



Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

October

Published Monthly by the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

2010

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12 —7:30 p.m. at the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911) 2332 W. Genesee Street in the basement.

DUES ARE DUE!

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The Prez Sez:

For those of you that did not make the last meeting, the club has received approximately \$400 (I don't recall the exact figure) from the Hans Jens estate. This money is to be used to help kids to get started or interested in ham radio.

One idea is to donate books to the local library system related to ham radio. A quick look on the computer does show some books related to ham radio already in the Lapeer library – with some really out of date! There does appear to be some good we could do with this idea. Also, if you have another idea on how to put these funds to good use please bring it up at the next meeting.

Well I found a "hole" in my radio station at home. During a recent late night weather net I was trying to contact MICON using the 440 link in Mayville. They could hear me but the return link system wasn't working. So, there appears to be a "need" to upgrade the 440 beaming capability at the home shack for a direct link to White Lake. That's as good a reason as any to collect another antenna.

Also, there are only 2 more meetings before the Christmas party!!!

See you on the 12th.

Kevin Boxey KB8TAR

The Treas Sez:

Greetings to everyone. It has been a very busy month for me. My mother had knee replacement surgery in Port Huron at the beginning of the month and I have been doing a lot of running back and forth. She is doing great and so is our treasury. Between the donation from Operation Care Labor Day and a very generous donation from the estate of silent key, Hans Jens W8HFM, our treasury is set to keep us going for the foreseeable future. The W8HFM donation was discussed at the club meeting

and is designated to be a special fund, set aside for the special interests of youth in amateur radio. There has been no specific conclusion drawn, but it looks like to begin with we will do something along the lines of study guides in the local library's. Suggestions from any of you would be considered.

Thank you for now. KD8VP William Miller Treasurer

The Trustee Sez:

Hello to one and all. I spent a few hours out at the repeater shack earlier this month. I tested the output (40

watts) and the swr of the 2 meter system. All were right where they should be. I then tightened up the squelch on

the 2 meter machine to try to eliminate the triggering of the repeater that has been bothering some of you lately. It seems to have worked in that regard, now to determine how many of you that are now having trouble getting into the repeater. If you are now having problems let me know. Perhaps I can help you do a better job getting in. Those of you in the North might have better results cross band

repeating through the North Branch W8ECG repeater on the 443,450.

Remember that amateur radio is a fun place to experiment and find better

ways to communicate. See what you can do on your own. Thank:you,

William Miller KD8VP Trustee

The Secy Sez:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and introduction of members and guest.

Oscar's wife is not feeling very good. She is in the hospital.

There was 9 free memberships. They put in 18 hours at Operation Care.

Secretary report was given by Flo, kc8cab. It was accepted by Dan, kc1bud and seconded by Hank, k8dd. Treasurers report was given by Bill, kd8vp. Accepted by Tom, kd8eby.

Hans Jens, w8hfm family gave the Club \$453 in his memory. A motion was made for the Club to get a placque as a thank you for the money. Brian, n8tft made the motion and it was seconded by Tom, kd8eby.

Trustees report was given by Bill, kd8vp. Bill renewed the tower lease at the school East on M-21.

EC report was given by Tom, kd8eby. Litz was tested and it works. Break was from 8:07 to 8:30.

The Christmas Party will be at the same place as last vear. Bill was going to check with Chris, kc8twl to see if he reserved the Lapeer County Center Building for the Christmas Party.

Nomination of Officers: President: Kevin. kb8tar: Vice President: Chris, kc8twl; Secretary: Flo, kc8cab; Treasurer: Bill, kd8vp. A motion was made for everyone to keep their jobs by Dan, kc1bud and seconded by Dave, kd8dlw. A motion was made to close the nomination of officers by Dave, kd8dlw and seconded by Hank, k8dd. 50/50 was won by Debra, kd8gav I think. The meeting was closed at 8:46.

See attached flyer for WINTER SPOTTER CLASS on October 18th.

The EC Sez:

Well we made it through another year of Operation Care, We as a club donated a total of 435 hours with 20 members donateing at least 3 hours time, Thanks. The following donated enough time for their "earned" club dues: Kb8tar, kc8pmw, kc8vha,,kd8cil (18 hours each). K8dd, kd8eoa (24 hours each). kc1bud (30 hours), kd8gav(90 hours), and kd8ebv(99 hours). A special thanks from me on behalf of the whole club to

everyone.

The only scheduled event for October is the Regional SET on the 2nd. We'll be using 145.31 -pos offset-131.8 htz

tone. The event runs from 9am-1pm but, we don't expect the first message to be passed until around 10am. If you're knowledgeable about the NTS and formal traffic passing and want to help out contact Kevin(kb8tar) he'll be county ic/ncs for this. Don't forget the election for officers at the next club meeting on the 12th. 73, TOM

KD8EBY@arrl.net

E.C. Lapeer County, Mi. ARES/RACES/Skywarn NAEMT(P) Member

Genesee County is requesting our aid for their annual "Devil's Night" operations on Oct 29th and 30th. All you need is your ARES card to be able to help. If you can please contact me ASAP with which night you prefer.

The AEC Sez:

Had my prostate out on 9/21 at Beaumont Royal Oak, Complete success with all cancer gone but with limited activity until after October 6th so we decided to take the "Vacation" that we haven't taken in the last two years and stay in Royal Oak, visit friends, shop and rest and relax.

I've got the laptop and ARES/RACES inventory materials with me so that I can get the paper work done after I get

some rest. I'm going to get a chance to see how the people down here do radio things, at least at Beaumont. I do have some 2 Meter/ 440 HT's and will be on the 147.180 USECA repeater when I'm out doing my walks and monitoring during some parts of the day. No details on the time since I'm still tired and resting several times at day.

73 KD8CIL

Public Information Officer......lt could be you!

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

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

Officers

Secretary, Flo Haack KC8CAB 810-793-2606	Treasurer, Bill Miller, KD8VP810-797-5329
Committees & Appointees.	
Club FounderHollis Hayes, W8ACD	Club Call TrusteeW8LAPBill Miller, KD8VP
Club HistorianCharlie Whipp, KC8JBK	VE Coordinator
Skywarn Coordinator	Swap & Shop ChairpersonBill Miller, KD8VP
Field Day ChairmanBill Miller, KD8VP	Meeting RefreshmentsBill Miller, KD8VP
Two Meter Net MgrCharlie Whipp, KC8JBK	Newsletter EditorHank Kohl, K8DD

President, Kevin Boxey KB8TAR 810-793-4986 Vice-Pres., Chris Azelton, KC8TWL..810-245-0073

ARES Repeater Nets

Monday at 9:00 PM on 146.620-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 maybe sometimes 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.

Technician Class - Study Seminar

Class Fee: \$35.00 includes study manual Mondays: Oct 11, 18, 25, Nov 1 & 15 Time: 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 pm Location: Davison High School - Rm 105 Instructor: Amy Pender, WA8MY

Registration Information: **Davison Community Enrichment & Recreation** (810) 591-3531 ext 212

Note:

Students pre-registered for class by Oct 1, 2010 will have books available for the first day of class. Instructor uses Gordon West study materials. Registration is open up to and including the first class.

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From the Mailbag: Remember --- DX is!

One of the Dumbest Things I've Ever Done in Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Mark, W8MP, and I often argue about what's dumber—his county hunting or my collecting QSL cards from stations whose call signs spell words. It's one of those arguments that will never be won. When you get right down to it, they're both pretty dumb.

Well, one Wednesday morning, I got a call from Mark. He asked, "Hey, want to do something really dumb tonight?" When I asked what he had in mind, he replied, "Well, one of my county hunter friends, Tim, W8JJ (he's the guy looking nervous in the black cap below), claims to have confirmed all 3,077 counties. He needs at least two General Class (or higher) hams to check his QSL cards and sign off on his application for the USA-CA award sponsored by CQ magazine. I guarantee that this will be one of the dumbest things that you ever do in ham radio. I also guarantee that it will be a lot of fun."

After a fine salmon dinner with some very chewy noodles (that Mark claims his son, KD8EEH insisted that he make), we cleared the table, and Tim got out his box of cards. Mark then explained how we should proceed. I was kind of curious about this, as it's clearly impossible to check all 3,077 QSOs in a single evening.

Basically, what the two checkers are supposed to do is to check random contacts until they are satisfied that the applicant does indeed have a QSL from all 3,077 counties. To select the contacts, you might choose counties where you lived, or counties that you have visited. I hit on the idea of having Tim produced the confirmations of all 16 counties in Massachusetts. Clark, who is more familiar with which counties are the most difficult to confirm, asked Tim to produce cards from some rare counties in Colorado and Hawaii.

Above all, though, the idea is to give the applicant as much grief as possible during the process.

Mark came up with the idea of calling several county hunters that he had phone numbers for and asking them to verify in their logs some of the QSOs that Tim was claiming. He first phoned Jim, N9JF, and we asked him about a 44 report that he'd given Tim seven years ago. He

wasn't near his logbook, but he said that he did remember that contact and even rattled off the county (Wahkiakum, WA)!

Next, Mark phoned Guff, KS5A, who confirmed a contact, but was off by almost seven minutes. A long discussion ensued regarding the details of how a mobile logs contacts while out driving. In the end, we accepted the seven-minute discrepancy.

Finally, Mark phoned Larry, W0QE, to confirm a few of the MRCs that Tim had from him. (MRCs are records of multiple contacts. Using them instead of QSL cards makes the process of managing all these QSLs a lot easier.) Mark joked that it looked like one of the MRCs had a forged signature. Larry replied that all of his MRCs are stamped.

"Aha," Clark exclaimed, "this MRC doesn't have a stamp!"

I don't know what was going through Tim's mind at this point, but it probably wasn't good. Larry then explained that he probably sent out that MRC before he got the stamp. When we confirmed those dates, I think Tim breathed a little easier.

In the end, Clark and I signed off on Tim's application. And, even though Mark and I joke about how dumb this activity is, it's really only a joke. In my mind, it's quite an achievement. It takes a lot of persistence, too. It took Tim nearly ten years to do it.

Another cool thing about the county hunting sub-culture is the camaraderie amongst the county hunters. It's the nature of the beast that you'll be contacting many of them multiple times, and it's inevitable that you'll make friends with many of them.

As we were leaving, Tim said, "My wife asked me the other day if I could get now get rid of all my radios since I've talked to everybody." She obviously doesn't understand this ham radio sub-culture. Tim's only just begun.

Keep Radio Active!

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The Salvation of Little Billy Beeper

Hans Brakob, K0HB

(Apologies to Kurt Vonnegut)

To all external appearances, Farnsworth Corners, U.S.A., is bright, cheerful, and happy. However, in dark corners of the city lurk Godless Nocoders who seek to undermine the moral fabric of our mighty Nation.

In a dirty basement apartment, an underfed, seedy-looking old man wearing small, round spectacles and threadbare clothes, types furiously at a musty desk illumined only by a single, naked bulb. As the pages fly through his typewriter, an evil plan gradually emerges: a treacherous treatise which threatens the well-being of the upright citizens of Farnsworth Corners. The work is completed, and the old man leans back thoughtfully and smiles as he rubs the three-day stubble on his chin. The time has come for the Hammer of NoCode to strike!

Some weeks later, in another part of town, little Billy Beeper walks home from school. Suddenly he hears a voice right next to his ear.

"Psst! Hey, kid! Would you like to try my 2M HT? It's free!"

Billy's eyes open wide as he faces the stranger. An embroidered patch on the mans soiled jumpsuit reads "Codefree Charlie". "Gosh, no! N1EA told me never to touch a radio which didn't beep!"

"Aw, c'mon!" says the old man. "I only wanna be friends with you!"

"Well, I don't know," replies Billy. "I was told that FM was bad for you!"

"That's just what the grown-ups say to scare you!" says the drooling man.

"The truth is that they don't want you to try it 'cause it'll make you grow up faster and be able to smoke cigarettes and drink liquor just like them!"

Billy is hesitant, but suddenly a tall form looms before them and grabs the ruffian by the collar.

"Golly!" exclaims Billy. "It's Captain Code!"

Yes, Readers, it's Captain Code: faster than a Vibroplex Blue Racer, more powerful than an Alpha three-holer, able to leap tall pileups in a single bound.

"You should be ashamed of yourself, old man," says Captain Code to the hoodlum. "There are far better ways to earn money than to hoodwink innocent children into a life of codelessness. It's to the FCC for you!

"And as for you, young friend, take my advice and stay away from strangers, and believe nothing that they say. It's tragic, but until Godless Nocodism is abolished from the world, there will always be those who would like nothing better than to hurt you."

"Gee, thanks, Captain Code!" says Billy. "I promise that I'll always listen to Mom and Dad, and I'll keep away from strangers with shacks on their belt!"

73, de Hans, K0HB

Coming Events...

October 17: Kalamazoo Hamfest, http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com/ Kalamazoo, MI

December 5: Lanse Creuse Swap & Shop http://home.comcast.net/~lcarc/swap.htm Mt Clemens. MI

Did you know? The LCARA dues are due!

From the Monday Night Net Manager

Below is the Monday night ARES net schedule for the second half of 2010. As always, if you know of any stations who would like to participate by doing an occasional net or (better yet) being added to the rotation, please have them contact me. 73.

KC8JBK Charlie

 Oct. 4 2010 KC8ZCF Doug
 Nov. 1 2010 KC8JBK Charlie
 Dec. 6 2010 KC8JBK Charlie

 Oct. 4 2010 KC8ZCF Doug
 Dec. 13 2010 KC8ZCF Doug

 Oct. 11 2010 KD8HDZ Jack
 Nov. 15 2010 KD8HDZ Jack
 Dec. 20 2010 KD8HDZ Jack

 Oct. 18 2010 KB8TAR Kevin
 Nov. 22 2010 KB8TAR Kevin
 Dec 27 2010 KB8TAR Kevin

Oct. 25 2010 KD8EBY Tom Nov. 29 2010 KD8EBY Tom

Volunteer Exam Session

The next ARRL Volunteer Exam (VE) session will be **October 9, 2010** at 10:00 a.m. in the second floor meeting room at the Port Huron Branch of the St. Clair County Library, 210 McMorran Blvd, Port Huron, MI.

Pre-registration NOT NECESSARY!

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 \$15.00. For further information call Martin Smith, KD8IKN, at 385-5584

Remaining dates for 2010 October 9; November 13; December 11

Martin, KD8IKN pioneer-2@att.net 810-385-5584

More From the Mailbag:

LCARA is now on Facebook! Logon to your Facebook account and search on "Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association" and become a fan! This is an excellent way to promote the club.

For Sale For Sale For Sale:

FOR SALE:

Henry 2K HF amplifier, floor model \$800 contact Stan, AC8W (810) 364-6674

For Sale

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

From the estate of N8CQA:

30M two transistor transmitter in a Hershey Cocoa can, with schematic \$15

Logitech K-1 keyer \$50

Hank K8DD 810 721 0708 or 810 334 8533

k8dd@k8dd.com

N2CQ QRP CALENDAR October 2010

TARA PSK31 Rumble (PSK31 only) ... QRP Category

TARA PSK31 Rumble (PSK31 only) ... QRP Category

Oct 2, 0000z to 2400z

Rules: http://www.n2ty.org/seasons/tara_rumble_rules.html

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EPC Russia DX Contest (PSK63) ... 100W Category

Oct 2, 0400z to Oct 3, 0359z

Nules.

http://www.epc-

<u>ru.ru/index.php?option=com\_content&task=view&id=351&Itemid</u>

<u>=113</u>

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EU SPRINT CONTEST - Autumn (SSB) ... 100W category

Oct 2, 1600z to 1959z

Rules: http://www.eusprint.com/index.php?page=140&lang=g Rules: http://www.lzopen.com/lzocc80/index.htm California QSO Party (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category QRP ARCI Fall QSO Party (CW) *** QRP Contest *** Oct 2, 1600z to Oct 3, 2159z Oct 16, 1200z to Oct 17, 2400z Rules: http://www.cqp.org/ Rules: http://www.qrparci.org ~~~~~~ German Telegraphy Contest (CW) ... QRP Category Iowa QSO Party (CW/Ph/Dig) Oct 3, 0700z to 0959z Oct 16, 1400z to 2300z Rules: http://kontest.de/dtc/DTC-Rules_e.pdf Rules: http://www.wa0dx.org/iowa_gso_party.html RSGB 21/28 MHz Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category Worked All Germany Contest (CW/SSB) ... QRP Category Oct 3, 0700z to 1900z Oct 16, 1500z to Oct 17, 1459z Rules: http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2010/r2128.shtml Rules: http://www.darc.de/referate/dx/contest/wag/en/rules/ Adventure Radio Spartan Sprint (CW) *** QRP Event! *** New York QSO Party (Ph/CW/Dig) ... QRP Category Oct 5, 0100z to 0300z (First Monday 9 PM EDT) Oct 16, 1400z to Oct 17, 0200z Info: http://adventure-radio.org/wiki/index.php?title=Main_Page Rules: http://www.nyqp.org/rules.php Scandinavian Activity Contest (SSB) ... QRP Category 070 Club 160m Great Pumpkin Sprint (PSK) ... QRP Category Oct 16, 2000 to Oct 17, 0200 (Local Time) Oct 9, 1200z to Oct 10, 1200z Rules: http://www.sactest.net/#tabs-6 Rules: http://www.podxs070.com/160-meter-great-pumpkin-sprint Worked All Britain HF Contest (Phone) ... QRP Category Oct 9, 1200z to Oct 10, 1200z Feld Hell Club Sprint (Feld Hell) ... QRP Category Rules: http://wab.intermip.net/Contest%20Rules.php Oct 16, 2000z to 2200z Rules: http://sites.google.com/site/feldhellclub/Home Pennsylvania QSO Party (CW/SSB/Digital) ... QRP Category Illinois QSO Party (CW/PH)... QRP Category Oct 9, 1600z to Oct 10, 0500z Oct 17, 1700z to Oct 18, 0100z Oct 10, 1300z to Oct 10, 2200z Rules: http://www.nittany-arc.net/pagso.html Rules: http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP%202009%20Rules.pdf ~~~~~~~~ ~~~~~~ RUN FOR THE BACON (CW) *** QRP CONTEST *** Arizona QSO Party (CW/PH) ... QRP Category Oct 9, 1600z to Oct 10, 0600z and EDT: Oct 17, 9 PM to 11 PM UTC: Oct 18, 0100z 0300z Oct 10, 1400z to Oct 10, 2359z Rules: http://www.azqsoparty.org/rules.html Rules: http://www.fpqrp.com/ EU SPRINT CONTEST - Autumn (CW) ... 100W category STEW PERRY TOPBAND DISTANCE CHALLENGE WARMUP -Oct 9, 1600z to 1959z **QRP CATEGORY** Rules: http://www.eusprint.com/index.php?page=140&lang=g Oct 23, 1500z to Oct 24, 1500z Rules: http://web.jzap.com/k7rat/stew.html FISTS Fall Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category Oct 9, 1700z to 2100z Ten-Ten QSO Party (CW) ... QRP Category Oct 23, 0001z to Oct 24, 2359z Rules: http://www.fists.org/sprints.html Rules: http://www.tenten.org/Forms/QSOPartyRules_05312009.pdf North American Sprint (RTTY) ... QRP Category Oct 10, 0000Z to 0400Z Rules: http://www.ncjweb.com/sprintrules.php SKCC Sprint (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Awards Oct 27, 0000z to 0200z SKCC Weekend Sprintathon (Straight Key CW) ... QRP Category Rules: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/sks/ Oct 10, 0000z to 2359z Rules: http://www.skccgroup.com/sprint/wes/ ?Zombie Shuffle (CW) *** QRP CONTEST *** Oct 29, Local Sundown to Local Midnight (Any 4 hour period) 10-10 Day Sprint (All) ... QRP Category Rules: http://www.zianet.com/QRP/ Oct 10, 0001z to 2359z Rules: http://www.ten-ten.org/Forms/QSOPartyRulesRevised.pdf CQ WW DX Contest (SSB) ... QRP Category Oct 30, 0000z to Oct 31, 2359z NAQCC Straight Key/Bug Sprint (CW) *** QRP Contest *** Rules: http://www.cqww.com/index.html EDT: Oct 12, 8:30 PM to 10:30 PM UTC: Oct 13, 0030Z to 0230Z Ten-Ten QSO Party (Digital) ... QRP Category Rules: http://home.windstream.net/yoel/contests.html Oct 30, 0001z to Oct 31, 2359z Rules: http://www.ten-CWops Mini-CWT Test (CW) ... QRP Category ten.org/Forms/QSOPartyRules_05312009.pdf Oct 13, 1100z to 1200z and

Thanks to SM3CER, WA7BNM, N0AX(ARRL), VA3JFF &

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

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Oct 13, 1900z to 2000z and Oct 14, 0300z to 0400z

Oct 16, 0200z to 0600z

Rules: http://www.cwops.org/onair.html

LZ Open 80m Sprint (CW) ... QRP Category

Winter Spotter Class



Sponsored by: Lapeer County Emergency Management





Interested in learning about:

- * Winter Weather Terms
- * Differences in Warning, Advisories & Watches
- * How to Measure Snow
- * What & How to Report
- * Winter Weather Safety

Date: October 18, 2010

Time: 7:00pm





Location: 2332 W. Genesee Street, Lapeer (basement of 9-1-1)

Seating is limited - Register at 810-667-0242

L.C.A.R.A. MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION	
PLEASE PRINT:	
CALL SIGN:	NAME:
	LICENSE CLASS:
SKYWARN NO.:	RACES NO:
ARES MEMBER YES	NO E-MAIL ADD.:
ARE YOU AN A.R.R.L. N	MEMBER: YES NO
ON <mark>OCTOBER. 1ST</mark> . MEMBERSHIP \$4.00. I	P IS \$12.00 PER YEAR, RENEWABLE EACH YEAR FAMILY MEMBERSHIP \$20.00. ASSOCIATE FYOU WISH AN AUTODIAL NUMBER FOR THE NADDITIONAL \$3.00 CHARGE. Financing available.

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

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