



**W8LAP/r**

146.620 - 100Hz  
~~442.750 - 123Hz~~

[www.w8lap.com](http://www.w8lap.com)

# WAVEGUIDE

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

February

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2009

*The next regular meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, February 10 —7:30 p.m.  
at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911)  
2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.*

## The Treas Sez:

Greeting to one and all this chilly winter month. Not much has happened to our treasury this month, just the usual electric and phone bills. Not many made it out for the last meeting so we did not take in any dues or donations. Next month I anticipate having to pay the

insurance policy's and that's a pretty good hit. None the less we are well prepared to cover our expenses in the coming year.

73 to all KD8VP Bill Miller

## The Trustee Sez:

Hello to everyone and I know the 440 repeater is not working right. Ok that said, I have know for a couple of weeks that it didn't seem right, but because there is a six foot snow bank to climb over to get to the shack, I have neglected to go out and see what is wrong. After all it was two weeks after I knew something was wrong that someone finally sent me a e-mail to ask about it. Not very popular is it? I will promise to get out there next week and see what I can determine. If the transceiver is broke, I will have to take it off line to get it fixed since we do not have a back up like on 2 meters. Maybe no one will notice if I do

that since no one uses it anyway.

It is always frustrating for a trustee when something goes bad, but it is double frustrating when something goes wrong with a system that doesn't get used anyway. If it had broken because it was overworked that would have been understandable, but to quit working for lack of use that is dumb. Oh well that's life.

Anyway the 2 meter repeater is working great and I hope it stays that way, at least until spring.

73 to everyone Bill Miller KD8VP

## The Secy Sez

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 P.M.. There were eight members present. Treasurers report was given by Bill kd8vp. Bill cashed in the smaller C.D. He put some in checking and the rest back in another 6 month C.D. The checking account was real low because of all the work done on the repeaters. The secretary report was given by Flo kc8cab.

The old repeater will be given to Linda Lee, a member of Hollis Hayes Family. ARRL did not want the old repeater. Bill asked to have a Get Well card sent to Ed Oyster w8ncj and Fred Church n8abr.

The meeting was closed at 8:10 P.M.

## From ARES / RACES:

The application permits for the 2009 Operation Care have been recieved and filed.

The following are the days of operation(as mandated by the M.S.P.):

- Memorial Day - Friday May 22/Monday May 25, (4 days)
- Fourth of July Weekend - Friday July 3/Sunday July 5 (3 days)
- Labor Day - Friday Sept. 4/ Monday Sept. 7(4 days).

73, TOM

## **Volunteer Exams:**

### Lapeer

The fifth Saturday of the month in months which have five Saturdays.

Location: The Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911) 2332 W. Genesee Street. Lapeer, MI in the basement.

Contact: Bob Beswetherick, N8NE 810-653-3856 for the time and pre-registration

### Flint

The second Saturday of each month

Location: Baker College in Flint.

Dates: Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

Contact: Jeffrey R. Pender k8kzb@k8kzb.com H: 810-545-0080 C: 810-614-6199 for the time, exact location and pre-registration.

### Port Huron

The second Saturday of the month.

Location: The St Clair County Library, 2nd floor meeting room, 210 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron, MI 48060

Time: 10:00 AM

Dates: Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11, May 9, Jun 13, Jul 11, Aug 8, Sep 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

Contact: Bob Herbert K8WMW, [k8wmw@arrrl.net](mailto:k8wmw@arrrl.net) 810-982-1561

"Walk-ins Welcome"

## **From the mailbag:**

### **On the road again!**

The month of February will find two club members in Central America in the country of Nicaragua from February 17 - 24. Lee, N8LJ and Hank, K8DD will be joined by Stan, AC8W from the EMARC club in Port Huron and Jim, KB8TXZ from the OCARS club in Waterford for the week.

The group will be operating all bands and most modes before and after the ARRL DX CW contest which takes place February 21 – 22 UTC. The plan is to concentrate on the WARC bands (30, 17 and 12 meters), but we will be sending out an email as soon as we get on the air to the LCARA mailing list with the time and date that we will be on 20M SSB above 14.225 KHz, so watch your email inbox on February 18 or 19 to see where and when you

can find us. If possible, and if propagation is good, we will try to schedule an afternoon time and an evening time to cover the retirees who need an evening nap and those who are employed and can't make the afternoon schedule!

The place where we are going to be operating from has dipoles on 160, 80, 60, 40 & 30 meters, 2 element quads on 40 and 17 meters and an A3 tribander on 20, 15 & 10 meters, and we will be taking a vertical and some wire antennas.

The calls will either be H7/ homecall or we may have YN2 calls – we're not sure at this time.

Hope to talk to you from the sunny Central America!

### **Class Projects**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have been teaching a General Class license class for the past five years. The first year, I had five students, the next year 35! This year, I have only five again.

Not being a pedagogical genius, it never really occurred to me until last year to give my General Class students a project to work on while we slogged through the material. Last year, some of them built little QRP kits. Not only was that fun, it was educational. Some of them had never even soldered before!

Since last year's project worked out so well, I am asking this year's students to do some kind of project, but one that they choose themselves. Here's the short list that I came up with:

\* Build a kit like my students did last year.

\* Build a 2m beam. At our first meeting, one of the guys noted that while he could hear a repeater about 30 miles away from his QTH, he wasn't able to hit it with the 5/8-wavelength vertical he was using. I suggest that he build a Cheap Yagi

<http://www.fredspinner.com/W0FMS/CheapYagi/vjbcy.html>

\* Download some antenna simulation software and analyze a dipole or vertical antenna. MM-ANA (<http://mmhamsoft.amateur-radio.ca/mmana/index.htm>) is free and looks to be a pretty good program.

\* Learn Morse Code. Being the CW geek that I am, how could I not suggest this?

I wanted to give my students a bigger choice, so I asked the readers of my blog for more suggestions:

Kenneth, W6KWF, replied, "Hands down the most useful and most successful projects I've built have been 2m J-poles. I've built both the 1/2-in. copper tubing and TV line variants, and use both as my primary antennas. The TV line one is nice because I live in an apartment, so when I need a good antenna, I tie a magnet to the top of it and stick it to my upstairs neighbor's balcony. It's a very forgiving antenna."

Zeke also like the idea of building J-pole antennas. "You didn't mention the age group/groups you are working with," he said, "but have you thought about a hands-on project such as a j-pole for 2 or 6 meters. It would give them an opportunity to feel the pride that follows an involved project. Furthermore, the J-pole is a pretty good

antenna."

John N8ZYA, said, "I like the [idea of learning CW].it's like learning to play the guitar or piano. A skill that can be used your entire lifetime!"

Robert suggested, "How about building a 20 meter delta loop? I am very inexperienced when it comes to antenna building, but a friend suggested this for working DX on 20 meters and it worked out really well. In fact, my first contact on it was Spain!"

I would love to offer my students even more choices. If you have a suggestion, please e-mail it to me at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). Thanks!

## **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](mailto:stepsisters@comcast.net) or 810-987-8873

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### **For Sale**

HW-8 Handbook—covers HW-7, 8 & 9 \$15

COM port boards, ISA, 2 ports \$3.00 ea

Rigblaster + Lists for \$150. Brand new – never used - \$100

From the estate of N8CQA:

Central Electronics 10B \$75

Central Electronics 20A \$75

One VFO's for above \$50 ea Buy both the 10B and 20A and it's free!

30M two transistor transmitter in a Hershey cocoa can \$45

All offers will be listened to!

Contact Hank K8DD at [k8dd@k8dd.com](mailto:k8dd@k8dd.com) or 810-721-0708

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

## ***Dx Packet Cluster***

The **WA8DX** Spider Packet Cluster node is available via your logging program or telnet. 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.

To connect via the internet - telnet to **wa8dx.servebeer.com** port **7300** or put those parameters into your logging program.

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: [http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider\\_User\\_Manual](http://wiki.dxcluster.org/index.php/DXSpider_User_Manual)

**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.

This area is for the article that you were going to write!

# Be Radio-Active Participate

## Remember...DX Is!

### N2CQ QRP CONTEST CALENDAR

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80 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Each Tuesday to Mar 24  
9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

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40 METER FOXHUNT (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Each Thursday to March 26  
9 PM to 10:29 PM Eastern Time USA  
Info: <http://www.qrpfoxhunt.org/>

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Vermont QSO Party (CW/Ph/Dig)  
Feb 7, 0000z to Feb 8, 2400z  
Rules: <http://www.w1bd.org/>

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10-10 Int. Winter Phone QSO Party ... QRP Category  
Feb 7, 0001z to Feb 8, 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSOPartyRulesRevised.pdf>

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Black Sea Cup International (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category  
Feb 7, 1200z to 2400z  
Rules: <http://bscc.ucoz.ru/index/0-21>

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Worldwide Peace Messenger Cities (CW/SSB)...  
Feb 7, 1200z to Feb 8, 1200z  
Rules: <http://www.s59dcd.si/english/>

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Minnesota QSO Party (All) ... QRP Category  
Feb 7, 1400z to 2359z  
Rules: <http://www.w0aa.org/>

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FYBO Winter QRP Field Day (CW/SSB) ... QRP Contest!  
Feb 7, 1400z to 2400z  
Rules: <http://www.azscqrptions.org>

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AGCW Straight Key QSO Party (CW 80M) ... QRP Category  
Feb 7, 1600z to 1900z  
Rules: [http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:Straight\\_Key\\_Party](http://www.agcw.org/en/?Contests:Straight_Key_Party)

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British Columbia QSO Challenge (CW/PH/Dig) ... QRP Category  
Feb 7, 1600z to Feb 8, 0359z  
Rules:  
<http://www.deltaamateurradio.com/BC%20QSO%20CONTEST.htm>

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New Mexico QSO Party (CW/PH/Dig) ... QRP Category  
Feb 7, 1700z to Feb 8, 2350z  
Rules: <http://pages.swcp.com/~n5zgt/nmqsoparty/index.html>  
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Delaware QSO Party (All) ... QRP Category

Feb 7, 1700z to Feb 8, 0500z

Feb 8, 1300z to Feb 9, 0100z

Rules: <http://www.fsarc.org/DEQSO.html>

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MEXICO RTTY INTERNATIONAL CONTEST

Feb 7, 1800z to Feb 8, 1759z

Rules:

<http://www.fmre.org.mx/concursos/2009/rtty/rules-rtty-2009-eng.pdf>

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SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Category

Feb 8, 0000z to 2359z

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

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NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint (CW) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*

EST: Feb 10, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM

UTC: Feb 11, 0130Z to 0330Z

Rules: <http://www.arm-tek.net/~yoel/contests.html>

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North American Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category

Feb 8, 0000z to 0400z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprinrules.php>

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Valentine Sprint (PODXS) (PSK-31) ... QRP Category

Feb 13, 2000 to Feb 16, 0200 LOCAL TIME

Rules: <http://www.podxs070.com/>

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CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest ... Low Power Category

Feb 14, 0000z to Feb 15, 2400z

Rules: <http://www.cqwxrtty.com/>

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Northern New York Section QSO Party (All)

Feb 14, 0000z to Feb 15, 2359z

Rules: <http://www.nnyara.org/>

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New Hampshire QSO Party (Ph/CW/Dig) ... QRP Category

Feb 14, 0001z to Feb 15, 0001z

Rules: <http://www.w1fz.org/>

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Dutch PACC Contest (SSB/CW) ... QRP Category

Feb 14, 1200z to Feb 15, 1200z

Rules: <http://pacc.veron.nl/>

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Louisiana QSO Party (Ph/CW/Dig)

Feb 14, 1500z to Feb 15, 0300z

Rules: [http://www.qsl.net/kd5wdy/LAQSO\\_lagso.html](http://www.qsl.net/kd5wdy/LAQSO_lagso.html)

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FISTS Winter Sprint (CW of course) ... QRP Category

Feb 14, 1700z to 2100z

Rules: <http://www.fists.org/sprints.html>

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North American Sprint (SSB) ... QRP Category

Feb 15, 0000z to 0400z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/sprinrules.php>

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RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) \*\*\* QRP CONTEST \*\*\*

EST: Feb 15, 9 PM to 11 PM

UTC: Feb 16, 0200z 0400z

Rules: <http://www.fqgrp.com/>

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ARRL International DX Contest (CW) ... QRP Category

Feb 21, 0000z to Feb 22, 2400z

Rules: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>

REF (French) SSB Contest  
Feb 21, 0600z to Feb 22, 1800z

Rules:

[http://concours.ref-union.org/reglements/actuels/reg\\_cdfhfdx.pdf](http://concours.ref-union.org/reglements/actuels/reg_cdfhfdx.pdf)

MQFD Monthly Sprint (CW/PH/Digital) \*\*\* QRP Contest \*\*\*  
Feb 21, 1800z to 2200z

Rules: <http://w2agn.net/mqfidsprint.html>

High Speed CW Club Contest ... QRP Category  
Feb 22, 0900z to 1100z and 1500z to 1700z

Rules: <http://www.dl3bzz.de/html/hscconte.html>

SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards  
Feb 25, 0000z to 0200z

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

CQ WW 160-Meter DX Contest (SSB) ... QRP Category  
Feb 27, 2200z to Mar 1, 2200z

Rules: [http://cq-amateur-radio.com/160\\_Rules\\_2009.pdf](http://cq-amateur-radio.com/160_Rules_2009.pdf)

UBA DX Contest - Belgium (CW) ... QRP Category  
Feb 28, 1300z to Mar 1, 1300z

Rules: [http://www.uba.be/hf\\_contests/rules/ubatest\\_dx.pdf](http://www.uba.be/hf_contests/rules/ubatest_dx.pdf)

Mississippi QSO Party (Ph/CW)  
Feb 28, 1500z to Mar 1, 0300z

Rules: <http://www.arrlmiss.org>

North American QSO Party (RTTY)

Feb 28, 1800z to Mar 1, 0600z

Rules: <http://www.ncjweb.com/nagprules.php>

Colorado QRP Club Winter QSO Party (CW/SSB) ... QRP Contest!  
Feb 28, 2200z to Mar 1, 0359z

Rules: <http://www.cqc.org/>

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL), VA3JFF & G4GXL (QRPARCI)  
N2APB (AmQRP), WB3AAL (EPAQRP) and others  
for assistance in compiling this calendar.

If you wish to subscribe to the Calendar,  
send an e-mail to [N2CQ@ARRL.Net](mailto: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.amgrp.org/contesting/contesting.html>

<http://www.qrparci.org/content/view/6134/130/lang,en/>

## 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