



# THE LED

## April 2010

Published by the Livingston Amateur Radio Klub  
Howell, Michigan

**Livingston Amateur Radio Klub**  
**PO Box 283**  
**Howell, Michigan 48844**

[www.W8LRK.org](http://www.W8LRK.org)

NET 146.680  
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

NEXT KLUB MEETING  
Thursday, April 8th, at 7:30PM  
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way  
Howell, MI



### BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Van</b>	<b>N8GVD</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary</b>	<b>KC8SER</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Patrick</b>	<b>W8LNO</b>
<b>Program Manager</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>KC8VAB</b>
<b>Tech Director</b>	<b>Les</b>	<b>W8MSP</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>KD8CCR</b>

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

<b>Repeater Trustee</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>LED Editor</b>	<b>Michelle</b>	<b>KD8GWX</b>
<b>VE Coordinador</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>PIO Officer</b>	<b>Brandon</b>	<b>KC8YHE</b>
<b>PIO Officer</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>N8ENX</b>
<b>Web Site</b>	<b>Les</b>	<b>W8MSP</b>

The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub maintains the 146.680 (Negative Offset, 162.2 CTCSS) and also the 444.525 (Positive Offset, 100.0 CTCSS) repeaters in Livingston County.

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## Jim's Jive ....

Greetings LARK members!

The snow has melted, and we're all beginning our annual "dusting off the cobwebs" rituals. Very soon we'll be complaining about the outside temperature being too warm!

Along with the other spring chores, I have a couple of new antennas to put up, including a little one for 160 meters. I'm looking forward to improving my transmit capabilities on the lower amateur bands this spring. How about you?

I had the privilege of attending the memorial service for Bob Banta K8PBA a few weeks ago. Please keep Laurene, WA8IAQ in your thoughts and prayers.

### License Upgrades

Spring is an excellent time to dust off the books and study for that license upgrade. Already have your Extra? Then consider studying for the ARES and RACES certifications out there. You're never too old to learn something new!

### 2010 Michigan QSO Party

The 2010 Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) will be April 17-18. All amateurs are invited to participate. As usual, Michigan amateurs receive contest points for contacting other amateurs within the state/section.

Amateurs outside of Michigan earn contest points for QSOs with Michigan hams, only. As the announcement of the Party says, "This is a great opportunity develop HF operating skills, represent the great state of Michigan, and last but not least, have a bunch of fun. Even if you don't consider yourself a contest operator, you'll probably find its a blast to jump in to work the throng who will be looking for Michigan QSOs. If you've ever operated on Field Day, you'll certainly be ready for MiQP."

The operating period is twelve hours long, from noon local time (1600Z) until midnight local (0400Z) Eastern time. "Activity takes place on the 80 thru 10 meter bands, on both phone and CW. The exchange is

simple: a sequential QSO number (starting with 1, then 2, 3...) and your location (county for Michigan stations, and state, province or "DX" for others). A station may be worked once per band and mode, with CW QSOs counting two points and phone QSOs counting one point (just like Field Day). Multipliers are states, provinces, and Michigan counties, counted once on phone and once on CW. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers."

There are handsome plaques for major category winners in Michigan and certificates for the top single-operator score in each Michigan county.

There is a competition for Michigan clubs where scores of its members are combined into an aggregate score for that club. There are also categories and awards for mobile and multi-operator stations.

"The separate category instituted in 2008 for Emergency Operation Center (EOC) stations has become a permanent part of MiQP, and continues in 2010. A handsome MiQP plaque will be awarded to the highest scoring EOC station and certificates for second and third place. We are also continuing the 'MiQP Rookie Of The Year' plaque instituted in 2007, which is awarded to the top single-operator score submitted by a Michigan station who has never participated in MiQP before."

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## Jim's Jive (continued) ....

See <http://www.miqp.org> for complete rules and further information.  
The MiQP is sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club.

**It would be real nice if some of you could man the EOC low band station for this event! We might even get the Klub to buy snacks and drinks!** The station at the EOC is a very nice one, and you couldn't ask for a nicer radio room to operate from.

### WA8EFK named ECAC Chairman

Last month Jim Weaver, K8JE, announced the appointment of Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK as the Great Lakes Division representative on the new ARRL Emergency Communications Advisory Committee (ECAC). Dale has accepted ARRL President Kay Craigie's, N3KN appointment to chair this committee. This is great for all of us who participate in emergency planning. Be sure and congratulate Dale when you see him at the various swaps.

### New MOU between Red Cross and ARRL is Signed

ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN and Joseph C. Becker, Senior Vice President, Disaster Services for the American National Red Cross (ANRC) signed the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations on March 25 in Washington, DC. The ceremony took place at ANRC Headquarters.

Two features of the new MOU that were not included in previous memoranda are clauses regarding background checks and the status of amateurs as RC volunteers. **The new MOU allows amateurs to have criminal background checks performed by certain agencies other than Mybackgroundcheck.com. It also clarifies that amateur's who provide communication services to RC do not need to become RC "volunteers."**

The latter clarification permits hams to support RC communication activities without being subjected to certain requirements of RC volunteers.

This new MOU replaces one that expired in 2007 and is the result of considerable discussion between ARRL and RC. The new MOU can be read in its entirety at [http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL-ARC\\_MoU.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/news/files/ARRL-ARC_MoU.pdf).

### Dayton Hamvention 2010

If you've never experienced the Dayton Hamvention, you're missing a serious rite of passage. The Dayton Hamvention began in 1952, and has run every year since then. Although there are many large Ham gatherings throughout the world, Dayton has remained unmatched. This year will make my 44<sup>th</sup> annual trip to Hara Arena, and for me, the visit has expanded into an almost week long event. This year, I've volunteered to assist the Hamvention committee during setup on Thursday, and additionally will be presenting a small session on Sunday morning.

If you're looking for a low cost way to experience the awesome size and scope of the event, consider the bus trip sponsored by our good friends at the ARROW club in Ann Arbor. Michelle, KD8GWX will be happy to fill you in on the details.

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## Jim's Jive (continued) ....

### Klub Project This Month!

At our monthly meeting, we will begin assembling the Digital Dial for our receiver project of last year. If you missed out on the receiver project, don't despair, because the kit we're assembling this month is a great little general purpose frequency counter to about 45 MHz.

Unlike other clubs, we do not charge you extra to participate in our projects. Your membership and our other fund raising efforts fund this activity. Our project this month would cost you about 50 dollars if you were to buy it on your own.

The requirements to participate are very simple. You must be a full Klub member. One kit will be provided for each full Klub member, and one kit will be provided for each family membership. You **MUST** start assembly at the Klub meeting. Kits are first come, first serve. If there are any leftover kits, they are available for purchase at Klub cost. Assistance will be provided by several Klub members. Bring your own hand tools, magnifying lenses, soldering iron, etc. If you haven't soldered in awhile, we'll bring a couple of practice boards for you to brush up on.

### Radio Raffle

We're in the planning stages for our next radio raffle. What do you want to have a shot at winning? Clearly, there's something you'd like to have!

### D-STAR Radios for loan

The Klub owns 4 D-Star handhelds, and they're programmed up and ready to use. Klub members can borrow one for 30 days. Les, our technical director, and D-Star guru, has all the details. Tell me why you wouldn't borrow one of these rigs?

73



Jim WB8AZP

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## **Thought for the day ...**

“Don’t wait until everything is just right. It will never be perfect. There will always be challenges, obstacles and less than perfect conditions. So what. Get started now. With each step you take, you will grow stronger and stronger, more and more skilled, more and more self-confident and more and more successful.”

~ Mark Victor Hansen, motivational speaker

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## **Finance Report ...**

No report for the April LED. Reported will be distributed at the April meeting.

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## **LARK General Meeting Minutes 3-11-2010**

No minutes submitted at this time for the April LED Newsletter.

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## **LARK Board Meeting Minutes 3-18-2010**

No minutes submitted at this time for the April LED Newsletter.

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## **YOU MIGHT BE A HAM IF.....**

1. YOUR WIFE SAID "LETS GO SEE AUNT ANNA" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID ANTENNA!
  2. YOUR WIFE SAID "COULD YOU CUT THE GRASS?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID POUND THE BRASS!
  3. YOUR WIFE SAID "WE'VE BEEN INVITED TO BREAKFAST" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID HAM FEST!
  4. YOUR WIFE SAID "SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH THE CHECK BOOK" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID LOG BOOK!
  5. YOUR WIFE SAID "IS MY SEAM STRAIGHT?" AND YOU THOUGHT SHE SAID, " IS MY BEAM STRAIGHT?"
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## **HAM Radio to Pay for Health Care Costs!!! ...**

Buried in the middle of the 1200 page Healthcare Reform package is something that should be disturbing to all US amateur radio operators. Imbedded in the funding guidelines section 415, paragraph 27, line 45, are details on one of the mechanisms that the government intends to employ to help pay for the staggering costs of the new plan.

To put it simply, the new Healthcare guidelines support the notion of creative funding from untapped resources, and from other government agencies, like the FCC. This puts the burden on funding on other agencies, and therefore the Healthcare reform pundits can claim that “they” didn’t introduce any new taxes to pay for everything.

Lurking in the depths of the new Healthcare package is a time bomb waiting to affect all US Amateur Radio Operators; The new Talk And Pay (TAP) Tax.. What does the TAP Tax do? Well, just as it implies, it adds a tax on to each amateur license, based on usage of the bands.

The FCC knew it was going to be troublesome to enforce this kind of regulation, so they came up with a clever scheme – taxation by license class. All Technician, General, and Extra Class Licensees will be taxed at a different rate. Any holdover licenses from different classes will be taxed at the next higher rate, so novice license holders will be taxed as technicians, advanced holders as extra class licensees and so on. The logic is that higher class licenses can use more of the frequencies; therefore they pay a larger percentage. There are even paragraphs that define taxing stations that haven’t operated, (although you have to prove that by filing a waiver), stations where the license holder has become a silent key (a different waiver), and repeater or space stations (when the license is held by a non-profit group, you can apply for a waiver as well). They legislators have even thought of the mechanism to capture revenue from youngsters, in their special Tax On Eventual Earnings (TOE) tax. So, a youngster who is not working will pay into a TOE TAP TAX account, in the form of a debit owed to the government. Even retirees do not escape this tax, as there is a provision for the SNAP TAP TAX (Sure Not Accounting for Productivity).

There does seem to be a provision for testing down to a previous license class, so you can get a tax break by forfeiting your current license class, (after taking a new 50 question written exam, and paying a hefty 45 dollar examination fee). You’ll be then required to sign BCKTP in CW or “slash Back Tap” in voice.

This looks to be pretty well thought out. I stopped reading after seeing the FCC amateur radio entry. It appears that Cell phones and wireless data networks will be next. There are 20 other government agencies listed in the document. Where will this insanity end? All of this is scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2011, because there apparently wasn’t enough time to implement it before then.

## **HAM Radio to Pay for Health Care Costs!!! (continued) ...**

If this doesn't negatively impact the growth of amateur radio, I don't know what will! I think it will also promote the notion of going really underground, and not using your callsign at all., actually a practice that I've already heard lots of people adopt, especially on VHF.

I called my congressman after reading all of this, and he said that there are already proposals being filed to allow credit for amateur radio operators involved in public service, and he called it the Support for Individuals Desiring to Engage in Services Training, Education, and Planning (SIDESTEP). That makes me feel a little better.

I think it just might be time to get rid of my gear, before all this TOE TAP, SNAP TAP, BACK TAP, and SIDESTEP stuff goes into affect. Once again, the government is here to help you.

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## **Humor for the day ...**

**WHO IS THE MOST DANGEROUS PERSON IN THE WORLD?**

**A HAM WITH AN IDEA, SOME WIRE.... AND A BOW AND ARROW IN HIS HAND!**

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## **In Memorium ...**

**Robert W Banta, K8PBA, sk**

1928 – 3/9/2010

Bob “spelled with one O” Banta K8PBA sk

“The passing of Bob Banta K8PBA is sad news. Bob was deeply involved in the ARROW in the 1970's and 80's.

I'm sure others can fill in more details than I know, but Bob Banta was a wonderful fellow who was trustee of the ARROW 2 meter repeater for more than a decade (and maybe two). Bob (with his wife Laurene - KA8IAQ, I believe) lived in Livingston county and mostly only attended annual ARROW holiday parties for a decade or so, but it was always a pleasure to see and speak with both of them.

Bob worked for some years for MCI when they had one of their microwave network backbone links atop Tower Plaza, and was responsible for the ARROW originally getting repeater space on the site. Thereafter the ARROW had some of the very best repeaters in the midwest, in large part due to the excellent coverage from the top of TP. Bob actively worked and interceded on occasion to keep that site for us for many years, and the 2 meter repeater signed K8PBA/R for a very long time.

Bob will be missed, and I'm sure his electrons are now bouncing around in the ionosphere, still promoting the great hobby of ham radio.

73 to all de kt8k – Tim”

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## In Memorium (continued) ...

*"Bob was a very dear friend, fraternal brother of mine and my husband's, and fellow HAM. We attended many HAM meetings and events with Bob and his wife Laurene, WA8IAQ. We will miss him dearly.*

*'73' and '88' to a dear friend, K8PBA (SK)*

*Diane U'Ren, KB8NSU  
Harlayne U'Ren, N8SVM"*

"I didn't know Bob for very long, but I'm glad I got to spend what little time we had together in amateur radio. I looked forward to seeing him sitting in the back row during the meetings at the table with a copy of my LED and a red pen. Bob always had good ideas for me for the newsletter and I really didn't mind his input. I will miss his "inventions" that he would bring to each meeting to show me. The last one he brought for me was a purse holder, so I wouldn't have to set my purse on the floor. He was always thinking.

I will miss you my friend.

May your eternity be finer than fur on a frog!

73 & 88

Michelle, KD8GWX"

*"I remember Bob all the way back to the HVARA days when I was just getting started in the hobby in 1970.*

*I remember him as a very warm, generous and savvy mentor to the younger people who were joining the radio hobby at that time. My best memories of Bob were the Field Day events I attended back when I still had allot to learn about the hobby. He will certainly be missed.*

73,

*Mark W8FSA"*

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Michelle Roderick, KD8GWX, [michelle.Roderick@wc-redcross.org](mailto:michelle.Roderick@wc-redcross.org)  
734-717-5660 Cell 734-260-7893 ARC Cell 734-712-0133 FAX

Please bring any articles you'd like to have in the next meeting. If you are unable to attend, have a friend bring the information to the meeting for you, email it to me at the above address or feel free to fax it to my work at the above number.

Thanks to everyone for the articles submitted to make the September 2009 LED a success!

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## April 2010

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
				<b>1</b> <b>April Fool's Day!</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> <b>LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

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## May 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <b>LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
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<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>					