



Waveguide

W8LAP / r
146.620 - 100 Hz
442.750 + 123 Hz

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association
Club Founder: Hollis Hayes W8ACD

Edition for October 2011

*****The next regular club meeting will be held on
Tuesday, October 11th, 2011 @ 7:30 pm*****

ARES Net

*Every Tuesday at 8:00 pm on 146.620 - with 100 Hz PL
(except club meeting nights)*

Thursday Night Net

Every Thursday at 8:00 pm on 442.750 + with 123 Hz PL

Meetings

LCARA meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month in the Lapeer County Central Dispatch Center (911), 2332 W. Genesee St., Lapeer, MI at 7:30 pm

Newsletter

Items for the newsletter may be called in to the editor at 810-793-4986 or emailed to kevinboxey@hotmail.com. The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month.

Website: <http://www.w8lap.com>

Facebook: Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

Editorial Section

The President Sez:

Hello everyone. Well I have been absent from the last 2 meetings due to work. Once because I was in Mexico and once because I got "stuck" at Chrysler's proving grounds in Chelsea. But I am planning on making the October meeting - of course I was planning on making the September one to.

There is some important business at the next club meeting. We will be discussing proposals from a committee on how we continue to fund our club and repeater. Under our current system the financial burden is heavily weighted on the members that support Operation CARE throughout the summer. So please try to attend and have your opinion heard.

See you on the 11th.
Kevin KB8TAR

The VP & EC Sez:

EC/VP (interim) Says- not sure which "says" I'm supposed to do but I'll do a combo. Op. Care is over for another year with 15 club members contributing at least 3 hours time to the cause. Thanks to all. The following have "earned" memberships for next year - KB8TAR (18 hours), KD8GAV (93 hours), KC8HHE (18 hours), KD8EOA (27 hours), KC1BUD (57 hours), KC8VHA (27 hours), KD8CIL (21 hours), and KD8EBY (144 hours). Good job everyone.

In August the club spent 223 man-hours with an "in kind" donation to out county of \$4,039.00. We had 2 public service events totaling 112.5 man-hours and 2 Skywarn events totaling 41 man-hours. The "Ways and Means" committee (for lack of an official name) is meeting this Wednesday and hopefully have a report at the Oct. club meeting.

Enough of me for this report. 73 all, TOM

The Treasurer Sez:

Greetings to everyone. Well September brings us to the close of our fiscal year. That said, I can tell you that the treasury is in good shape. Although our donations from Operation Care and the Swap and Shop were down somewhat from other years, we still accumulated enough balance to be able to continue without an increase in the dues.

There was a committee formed at the last club meeting to evaluate how to incorporate labor into our dues structure. That said I look forward to seeing what they come up with, as I do believe that everyone should have a responsibility to do more than just pay their dues and nothing more.

October starts our new year with the same president, secretary, and treasurer. But a new vice president, I welcome Tom Oliver, KD8EBY. Chris Azelton, KC8TWL, had to step down due to work constraints. Thank you Chris for your years of service.

All in all a good year. Let's see if we can make it better in the coming year.

Respectfully 73
Bill Miller KD8VP



Editorial Section

The Trustee Sez:

Hello to everyone. As some of you know we had a little unexpected usage of our two meter repeater this past month. Seems Roger, the Caro repeater trustee was doing some testing, and was using the 440 North Branch repeater to test his 146.660 repeater. Thus linking back to his machine from 440 Mhz. What we were hearing was his transmissions through our link to the North Branch W8ECM 440 repeater. Perry Gwinn KG8ID, was able to track down what was going on and get us an explanation. The beauty of the whole thing is that Roger, if he so desired could link his repeater to ours, through W8ECM.

I spent some time out at the repeater shack. Mowed the grass and switched the system over from cooling to heating mode. While checking things over I found that the back up battery was leaking fluid from the top vent port. That is not supposed to happen, as it is a gel type electrolytic. It is still checking at 13.2 volts so I am not sure what is happening. Needless to say I will be keeping a better eye on this problem.

Well I will close with my normal plea to use the system more, please.

73, Bill Miller KD8VP

The Secretary Sez:

The meeting was called to order by Chris, KC8TWL at 7:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and introduction of members and guest. There was no hospital report. There was no up grades. The July minutes was read by Flo, KC8CAB. The minutes was accepted by Jamie, KC8PMW, seconded by Tom, KD8EOA; Dan, KC1BUD; and Tom, KD8EBY. The August minutes were read by Flo, KC8CAB. The minutes were accepted by Tom, KD8EBY, seconded by Tom, KD8EOA. The July treasurers report was given by Bill, KD8VP. The treasurers report for July was accepted by Tom, KD8EOA, seconded by Tom, KD8EBY. The August treasurers report was given by Bill, KD8VP. The treasurers report was accepted by Tom, KD8EBY, seconded by Tom, KD8EOA. The trustees report was given by Bill, KD8VP. A note was read from Hans Jens wife. The repeater is working just fine. The fence around the repeater needs a paint job. The tower was painted 5 or 6 years ago. The EC report was given by Tom, KD8EBY. The district 3 SET [simulated emergency test] is October 1st. The radio room stuff is at Tom's house, KD8EBY. Break was from 8:03 till 8:17. The nomination of officers was as follows: President: Kevin, KB8TAR; Vice President: Tom, KD8EBY; Secretary: Flo, KC8CAB; Treasurer: Bill, KD8VP; Trustee: Joe, KD8CIL. The election is October 11, 2011. The Christmas Party will be December 13th the day of the regular meeting. It will be 6 to 9 P.M. There will be no gifts this year. A committee will discuss the Christmas party. The committee will have Tom KD8EBY, Tom KD8EOA, Dan KC1BUD, and Debra KD8GAV on it. Dues are due in October. 50/50 was won by Tom, KD8EBY. Meeting was closed at 8:40 by Dan, KC1BUD and seconded by Tom, KD8EBY.

Flo KC8CAB



All, the following recommendations were submitted by the "ways and means" committee on Thursday, Sept 22nd attended by Tom-KD8EOA, Debra-KD8GAV, Dan-KC1BUD, and Tom-KD8EBY.

NOTE: 1200.00 annual costs-minimum, divided by 43 members = 30.00 per member to just stay even. Note - in a survey of area clubs the average dues is 20.00 per member per year.

1. 18 hours @ Operation Care PLUS 1 hour in-county event (excluding Skywarn and net check-ins) for "earned" membership and x-mas party.
2. Family membership shall be children under 18 years and 2 immediate adult family members.
3. Elected Board members have automatic free memberships - no family plan members shall apply unless the 3.00 difference in memberships is paid.
4. New hams/new club members - 1 year "free" membership.
5. Some type of club events at meetings to invite public to and raise awareness of us (LCARA) and possibly increase membership.
6. Some type of award to recognize outstanding operators.

If you have any opinions about the above (and I know most of you will), it is recommended you join us at the club meeting on Oct. 11th. 73, Tom

KD8EBY@arrl.net
E.C. Lapeer County, Mi.
ARES/RACES/Skywarn
NAEMT(P) Member

***Don't forget to join
your fellow hams on
the **Tuesday** night
net at 8:00 pm on
146.620 - with 100
Hz PL***



NET CONTROL SCHEDULE

Oct 4th 2011 Charlie KC8JBK
Oct 11th 2011 Club meeting
Oct 18th 2011 Dan KC1BUD
Oct 25th 2011 Debra KD8GAV
Nov 1st 2011 Kevin KB8TAR
Nov 8th 2011 Club meeting
Nov 15th 2011 Tom KD8EBY
Nov 22nd 2011 Charlie KC8JBK
Nov 29th 2011 Dan KC1BUD
Dec 6th 2011 Debra KD8GAV
Dec 13th 2011 Christmas Party
Dec 20th 2011 Kevin KB8TAR
Dec 27th 2011 Tom KD8EBY

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Stuff for Sale

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WANTED, Programming disc and cables for a Johnson Challenger II; 8 channel radio. Contact Tom, KD8EBY

If you have something to sell please send an email with the details to kevinboxey@hotmail.com to be included in the Waveguide listing

Our Thursday night 440 net on Sept 20th had more check-ins than the 2m net that week !!

Every Thursday at 8:00 pm on 442.750 + with 123 Hz PL



MICHIGAN HAMFEST CALENDAR:

October 16 - Kalamazoo

October 23 - USECA Sterling Heights

RESCUE RADIO: HAM COMES TO THE AID OF SAN DIEGO WHEN ITS FAIL SAFE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FAILS

A ham radio operator uses his knowledge of two-way radio to supplement communications when power goes out and a failsafe 800 MHz system fails. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the newsroom with the details:

According to news reports, the power mains problem began near Yuma , Arizona . Affected by the September 8th black-out were parts on Southern California, South-Western Arizona and Northern Mexico . All of these areas share the same power grid and in Southern California alone some 8 million customers lost electric service. And when the lights went out in San Diego , so did parts of the regions 800 MHz shared emergency communications network.

The problem that arose was that in some North County service areas mobiles in the field could not hear their dispatchers. In other places the dispatchers could not communicate with mobile stations. But thanks to some thoughtful planning by North County Fire Battalion Chief Don Stevens, KF6ATL, a combination of ham radio know-how and an ageing commercial VHF radio system, not all was lost:

KF6ATL: "Probably 15 years ago most of the Fire Departments in North San Diego County were on the VHF system. Subsequent to that, San Diego County, for inter-operability reasons built a regional communications that they call the RDS system. It's a Motorola system like other Motorola systems throughout the United States .

"Before we went to the system we are dispatched on at present, we were one of the last holdouts to go onto the 800 MHz system. And when we did that, one of the decisions that a couple of us made was not only to keep our (VHF) licenses, but also to turn our then remote-base transmitters into repeaters. We felt that we were not going to do what a lot of other cities did and that was to completely get rid of their VHF infrastructure all together."

Stevens tells Newsline that while his department is a part of the county wide 800 MHz system, when the switchover took place he decided to keep the San Diego North County VHF system as a back-up:

KF6ATL: "We had about 6 or 7 frequencies licensed to what was then the Fallbrook Fire Department which is now the North County Fire Department, and slowly but surely I took those licenses and turned three of them into what we call "Command Channels" or "Command Frequencies" and we strategically located them on mountaintops throughout North San Diego County.

"One of the first repeaters we put up was at a place called Buffalo Bump. Its on Camp Pendleton . It was followed by a same-licensed repeater up on Palomar Mountain and then another frequency located on Red Mountain , all within eye-sight of Fallbrook.

RESCUE RADIO: HAM COMES TO THE AID OF SAN DIEGO WHEN ITS FAIL SAFE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FAILS (page 2)

"And then I have one other repeater that I consider a low level repeater located in downtown Fallbrook."

That forward planning by KF6ATL paid off then the power failure hit:

KF6ATL: "I was off on the day that the 800 MHz failure occurred with the power outage. Luckily, one of my counterparts who works for the city of San Marcos - Dave Schloss - recognized that there was a failure - and like myself - he realized that we needed to do something with our 800 system to have redundancy. So he reacted quickly and called the Dispatch Center and started moving all the traffic over to my North County Fire VHF repeaters."

We asked Stevens if his experience as a radio amateur helped in the pre-planning of the North County VHF radio back up system:

KF6ATL: "Pretty much everything that I've done, I've done myself. I've taught myself how to program repeaters. The only thing that I didn't do was to hang the antennas."

In the end, Stevens hopes other communities will do as his did and make certain that some sort of back up emergency radio system is in place. This, just in case the unthinkable happens and the primary system fails.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in the studio in Los Angeles .

If nothing else, this is another incident that proves putting all emergency communications eggs into a single, supposedly fail-safe system can very easily fail is not a very good idea. (CGC, ARNewsline™)

Bob Tinney, K8LR

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

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Officers

President: Kevin Boxey KB8TAR, 810-793-4986
Vice President: Tom Oliver KD8EBY, 810-247-3227
Treasurer: Bill Miller KD8VP, 810-797-5329
Secretary: Flo Haack KC8CAB, 810-793-2606

Committees and Appointees

Club Call Trustee W8LAP: Bill Miller KD8EBY
Repeater Assistants: KC1BUD, KD8EBY, KD8EOA
Skywarn Coordinator: Tom Oliver KD8EBY
Swap & Shop Chairperson: Dan Bain KC1BUD
Meeting Refreshments: Bill Miller KD8VP
Newsletter Editor: Kevin Boxey KB8TAR
Field Day Chairman: Joe Medved KD8CIL
Field Day Assistants: KD8EBY, KC1BUD, KB8TAR
Net Manager: Tom Oliver KD8EBY
Testing Coordinator: **TBD**
County EC: Tom Oliver KD8EBY
County PIO: Dan Bain KC1BUD
County AEC: Joe Medved KD8CIL
County AEC: Kevin Boxey KB8TAR

