

# Waveguide



Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

PO Box 12, Hadley MI 48440-0012

<http://www.w8lap.com>

[qso@w8lap.com](mailto:qso@w8lap.com)

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## NOVEMBER, 2016

<b>Officers</b> <table border="1"><tr><td><b>President</b></td><td>Gerret Peters</td><td>KD8YUK</td></tr><tr><td><b>Vice President</b></td><td>Kevin Boxey</td><td>KB8TAR</td></tr><tr><td><b>Treasurer</b></td><td>William (Bill) Miller</td><td>KD8VP</td></tr><tr><td><b>Secretary</b></td><td>Lee Dziekan</td><td>N8LJ</td></tr></table> <b>Committees &amp; Appointments</b> <p><b>Club Call Trustee:</b> Mike Zedan, KN8Z</p> <p><b>Repeater Technical Team:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mike Zedan, KN8Z</li><li>• Lee Dziekan, N8LJ</li><li>• Will Stanton, KB8YGA</li></ul> <p><b>Meeting Refreshments:</b> Bill Miller, KD8VP</p> <p><b>Newsletter Editor:</b> <b>OPEN POSITION</b></p> <p><b>Webmaster:</b> David Erskine, KD8GXW</p> <p><b>County EC*:</b> Kevin Boxey, KB8TAR</p> <p><b>Operation CARE:</b> Tom Oliver, KD8EBY <b>Seeking New Coordinator</b></p> <p><small>*Emergency Coordinator. Assistants are listed under the ARES team.</small></p>	<b>President</b>	Gerret Peters	KD8YUK	<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Boxey	KB8TAR	<b>Treasurer</b>	William (Bill) Miller	KD8VP	<b>Secretary</b>	Lee Dziekan	N8LJ	<b>W8LAP Repeaters</b> <p><b>2 Meter:</b> 146.620 -100 Hz PL Tone <b>70 CM:</b> 442.750 +123 Hz PL Tone</p> <b>Next Club Meeting</b> <p>Tuesday, November 08, 7:30pm Yes, it's election day. Vote early, then come to the meeting.</p> <b>Meeting Location</b> <p>Lapeer County EOC / Dispatch 2332 West Genesee Street Lapeer, MI 48446</p> <b>ARES Nets</b> <p>Tuesdays, 8pm, 2 Meter Repeater</p> <b>ARES Digital Nets</b> <p>Thursdays, see ARES section of the Waveguide for details.</p>
<b>President</b>	Gerret Peters	KD8YUK											
<b>Vice President</b>	Kevin Boxey	KB8TAR											
<b>Treasurer</b>	William (Bill) Miller	KD8VP											
<b>Secretary</b>	Lee Dziekan	N8LJ											

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# Editorials

## The President's Corner

Hello LCARA members and supporters! We have been enjoying an extended stretch of outstanding weather, and I hope you've been able to enjoy some of these spectacular days. As Bill notes in his column, "winter is coming", and the weather can't hold forever. We've been laying in a bit of firewood, and I'm looking forward to testing out my radio "go box" this winter in front of a nice fire.

The club meeting falls on election day, the fruition of a particularly bare-knuckled election season. Be sure to vote early, and come to the meeting for Lee's presentation on antenna stubs! If we can't filter the noise out of the television and social media, at least the HF bands can be cleaned up a bit.

There was quite a bit of good discussion at last month's meeting about the possibility of a club investment into a digital repeater. Several of the other columns this month go into more detail, and there is certainly more to come on the topic. If you have perspectives to share regarding digital repeaters, feel free to drop us a line at [gso@w8lap.com](mailto:gso@w8lap.com) and we'll share it around to the officers.

Regarding digital modes, if you've ever wondered what the big deal is with FL-DIGI or HF digital modes, consider stopping by an ARES team meeting (check the calendar later in this issue for specific dates & times). While each meeting is different, that team is focused on using digital modes to communicate in emergency situations, and the members would be happy to "Elmer" interested hams in the jump to digital.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the need for a club member to assume the (light) mantle of **Waveguide Editor**. The position details are included in the note on this topic later in this issue. If you're concerned about taking it on, I'll share that the membership (that's you) elected me to the role at my very first club meeting, and so far I don't think anything has burned down (or out). You can do it.

At the October meeting, I mentioned a member survey that will be going out via Survey Monkey. That survey is under construction and will be out prior to year end. It will come from the same email address that sends the

Waveguides out, so please set your spam filters accordingly - your feedback is critical to the health, growth, and success of LCARA.

I look forward to seeing you at the November meeting.

Best Regards,

Gerret Peters, KD8YUK

## Treasurer's Report

Greetings to one and all,

I would like to report that the treasury is looking good for the upcoming year. Operation Care did a good job of bringing things back to normal. That and the steady inflow of club dues will bring us through another fulfilling year.

There has been much talk about doing something about bringing our repeater into the 21st century. Please keep your leaders in mind, while they hash the possibility of going digital/analog with our repeaters. From the treasury standpoint we have the money in a special savings account to do repeater improvement and repairs so that would not be a worry for members. The major hang up is trying to decipher what kind of system to invest in. There are good and bad features in all of them, and it is a very hard decision to make. Also it is kind of scary, in that if we make the wrong decision we may have wasted the clubs money. So above all have patients and bear with the officers.

Better get your antennas up and repaired, winter is fast approaching.

Respectfully,  
William Miller KD8VP Treasurer

## Secretary's Report

### **Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association - Meeting Minutes - October 11, 2016**

The meeting was called to order by newly elected President Gerret, KD8YUK. There were 12 members present.

Gordon, KD8TXW presented a comprehensive view of Software Defined Radio technology utilizing the Radio Spectrum Processor System reasonably offered by SDRplay.com.

Hospital Report: Gary Dupont is recovering nicely from his illness.

General Announcements:

-USECA Swap October 30.

Two club positions remain unfilled.

-The 2017 Operation Care director.

(There was some confusion if this position is open for 2017 or 2018)

-Waveguide editor. Gerret is willing to train someone who is willing to learn new software and take over the editor position.

The September Secretary's report as published in the Waveguide was approved by unanimous vote of the members present.

The Treasure's report was presented and unanimously approved by the members present.

EC Report:

- Kevin reported he will present the Lapeer County ARES capability at the Emergency Management Advisory Council.
- The October ARES meeting will be held in the EOC meeting room at 7 pm October 19.
- Joe's Army & Navy in Waterford is offering 4 foot aluminum mast sections for \$4 each.

**Old Business:** The repeater shack roof is in need of repair. It's not leaking yet.

**New Business:**

- A discussion was restarted to study the possibility of upgrading the existing repeater system to a digital platform. Should it be DMR, Fusion, or D-Star?. Our existing systems are fully functional but they

are quite old. At what point do repair parts become unavailable? More discussion to follow.

- The December 13th meeting will be our annual Christmas Party. Stay tuned for time and location.

Meeting adjourned 8:45 pm. 50/50 won by Mike KN8Z.

## Repeater Trustee's Report

Hello W8LAP Supporters,

There were no technical problems with the repeater this month, or any matters concerning use of the W8LAP club call.

### Digital Matters

The subject of updating our repeater(s) to include digital modes is being bantered, through emails, by several members. Each of the three or four modes has their good and not-so-good points. The issue with our club was that we had no contact with those who have experience in these matters. That changed this week, when Kevin, KB8TAR, our club Emergency Coordinator, attended a meeting that had many people who have gone through the evaluation (and launch) process. Additionally, several have volunteered their expertise. There will be more in this column as things progress.

The Charlotte Digital Radio Group has very good presentation slides that explain the VHF/UHF digital modes, and Gary Pearce has a video of a live presentation of the slides.

Slides:

<http://www.charlottedstar.org/Digital%20Voice%20Progress%20-%202016.pdf>

Video Presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-2p5apAAUI&feature=youtu.be>

### Link of the Month – Learning Morse Code

In my decades of being a CW op, I have used, and researched many methods of learning Morse. All took a great deal of dedication and time to reach proficiency.

Wouldn't you know that, since Morse is not a requirement for Amateur licensing, someone would discover a method that requires very little effort. An experiment at Georgia Institute of Technology has produced intriguing results. This link doesn't provide great detail of the process, but is worth investigating if one has an inclination to begin learning:

<http://phys.org/news/2016-10-morse-code.html>

If you have any questions about the above material, feel free to contact me at the below address.

See you at the next meeting,

Mike, KN8Z (kn8z at arrl.net)

## Seeking a Newsletter Editor

The Waveguide, it's in a monospaced font, there are no photos or graphics, and it seems...short! What happened?

Gerret, KD8YUK, was elected to the role of President for LCARA, and has stepped down as the editor to focus his energies on leading LCARA as a whole.

Until the club selects a new editor, and because the newsletter is an important outreach and communications tool for the club, Gerret will publish a minimalist edition of the newsletter.

As it happens, this issue of the Waveguide was designed and published in Google Docs, freely available to anyone with a computer and recent browser. If you're worried about your "computer savvy" being a hindrance, know this: if you can use Facebook, send email, or tap out instant messages on your phone, you can master this technology. Gerret is willing to train you over a cup of coffee or three, as needed.

Volunteer Position	Waveguide Newsletter Editor
<b>Key Responsibilities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Publish the monthly newsletter electronically</li><li>• Request, edit and incorporate monthly editorial articles from LCARA board members, call sign trustee, and emergency coordinator</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Select and include occasional feature articles related to the Amateur Radio hobby.</li> <li>● Edit submitted text for basic spelling / grammar</li> </ul>
<b>Equipment Required</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Computer</li> <li>● Google Chrome Internet Browser (Free)</li> <li>● Reliable Internet Access</li> <li>● Reliable email account</li> </ul>
<b>How to Apply</b>	Send email with interests and qualifications to <a href="mailto:gso@w8lap.com">gso@w8lap.com</a> . A member of the leadership team will get in touch with you promptly!

## Upcoming Club Events

Also see schedule of weekly nets on page 1.

### November 2016

- 11/08, 7:30pm - Club Meeting, Lapeer EOC
  - Presentation: Antenna Stubs for Eliminating Interference, by Lee Dziekan, N8LJ
- 11/10, 8pm - FL-DIGI Net 145.01 MHz, Olivia 8/500
- 11/16, 7pm - ARES Team Meeting, Lapeer EOC
  - Interested hams always welcome! Come check it out if you're curious.

### December 2016

- 12/08, 8pm - FL-DIGI Net 145.01 MHz, Olivia 8/500
- 12/13, Club Christmas Dinner, Location TBD
- 12/21, 7pm - ARES Team Meeting, Lapeer EOC
- 12/29, 8pm - FL-DIGI Net 145.01 MHz, Olivia 8/500



## For Sale and Wanted

- **Wanted** - Coaxial cable crimpers suitable for Amateur Radio cabling. Contact Gerret, KD8YUK if you have a pair for sale (or extended loan) at a reasonable price. ([kd8yuk@kd8yuk.org](mailto:kd8yuk@kd8yuk.org))

# L.C.A.R.A. Membership Application

Call Sign: License Class:	Name:
Address:	
City:	
State:	Postal Code:
Email Address:	
ARRL Member (Y/N):	ARES Member (Y/N):
RACES Member (Y/N) and Card #:	SKYWARN Member (Y/N) and Number:
Social Media Handles:	

L.C.A.R.A. Memberships are due annually on October 1st.

- **\$12** - Individual Membership
- **\$20** - Family Membership
- **\$4** - Associate Membership
- **\$3** - Repeater AutoDial Number

Membership forms may be turned in to the Treasurer at a monthly meeting, or mailed to the club address:

**Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association**  
**P.O. Box 12**  
**Hadley, MI 48440-0012**