimus.com.au/vktasman/RULES.HTM>

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QRP ARCI Hoot Owl Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
May 25, 2000 to 2400 LOCAL TIME  
Rules: <http://www.qrparci.org>

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Michigan QRP Memorial Day Sprint (CW) ... QRP Contest!  
May 26, 2300z to May 27, 0300z  
Rules: <http://www.qsl.net/miqrpclub/contest.html>

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SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards

May 28, 0000z to 0200z

Rules: <http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, KX9X(ARRL), N2APB, WB3AAL and others  
for assistance in compiling this calendar.

If you wish to subscribe to the Calendar,  
send an e-mail to N2CQ@ARRL.Net

Please forward the contest info you sponsor to [N2CQ@ARRL.NET](mailto:N2CQ@ARRL.NET) and  
we will post it and give it more publicity.  
Anyone may use this "N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar" for your website,  
newsletter, e-mail list or other media as you choose.  
(Include a credit to the source of this material of course.)

72 de  
Ken Newman - N2CQ

N2CQ QRP Contest Calendar Links:  
<http://www.n3epa.org/Pages/Contest/contest.htm>  
<http://www.amqrp.org/contesting/contesting.html>

## 2007-2008 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.