

The Waveguide

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

PO Box 12, Hadley MI 48440-0012

<http://www.w8lap.com> | qso@w8lap.com



June 2018

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W8LAP Repeaters

2 Meter: 146.620 -100 Hz PL Tone

70 cm: 442.750 +123 Hz PL Tone

Club Meeting

Second Tuesday of each month
Lapeer EOC Conference Room
(Basement of Dispatch Center)
2332 West Genesee Street
Lapeer, MI 48446

ARES Team Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month
Lapeer EOC Conference Room
(Basement of Dispatch Center)
2332 West Genesee Street
Lapeer, MI 48446

Regular Nets

Tuesdays, 8pm, 2 Meter Repeater
All amateur operators are welcome to
check in. Controlled net, two-rounds.
No net on club meeting nights.

Support W8LAP and LCARA!

PayPal donations may be sent
to treasurer@w8lap.com
Thank you for your continued
support of Amateur Radio in
our community!



The latest edition of the Waveguide each month -
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Reports & Editorials

President's Report

Hello LCARA Supporters!

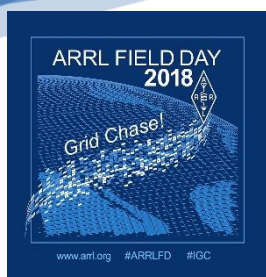
It's June, and that means Field Day. For those of you who have attended the past couple of years, I'll be opening my pole barn again for the weekend. See the attached flyer on Field Day later in the Waveguide for more detail.

The other big news for the past couple of months is that LCARA unanimously voted to adopt D-STAR as the platform of choice for our UHF repeater pair. After several years (really) of discussion, presentations from a variety of experts in D-STAR, DMR, and Fusion, field trips to Ohio, and much online research, it feels really good to have the decision made. I'm thankful to the numerous club members who have already stepped forward with donations to make a D-STAR repeater happen at, frankly, a breakneck pace.

In a stroke of good fortune, during a May promotion, Icom America is offering a complete single-band repeater and controller for a dramatically lower cost than we thought it would be for the UHF repeater. Considering the limited nature of the opportunity, the executive board and repeater technical team convened a meeting and decided to pursue the program. At the time I write this, Icom has moved LCARA forward to the next round for consideration, and I hope a favorable outcome.

73,

Gerret, KD8YUK



LAPEER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
ARRL FIELD DAY - JUNE 23 – 24, 2018

See information in this month's
Waveguide for more details!
(page 12)

Treasurer's Report

| 2018 | Date | Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association May 2018 Financial Report Lakestone Bank | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|-------------------|
| | | cash on hand - carry over | \$95.50 | |
| Received | 5/8/2018 | 50/50 Raffle - 23 Tickets sold | \$11.50 | \$107.00 |
| Received | 5/8/2018 | KE8ICE - Membership Dues | \$12.00 | \$119.00 |
| Received | 5/8/2018 | KC8SHI - Membership Dues | \$12.00 | \$131.00 |
| Received | 5/8/2018 | Donations towards D-STAR Repeater | \$200.00 | \$331.00 |
| Paid | 5/8/2018 | KD8VP - Coffee & Donuts | -\$12.98 | \$318.02 |
| Received | 5/8/2018 | Coffee & Donuts Donations | \$9.00 | \$327.02 |
| | 5/8/2018 | Total Cash on Hand Balance: | | \$327.02 |
| | | Checking Account balance May 2018 | | \$1,422.38 |
| Paid | 5/2/2018 | DTE - Auto Pay | -\$31.14 | \$1,391.24 |
| Deposit | 5/19/2018 | Cash Deposit | \$307.02 | \$1,698.26 |
| | | Checking Account Balance: | | \$1,698.26 |
| | | Lakestone Bank Certificate of Deposit | | |
| | 4/17/2018 | balance - May 2018 | | \$5,851.39 |
| | | This is a 2 year certificate started in January 2017, changes quarterly with earned interest | | |
| Balance of all funds: | | | | \$7,549.65 |
| Respectfully Submitted by: PAUL ZUHLKE, AB8XL | | | | |

Notes From the Desk of the Secretary

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association- Meeting Minutes - May 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by our president Gerret KD8YUK. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

Hospital Report:

No one reported to be ill

Secretary report:

Minutes from the April 2018 meeting was accepted as read, by the membership present.

Treasures report:

The financial status of the Association was reported and accepted by membership present.

Repeater Trustee report:

Mike KN8Z reported all is fine with our repeater systems. He also recapped last month's fuse issue affecting the 2 meter machine.

EC report:

ARES team participated in the State SET exercise. Communications were successful from Lapeer County on uhf, vhf, and 75 meters.

May ARES training meeting will be at the EOC on the 16th at 7pm.

Search & Rescue team was started and Kevin KB8TAR is advising them on communication requirements. This team meets the 1st Thursday of the month. If interested in joining, contact Kevin.

Big Fish Triathlon event is Sunday, June 10. Contact Kevin KB8TAR if you interested in providing communication support.

Digital Repeater Committee report:

There have been a variety of presentations over last years, first initiated to upgrade the LCARA repeater capability. After reviewing the available digital technology options of Fusion, DMR, and D-Star, the committee recommends upgrading the UHF repeater to the D-Star system. The digital repeater team also has a plan to implement an internet hotspot at our repeater sight. This hot spot can provide full usage capability of the D-Star system. Feasibility of their plan will be verified with site testing later in May.

There was a motion, seconded, and unanimously approved by the membership present to proceed with the UHF D Star repeater system. The digital repeater team will finalize the costs and present it to the membership for expenditure approval.

Next steps are internet connection verification, equipment costs, and a digital system training program.

We need to ensure after the digital repeater purchase, sufficient funds are available to replace the old 2 meter repeater should it have a catastrophic malfunction. Paul AB8XL, reported that Bridgecom offers VHF analogue repeaters about \$1000.

Web Master Report:

Scott N8XP is finalizing on line dues payment. If you like to see other features on the site, contact Scott directly.

Gerret KD8YUK suggested forming an informal group of Antenna Party volunteers to help any member that needs help with an antenna project. A sign up sheet was passed around to get volunteer helpers.

Dan KC1BUD asked how we could honor Lapeer County hams who pass(ed) away?

Field Day is June 23&24. LCARA needs a location since Garret's place may not be available. Local park? Any ideas? Bring them to the June meeting.

Break 8:25pm

50/50 won by KN8Z

Meeting adjourned 8:37pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Lee, N8LJ



photo courtesy of Ward McGinnis - WA8RD

Club Items

Call for Presentations

Club meeting night is more interesting with presentations! If you have a topic you'd like to learn more about, or present, please contact any member of the board. The audience is easy to work with, and we can provide a projector. If you know someone who would be willing to present, put us in touch with them.

Heard on the Wire

Random articles of interest found around the internet! If you find an interesting article you would like to share with the club – send an e-mail to newsletter@w8lap.com – thank you!



photo courtesy of Ward McGinnis - WA8RD

Is the internet, millennials or FT-8 killing ham radio?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Amateur radio bloggers love to write about the demise of amateur radio. To wit, we have:

- KONR's [Is the Internet destroying amateur radio?](http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/)
(<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2017/11/internet-destroying-amateur-radio/>)
- N0SSC's [Millennials are killing ham radio](http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio)
(<http://n0ssc.com/posts/583-millennials-are-killing-ham-radio>)
- PE4BAS' [Is FT-8 damaging amateur radio?](https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html)
(<https://pe4bas.blogspot.com/2018/04/is-ft8-damaging-hamradio.html>)
- NZ0T's [Did Joe Taylor K1JT Destroy Amateur Radio?](http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html)
(<http://www.ei5di.com/jt.html>)

Of course, none of these posts are really saying that the internet, millennials, or FT-8 has killed amateur radio. What they are saying is that all of these are changing amateur radio as we know it. Well, duh, the way we live our lives changes every day. Why should amateur radio be any different?

For example, Bob, K0NR, discusses how the operation of remote stations is changing the game of DX. Can you really claim that you worked a DX station if you rented time on a super station? [I've written about that topic, too](https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/) (https://www.kb6nu.com/dx-advisory-committee-wants-to-put-the-screws-to-remote-operation/).

There has also been much written about how FT8 is changing the amateur radio game. [One blog post](https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html) (https://ve7sl.blogspot.com/2017/10/160m-ft8-end-of-era.html), talking about the effect of FT8 on 160m operation, even goes so far to say that this is the “end of an era.” On DX World, the results of the poll, [“FT8 – Damaging to Amateur Radio?”](https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/) (https://dx-world.net/yes-or-no-a-poll-on-ft8/) show more than half of the respondents think that FT8 is damaging amateur radio.

I specifically used the word “game” in the previous two paragraphs because that’s exactly what’s changing. The physics of amateur radio certainly isn’t changing. Our transmitters are still generating electromagnetic waves like they have been for decades, and on the HF bands, anyway, those radio waves are bouncing off the ionosphere just as they have been for more than the past 100 years.

What’s changing is the human component. By that I mean what’s changing is how we think people should participate in the hobby. The hams that are complaining that the internet or millennials or FT8 is killing amateur radio are really just complaining that people aren’t participating in amateur radio the way they want them to participate.

Here’s where we talk about millennials. In his blog post, Sterling, N0SSC, suggests that setting up remote stations is one way to engage young people. He writes, “I believe that remote operating, and other internet-assisted means of ham radio operation, are critical to youth engagement.”

He’s also big on an idea he calls “ham radio hackathons.” He writes,

“A hackathon isn’t a coding competition. It’s explained well in [this Medium article](https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601) (https://medium.com/hackathons-anonymous/wtf-is-a-hackathon-92668579601). It goes even further than that, not limited to coders and engineers, but open to thinkers, doers, philosophers, system engineers, math people, teachers, students, artists, stakeholders...anyone with an interest in **solving a problem with technology.**”

I support both of these ideas, but I think that millennials (and, to be fair, it isn’t just millennials we’re talking about here, but any newcomers to the hobby) need to step up and get these things going. I don’t think it’s my job to try to get kids interested in amateur radio. I don’t even know if that’s really possible. What I can do, however, is be there to encourage and support kids (and anyone else that expresses a sincere interest in amateur radio).

For example, I'm not sure how fruitful it would be to set up my station to be remotely operable and then saying to some kids, "Hey, come and operate my station." What I think would be more fruitful is to say to a kid, "Hey, come help me set up my remote control station, so that we both can use it." Then, it turns into a learning situation, and we both gain from the exercise.

The same kind of thing has to happen with ham radio hackathons. The motivation has to come from the ground up, not the top down. I do hope that this idea gets off the ground, though, and I'm standing by, ready to support this effort however I can.

I think that millennials (I'm really getting tired of that term, by the way) need to grab the bull by the horns and take amateur radio in the direction they want it to go. Feel free to kill amateur radio as we know it. Make it better!

When he's not trying to figure out how to save amateur radio, Dan builds stuff, blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about what you think is killing amateur radio at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Calendar of Events

- External Event (not LCARA-sponsored)

A - ARES Team Event

June 2018

- 06/10, Morning, time TBA - Big Fish Triathlon Amateur Radio Support
- 06/12, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 06/14, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 06/20, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- 06/23-24, ARRL Field Day 2018

July 2018

- 07/10, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 07/12, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460

August 2018

- 08/14, 6:00pm - Picnic in the Park
 - Officer Nominations Due for 2018-2019
- 08/15, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- 08/16, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 08/25, Early Morning, Crim Festival of Races Amateur Radio Support

September 2018

- 09/11, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
 - 2019 Officer Elections
- 09/13, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 09/19, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC

October 2018

- 10/09, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 10/11, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 10/17, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC

November 2018

- 11/04, 2:00am - Daylight Savings Time
- 11/13, 7:30pm - Club Meeting
- 11/15, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460
- 11/17, 9:00am - ARES Exercise, 145.010, use home station
- 11/22, all day – Thanksgiving

December 2018

- 12/11, 6:30pm - Club Holiday Dinner
- 12/19, 7:00pm - ARES Training @EOC
- 12/13, 8:00pm - D-STAR Simplex Net, 146.460

Upcoming Michigan Section Hamfests and Swaps

With summer approaching, here is an update of the currently registered ARRL hamfests in the Great Lakes Division through the end of the year.

For more information – visit <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

| | | |
|---------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 6/2/18 | IRA | Hudsonville, MI |
| 6/2/18 | Fulton County | Tedrow, OH |
| 6/2/18 | Princeton Hamfest | Princeton, KY |
| 6/3/18 | Chelsea Hamfest | Chelsea, MI |
| 6/9/18 | Luce County | Newberry, MI |
| 6/9/18 | Union County | Marysville, OH |
| 6/16/18 | Midland Hamfest | Midland, MI |
| 6/16/18 | Milford Hamfest | Milford, OH |
| 6/17/18 | Monroe Hamfest | Monroe, MI |
| 7/8/18 | 20/9 Radio Club Tailgate and Hamfest | Austintown, OH |
| 7/21/18 | GARS Germantown Hamfest | Germantown, OH |
| 7/21/18 | NOARS Fest | Elyria, OH |
| 7/21/18 | Gladwin | Gladwin, MI |
| 7/22/18 | Van Wert | Van Wert, OH |
| 7/28/18 | Big Sandy Hamfest | Louisa, KY |
| 7/28/18 | CMARC Outdoor Hamfest | Lansing |
| 7/29/18 | Portage Hamfair | Ravenna, OH |
| 8/4/18 | Columbus Hamfest | Columbus, OH |
| 8/4/18 | UP Hamfest | Escanaba, MI |
| 8/11/18 | Central Kentucky | Lexington, KY |
| 8/12/18 | Cuyahoga Falls Tailgate Swap | Stow, OH |
| 8/12/18 | Seaway Trunk Swap | Port Huron, MI |
| 9/8/18 | Grand Rapids GRAHamfest | Wyoming, MI |
| 9/8/18 | Greater Louisville Hamfest | Sheperdsville, KY |
| 9/9/18 | Findlay | Findlay, OH |
| 9/16/18 | Central Kentucky Hamfest | Richmond, KY |
| 9/16/18 | Adrian | Adrian, MI |
| 9/22/18 | OHKYIN ARS Hamfest | Cincinnati, OH |
| 9/23/18 | Cleveland Hamfest | Berea, OH |
| 9/29/18 | Paintsville Hamfest | Paintsville, KY |
| 10/6/18 | Vette City | Bowling Green, KY |
| 10/8/18 | Michigan State Convention/GL HamCon | Brooklyn, MI |

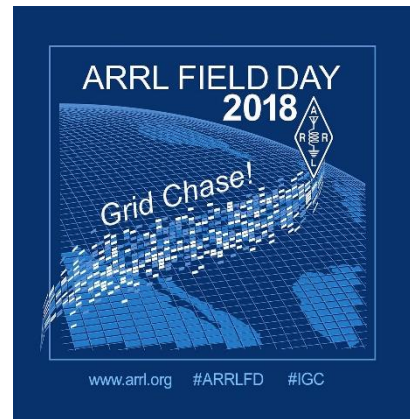
| | | |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 10/10/18 | Microwave Update | Fairborn, OH |
| 10/13/18 | Cave Run Hamfest | Moorehead, KY |
| 10/20/18 | Muskegon Color Tour | Muskegon, MI |
| 10/22/18 | Kalamazoo | Kalamazoo, MI |
| 10/27/18 | Hazard | Hazard, KY |
| 10/28/18 | USECA | Madison Hts, MI |
| 12/2/18 | Lanse Creuse | Madison Hts, MI |

LIFE IS SIMPLE



Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

Field Day June 23-24, 2018



Location and Schedule

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Dates | June 23 and 24, 2018 |
| Setup | Fri, 6/22 5pm-9pm Sat, 6/23 12pm-2pm |
| Field Day Operations | Sat, 6/23 2pm to Sun, 6/24 2pm |
| Sat Dinner | Sat, 7pm (Burgers & Dogs, Potluck) |
| Sun Breakfast | Sun, 8am (Farm Breakfast from KD8YUK XYL kitchen) |
| Teardown | Sun, 2pm (or sooner if we're whipped!) |
| Talk-In Frequency | LCARA 2m Repeater |

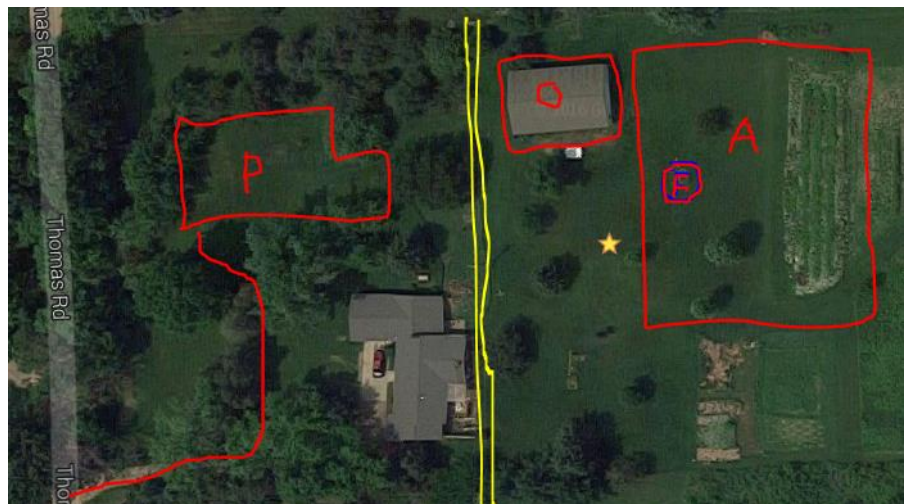
Directions

5885 Thomas Road
Oxford, MI 48371-1155
Gerret Peters, KD8YUK
cell: 248-921-5398

Directions: Take your best route to M24 (Lapeer Road).

From the north: Turn left at Davison Lake Road, then left on Thomas Road (first stop sign)

From the south: Turn right on Thomas Road, continue through Davison Lake Road intersection



5th Driveway on the right coming north from Davison Lake; Turn east into driveway; there will be a Field Day sign.

P – Parking. O – Operating Stations. A – Antenna Field. F – Fire pit. Yellow lines are residential power lines.

Officers & Committees

Officers

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------|
| President | Gerret Peters | KD8YUK |
| Vice President | Kevin Boxey | KB8TAR |
| Treasurer | Paul Zuhlke | AB8XL |
| Secretary | Lee Dziekan | N8LJ |

Committees & Appointments

Club Call Trustee: Mike Zedan, KN8Z

Repeater Technical Team:

- Mike Zedan, KN8Z (**Trustee**)
- Lee Dziekan, N8LJ
- Will Stanton, KB8YGA

Newsletter Editor / Webmaster: Scott Nicholes, N8XP

EC/RO Lapeer County: Kevin Boxey, KB8TAR

- **AEC SkyWarn Net Manager:** Tom Oliver, KD8EBY
- **AEC SkyWarn Net Manager:** Paul Zuhlke, AB8XL
- **AEC FL-DIGI, FL-MSG Manager:** Scott Nicholes, N8XP

*EC: Emergency Coordinator / AEC: Assistant EC / RO: Radio Operator

LCARA Membership Application

Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Call Sign: | Name: |
| License Class: <input type="checkbox"/> Technician <input type="checkbox"/> General <input type="checkbox"/> Extra Other: | |
| Address: | |
| City: | |
| State + Postal Code: | Phone Number: |
| 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

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