



THE LED

March/April 2011

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Howell, Michigan

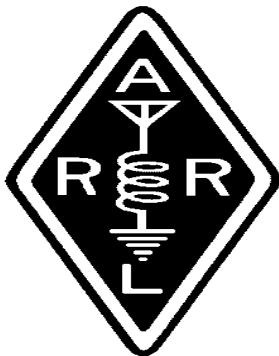
Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan 48844

www.W8LRK.org

**NET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM**

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

**NEXT KLUB MEETING
Thursday, April 14, 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

Well, March has roared into Michigan! You still have plenty of time to plan for those antenna upgrades in the spring. It's also a good idea to upgrade your license, if you haven't already done so, or perhaps study that "one new thing" for this year that you might want to take on? I predict at least a few more "snow days in your future! There are lots of good Michigan ham swaps coming up in the next few weeks. I suspect it's time to get out and visit! Oh yes, club meetings count as well!

Elections

It's never too early to start thinking about elections. 2011 is an "odd" year, so potentially up for grabs are positions as: President, Secretary, Program Officer and Board Member. Get your name on the ballot soon! All positions are 2 year terms. Remember too, that the board has recently approved pay increases for all positions by 120%. Elections are held at the May meeting and you assume office at the June meeting. Remember too, that you need not be present to win!

To help you select the job of your dreams, here's a brief overview of the election schedule:

POSITION	TIMING	TERM
President	Odd Years	2 Years
Vice President	Even Years	2 Years
Secretary	Odd Years	2 Years
Treasurer	Even Years	2 Years
Program Officer	Odd Years	2 Years
Technical Officer	Even Years	2 Years
Board Member	Annually	1 Year

Additionally, there are many appointed positions available. Perhaps you don't have enough abuse already in your life and are looking to augment it with a staff position at the LARK?

2011 Membership Drive

We kicked off our 2011 LARK membership drive by physically mailing the 474 licensed amateurs in Livingston County, minus those already LARK members, (in most cases), a brief letter about the LARK, what we do and asking them to join. We have received a few new members and I'm hopeful they will get the opportunity to attend a meeting or club event in the near future.

We'll be drawing soon for the winner(s) of a new radio, as promised in our membership drive request. We've even given some thought to allowing members to buy a ticket in the drawing just for fun.

Jim's Jive (continued)

When you talk with other amateurs in Livingston County, be sure and encourage them to join. Remember, we will be giving a radio away to a lucky new member and for every 2 new members you bring into the club; you have a chance to win as well!

See you at the meeting!

73



Jim WB8AZP

Thought for the day ...

“Those who are not looking for happiness are the most likely to find it, because those who are searching forget that the surest way to be happy is to seek happiness for others.”

– Martin Luther King Jr.

Finance Report

OPENING BALANCE OPERATIONS FUND

January 31, 2010 ----- \$1341.08

INCOME

50/50 ----- \$60.00

Dues ----- \$120.00

Donation + Dues ----- \$470.00

ACCOUNT BALANCE ----- \$1991.08

EXPENSES

Equipment Insurance ----- -\$182.00

Liability Insurance ----- -\$320.00

Repeater Phone ----- - \$62.65

NEW ACCOUNT BALANCE ----- \$1425.43

1000 CD ----- \$1390.59

500 CD ----- \$667.34

TOTAL BALANCE March 5, 2011 ----- \$3483.36

BAL. FROM EMG FUND AS OF January 31, 2010

BALANCE ----- \$4679.46

INCOME

Deposit ----- \$211.00

ACCOUNT BALANCE ----- \$4890.46

EXPENSES

State of Michigan – Not for Profit permit ----- -\$20.00

TOTAL BALANCE as of March 5, 2011 ----- \$4870.46

LARK General Meeting Minutes 2-10 & 3-10-2011

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

LARK Board Meeting Minutes 2-10 & 3-10-2011

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

Thought for the day ...

"Life is like a piano. What you get out of it depends on how you play it."

- Tom Lehrer

Message from Hamvention ...

Hello all! We are on the fast track and countdown to another great Hamvention this year. We love to see the email and conversations online through this forum, and our Facebook page. They have both been a success! I would however like to make a request & reminder.

It is really tough for our volunteers to monitor their Hamvention email accounts and this forum/yahoo groups at the same time, specially as we get closer to May. So, we can not guarantee responses on this forum, or that I or others will always monitor this group. This group was set-up to help facilitate dialog between our attendees and we welcome all of it. With that said, we ask that all formal inquires be made by email directly to the appropriate contact:

Email exhibits@hamvention.org for exhibits questions.

Email fleamarket@hamvention.org for flea market questions.

Email forums@hamvention.org for forum questions.

Email media@hamvention.org for media questions.

Email tickets@hamvention.org for tickets questions.

Email info@hamvention.org with any other questions!

Thanks again, and we can not wait until we see you again in Dayton!

Thank you,

Josh KD8BVB
Assistant General Chairman
2011 Dayton Hamvention.

Hamvention Award Announcement ...

Hamvention ® 2011 picks its Annual Award Winners
Frank Beafore, Chairman Awards Committee

On behalf of Michael Kalter, W8CI 2011 Hamvention Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to announce our Hamvention 2011 award winners. I want to thank everyone that submitted nominations. The choice was difficult and we wished that we had an award for everyone nominated. We will be providing additional information on our award winners in the very near future. Please watch our web site for the details.

Amateur of The Year was given to Shirley Roberts, N8LX of Dayton Ohio. This prestigious award goes to an amateur that has demonstrated significant contribution to amateur radio as well as related public service. Shirley exemplifies all of the deepest aspects of this award.

Club of The Year award was given to the Albemarle Amateur Radio Club, WA4TFZ, of Charlottesville, Virginia. In addition to all the normal club activities we find with a well led organization, Albemarle ARC showed exemplary contributions in public service, emergency communications and youth recruiting.

The Technical Excellence Award went to Roy Lewallen, W7EL for his development of EZNEC – an antenna modeling software system used by Hams, worldwide. This software is now the basis for numerous amateur radio antenna training courses.

Our **Special Achievement Award** goes to Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ of QRZ fame. Starting out as the "call sign project" Fred has developed the QRZ website as an interactive "one stop shop". This system provides deep, detailed operating and technical information available to Hams, worldwide.

Where There's Smoke...

James G. "Bunky" Botts, III (K4EJQ)

Normally my misadventures in ham radio I keep to myself. But I figured this story might be of interest to you readers. It points how a an otherwise "minor" problem with the ham gear can lead to what could have been a much more serious situation.

This past Sunday afternoon I'm working the January ARRL VHF Contest from my home station. I'm operating 50 through 432 MHz with a QRO amplifier on each band. On 2 meters at the time, when all of a sudden there is a LOUD BANK from the 432 amplifier which is in "idle" mode. It right next to my right ear and sounded like an M-80 firecracker! Oh well, another blown filter capacitor in the high voltage supply I figured and turned the plate voltage off that amplifier. I'll go get a refill on my ice tea and begin the chore of up the mess inside the amplifier and replacing the blown capacitor.

I went upstairs to the fridge to get the refill and on the way back, stopped in the shop next to the shack for the tools I'd need. As I entered the shack the room was filling rapidly with thick black choking smoke and flames were coming out the top of the amplifier cabinet. I had left the filaments, bias and blower running

Where There's Smoke (continued) ...

on the amp to "cycle " it down after turning off the High Voltage -- a habit I picked up many years ago in my duties as a TV Broadcast Technician. I pulled the amplifiers AC plug from the wall outlet as I couldn't get to the front panel switches for the choking smoke.

I grabbed a handy CO2 fire extinguisher and doused the flames. I used about half of the 10 lb CO2 bottle to finally get it under control. I immediately began to ventilate the shack of the smoke using a "box" fan. Needless to say, the whole affair was unsettling. Two smoke detectors, one brand new, in the shack and well up in the smoke zone, did not sound an alarm. They both "tested" good afterwards using their internal test feature.

After the unit cooled down, and my blood pressure returned to normal, I took apart the amplifier. The choking smoke was probably generated by the insulation of the wiring when it ignited. Three sheets of Plexiglas that were used to mount the capacitor bank, rectifier bank caught fire. A fourth sheet covering the entire high voltage section to protect the operator should operation outside of the case be necessary melted. With the exception of the plate transformer, the entire High Voltage section of the amplifier was destroyed.

As I suspected, the whole incident began with the rupture of a filter capacitor in that high voltage section. I've had other capacitors in other amps do the same thing with only a mess of tin foil and wax to clean up. I was gone from the shack for less than five minutes between the time I turned off the High Voltage on the amplifier and returned. No smoke had been visible when I left the shack to get the tools and ice tea refill. I hate to think what I would have found had delayed.

In retrospect, I should have turned off the entire amplifier when the capacitor blew and to heck with "cycling down" the power tubes. Probably should have unplugged the amp from the AC too before leaving the shack. Having a fire extinguisher (that worked) handy made a BIG difference. Now I wonder -- does this mean I can't advertise my ham gear as coming from a "smoke-free" environment when I sell it?

House Bill HR 607 ...

Attention Michigan hams, here is a special request from ARRL Headquarters and Dan Henderson. It is time to contact our Representatives in Washington:

As you may have read, Rep. Peter King (R-NY) has introduced the "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011" and the bill has been assigned HR 607 as its number. The full story about the Bill's introduction can be found on the ARRL web at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/spectrum-management-bill-threatens-amateur-frequencies>

As you will read, while the ARRL supports spectrum for the Public Safety needs, we oppose HR 607 in its current form because of the inclusion of the 420-440 MHz spectrum (most of the Amateur 70-cm UHF allocation) as part of a spectrum swap.

At the request of ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, we are asking ARRL members to contact their local Representative asking them to oppose HR 607 in its current form. Members should be directed to <http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters> for resources tools to assist them in their letter writing. These include:

A sample letter opposing HR 607 in its current form

House Bill HR 607 (continued) ...

A link to the ARRL Webpage that gives the ARRL member the contact information for their Members of Congress

A link to information sending their letters to our Washington lobbyist to hand-deliver to Capitol Hill
A couple of key points to remember when discussing our opposition to HR 607:

We understand and support the principle that Public Safety and First responders should have the D-Block frequencies. Our opposition to the bill stems from the inclusion of the 420-440 MHZ Amateur allocation as part of the proposed "frequency swap".

Time is of the essence on this request, as the bill is gathering steam in Congress. So please make your membership contacts as soon as possible. Finally, please include my address n1nd@arrl.org in what you distribute to the ARRL membership (for our records here at HQ.)

Thanks for stepping up to the plate to assist with the direct threat to our Amateur Radio spectrum. What you bring to the table helps us keep this ship heading in the right direction. Please contact me if you have any problems or questions with this request.

73

Dan Henderson, N1ND
Regulatory Information Manager
ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio(tm)
860-594-0236
dhenderson@arrl.org

Because of their security measures, it will NOT do any good to mail them direct.
You can send an email, but PLEASE fill in the sections of the attached letter for your own representative and then send it to Chwat & Co who will HAND DELIVER it – making sure your letter gets noticed!
<http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>

After filling in the blanks, send to:
John Chwat
Chwat & Co.
625 Slaters Lane
Suite 103
Alexandria, VA 22314

By Fax - Send to: 703-684-7594. You may also send a signed letter via email to: arrl@chwatco.com
This is an "all hands on deck" and we're going to need all the people we can get PDQ or we lose 440.

Allen Pitts, W1AGP
Media & PR Manager
ARRL - the national association for Amateur Radio
225 Main St. Newington, CT 06111
(860) 594-0328
www.ARRL.org

<http://www.arrl.org/contacting-your-congressional-representatives>

this page gives you who your congress person is.

A little bit about MARS ...

By Mark Sharef, WQ8S / AAV5QK

It seems that MARS must be the best kept secret in Amateur Radio. Most amateurs must think were like the Masons or Skull&Bones. Sometimes I wish we were, then perhaps it would be easier to recruit new people. Just think we could have passwords and secret handshakes.

For those who don't know ,MARS stands for " Military Auxiliary Radio Systems" and has been around since 1925. In all those years our basic mission has been the same. To provide communications in time of emergencies , as does RACIES AND ARIES. What's different about us is we work with the Military on their frequencies and using their procedures. This is what we train for.

When I pass traffic, I can be on frequencies far removed from the amateur bands and might be talking to an Army or National Guard station. These stations could be just a few miles or halfway across the country. I could be operating at home or portable just about anywhere.

With this in mind we are looking of Amateurs who have a General class or higher license and are at least 18 years of age. The reason for this is we found it was often necessary to go back and forth between the HF Amateur and Military frequencies . The 18 year age limit is for those who are willing to deploy in times of emergency.

Just like Volunteer Firemen, we train to be as professional as possible. MARS operators commit to a minimum of 12 hours per quarter, but most of us do more then that. Like Races and Areas we have to take and pass the FEMA training for NIMS ICS -100, 200, 700 & 800.

MARS nets are very structured. We are, after all a Military organization . The Army has been moving traffic by radio and telegraphy since the Civil War and has found many things that work and don't work.

New things are always being tried. When it's truly found to be better changes are made and passed on to everyone in the system.

A good example is " WinMor " . Pactor is being used with great success , but the cost was slowing down everyone from using it. Experiments with WinMor showed it would work about as well as Pactor II and could be loaded into any computer operating with XP or newer operating system at 1Ghz or faster speed. Having a sound card mode that worked that well proved quite cost effective.

When you join MARS your not left own your . Several mentors are available to help you with different aspects of your training and getting your station up and running on MARS frequencies.

If this sounds like something you could commit yourself to, you can contact me at:

www.msharef@peopolepc.com or you can go to www.michiganarmymars.com .

When you finish your training I'll take you aside and show you the secret handshake.

Michelle Roderick, KD8GWX, 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 LED a success.

March 2011

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

April 2011

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

May 2011

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