



THE LED

December 2010

Published by the Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Howell, Michigan

Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan 48844

www.W8LRK.org

NET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

NEXT KLUB MEETING
Thursday, December 9th, at 7:30PM
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way
Howell, MI



BOARD MEMBERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

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

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.

Jim's Jive

It feels like the seasonal clock has accelerated somehow. From my view, it was just a little while ago that we were cutting the grass, and enjoying an evening barbeque. Today, as I'm typing this, it's snowing - testimony to the old tale that if you don't like the weather in Michigan, just wait 15 minutes!

I hope you all enjoyed a great Thanksgiving and my best wishes to you and your families for the remainder of the holiday season!

Membership Drive

The FCC database indicates that there are approximately 750 amateur licenses issued in Livingston County. Some of those listed have passed away, and their licenses have not expired, nor has the FCC been notified. Even if the number drops to 700, there are quite a few hams in the county who are NOT members of LARK.

As many of you can attest to, we're a new LARK, and we've gone off in many new directions to encourage all amateur radio operators to participate. We've stepped up our community involvement, and support of the public service aspects of amateur radio. We've done all of this to keep ham radio in the thoughts and minds of community leaders.

To continue these efforts, and to support other facets of the hobby, we need many more new members. This is one of the many reasons why we're offering incentives to attract and sign up new members to LARK.

Again, just in case you've missed it, we're offering a special incentive to new members in the form of entry into a raffle to potentially win a new dual band handheld radio. To encourage existing members to recruit others, we're offering those folks a ticket into the raffle for every two new members they sign up.

Additionally, we intend to do a bulk mailing to all of the licenses in Livingston County, in an effort to encourage them to stop by and take a look. We're not the same old radio club, and all hams owe it to themselves to capitalize on all that LARK can offer.

Please encourage any amateur you meet to help LARK fulfill the public service mission that is part of our collective responsibility to the FCC and the general public!

Holiday Party

Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate the holidays with your fellow LARK members. We've picked a very affordable location for the event, and as one member put it, "you don't come for the place or the atmosphere, but for the fun and fellowship". We're holding the event at Grand River Grill, on Sunday, December 12th, beginning at 2PM. We'll save you a seat!

Jim's Jive goes on and on and on

Planning For Next Year

We're starting to plan for fun times during 2011. We need your input. Get out a piece of paper and a crayon, and put forth some suggestions. We really do want to hear from you. Remember, my philosophy is that if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. Please consider contributing to the future of LARK!

VE Testing

Not only do we offer VE Testing every single month, but with the FCC changes relative to VE testing, we can offer this service just about anywhere and anytime! We only need 3 Volunteer Examiners (VE's) present to conduct a testing session, even if it's just for one person. Just let us know!

Final Thoughts

We live in very interesting times. Regardless of the technologies that surround us, it's human spirit and enthusiasm that moves us forward. I am truly blessed to be your humble servant, and I'm even more blessed to be associated with all the amateurs that pull together to better everyone. My special thanks to all those who put in countless hours volunteering to "make it happen". Again, my best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

73



Jim WB8AZP

Thought for the day ...

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can do.”

– Edward Everett Hale

Finance Report

Report distributed at the meeting.

LARK General Meeting Minutes 11-11-2010

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

LARK Board Meeting Minutes 11-18-2010

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

Thought for the day ...

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives. Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present."

– Edward Hays (A Pilgrim's Almanac)

Hams Invited to Listen for New Satellites (11/20/2010 – ARRL)...

Five research satellites were carried to orbit Friday evening aboard a Minotaur V rocket from Kodiak Island, Alaska. All the satellites use Amateur Radio frequencies and hams have been invited to participate in their missions by monitoring and collecting data. The FASTRACs are two relatively small "nanosatellites" built by students at the University of Texas-Austin. They enter orbit as a single spacecraft, but then separate into FASTRAC 1, known as "Sara Lily," and FASTRAC 2, referred to as "Emma." Both satellites use 1200 or 9600 baud AX.25 digital communication and transmit at 1 W output, so they should be receivable with omnidirectional VHF or UHF antennas and decodable by ordinary packet radio hardware and software.

Hams Invited to Listen for New Satellites cont'd (11/20/2010 – ARRL) ...

	<i>FASTRAC 1</i>	<i>FASTRAC 2</i>
Downlink(1200/9600 Baud)	437.345 MHz	145.825 MHz
Beacon (1200 Baud)	437.345 MHz	145.825 MHz
Uplink (1200 Baud)	145.980 MHz	435.025 MHz
Uplink (9600 Baud)	145.825 MHz	437.345 MHz
Satellite Call Sign	FAST1	FAST2

After their scientific missions are complete, the satellites will be reconfigured to function as digipeater relays for Amateur Radio use as part of the Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS).

Hams are invited to create a free account at the [**FASTRAC Web page**](#) and begin uploading telemetry data. Mission status information is also available via the [**FASTRAC Facebook page**](#).

The third satellite in the group is the University of Michigan's Radio Aurora Explorer (RAX) CubeSat. RAX was designed and built by University of Michigan students and faculty in cooperation with SRI International. The primary objective of the mission is to use an onboard radar receiver in conjunction with a powerful radar station in Alaska to study the formation of a plasma anomaly known for causing the scintillation of radio signals in the UHF and higher bands. RAX carries a 9600 baud UHF digital transceiver. Using the call sign RAX-1, the satellite will send telemetry at 437.505 MHz. Amateurs are invited to download the free telemetry decoding software (for *Windows*, *Mac OS X*, or *Linux*) and submit reports [**at the mission Web site**](#).

The Organism/Organic Exposure to Orbital Stresses satellite, better known as O/OREOS is a nanosatellite designed to study the growth, activity, health and ability of microorganisms to adapt to the stresses of space. It will also monitor changes in four classes of organic molecules as they are exposed to space conditions. O/OREOS transmits digital telemetry 437.305 MHz and hams are invited to submit raw telemetry data [**at the O/OREOS Web site**](#).

NanoSail-D2 is a solar sail experiment with an expected lifetime of about 100 days. It carries a data beacon transmitting at 437.275 MHz. Amateurs are asked to submit reports [**at the NanoSail-D2 Web site**](#). Although NanoSail-D2 was developed by NASA, mission control for this satellite, as well as O/ORES, is being handled by students at Santa Clara University.

One Day Tech Class from Dan, KB6NU ...

Hi, folks--

The next One-Day Tech Class will be held on Saturday, January 8, 2011, from 9am to 3pm at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann St. Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Immediately after the class, the Technician Class license exam will be administered.

Pre-registration is required. We often fill the class and have to put people on the waiting list. So, if you'd like to take this class, you should tell me sooner rather than later to ensure that you'll be sure to get in.

We're suggesting a \$10 donation to take the class. All proceeds go to fund our station at the Hands-On Museum. It really is a suggested donation. While we would really appreciate the donation, if you can't pay, or simply don't want to pay, don't pay.

On the other hand, there is a \$15 fee to take the test. This is not a suggested fee; if you don't pay, you can't take the test.

If you haven't already, download the study guide from www.kb6nu.com/tech-manual. Read through it a couple of times and take some online practice tests (URLs for practice test websites can be found in the study guide). I STRONGLY urge you to do this. You'll greatly increase the chances that you'll pass the test if you do some studying beforehand.

To register, reply to this e-mail or phone me at 734-930-6564. If you have any questions, you can email me or phone me as well.

73!

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Thought for the day ...

"Nobody can make you feel inferior without your consent."

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Humor for the day ...

This is an article submitted to a 1999 Louisville Sentinel contest to find out who had the wildest Christmas dinners. It won first prize ...

As a joke, my brother Jay used to hang a pair of panty hose over his fireplace before Christmas. He said all he wanted was for Santa to fill them.

What they say about Santa checking the list twice must be true because every Christmas morning, although Jay's kids' stockings overflowed, his poor pantyhose hung sadly empty.

One year I decided to make his dream come true. I put on sunglasses and went in search of an inflatable love doll. They don't sell those things at Wal-Mart. I had to go to an adult bookstore downtown.

If you've never been in an X-rated store, don't go. You'll only confuse yourself. I was there an hour saying things like, "What does this do?" "You're kidding me!" "Who would buy that?" Finally, I made it to the inflatable doll section.

I wanted to buy a standard, uncomplicated doll that could also substitute as a passenger in my truck so I could use the car pool lane during rush hour. Finding what I wanted was difficult. 'Love Dolls' come in many different models. The top of the line, according to the side of the box, could do things I'd only seen in a book on animal husbandry. I settled for 'Lovable Louise.' She was at the bottom of the price scale.

To call Louise a 'doll' took a huge leap of imagination. On Christmas Eve and with the help of an old bicycle pump, Louise came to life. My sister-in-law was in on the plan and let me in during the wee morning hours. Long after Santa had come and gone, I filled the dangling pantyhose with Louise's pliant legs and bottom. I also ate some cookies and drank what remained of a glass of milk on a nearby tray. I went home, and giggled for a couple of hours.

The next morning my brother called to say that Santa had been to his house and left a present that had made him VERY happy, but had left the dog confused. She would bark, start to walk away, then come back and bark some more. We all agreed that Louise should remain in her pantyhose so the rest of the family could admire her when they came over for the traditional Christmas dinner.

My grandmother noticed Louise the moment she walked in the door. "What the hell is that?" she asked. My brother quickly explained, "It's a doll." "Who would play with something like that?" Granny snapped.

Humor for the day continued ...

I kept my mouth shut.

"Where are her clothes?" Granny continued. "Boy, that turkey sure smells nice, Gran," Jay said, to steer her into the dining room. But Granny was relentless. "Why doesn't she have any teeth?"

Again, I could have answered, but why would I? It was Christmas and no one wanted to ride in the back of the ambulance saying, "Hang on Granny, hang on!"

My grandfather, a delightful old man with poor eyesight, sidled up to me and said, "Hey, who's the naked gal by the fireplace?" I told him she was Jay's friend.

A few minutes later I noticed Grandpa by the mantel, talking to Louise. Not just talking, but actually flirting. It was then that we realized this might be Grandpa's last Christmas at home.

The dinner went well. We made the usual small talk about who had died, who was dying, and who should be killed, when suddenly Louise made a noise like my father in the bathroom in the morning. Then she lurched from the mantel, flew around the room twice and fell in a heap in front of the sofa. The cat screamed. I passed cranberry sauce through my nose and Grandpa ran across the room, fell to his knees and began administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.

My brother fell back over his chair and wet his pants. Granny threw down her napkin, stomped out of the room and sat in the car. It was indeed a Christmas to treasure and remember.

Later in my brother's garage, we conducted a thorough examination to decide the cause of Louise's collapse. We discovered that Louise had suffered from a hot ember to the back of her right thigh. Fortunately, thanks to a wonder drug called duct tape, we restored her to perfect health. I can't wait until next Christmas.

Michelle Roderick, KD8GWX, michelle.Roderick@wc-redcross.org
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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 LED a success!

December 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill <i>LED Editor's B-day!</i>
5	6	7	8	9 LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC	10	11
12 LARK Holiday Dinner 2 pm The Grand River Grill	13	14	15	16 LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference	17	18 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
19	20	21	22	23	24	25 Christmas
26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	

January 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Happy New Year!!! LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
				LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					