



# THE LED

## March 2014

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, March 13th, at 7:30PM  
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way  
Howell, MI**



### BOARD MEMBERS

President	Jim	K8JK
Vice-President	Van	N8GVD
Secretary	Karen	KB8AKC
Treasurer	Patrick	W8LNO
Program Manager	Bob	K8VQC
Tech Director	Les	W8MSP
Director	John	KD8CCR

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

Repeater Trustee	Jim	K8JK
LED Editor	Michelle	KD8GWX
VE Coordinador	Jim	K8JK
PIO Officer		
PIO Officer		
Web Site	Jim	KB8DAD

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's March – and in my mind, that means we start transitioning from winter to spring. As I look out my window at roughly 1 and ½ feet of ice and snow, it's not looking like spring yet, but I'm hopeful. I had made a commitment to myself that beginning in March, I was going to operate HF portable someplace at least 2 hours every month going forward. Throughout last fall and winter, I've been gathering antennas and other hardware to make it happen. In my original planning, I had expected that there would be at least a few nice days beginning in March to make this a fun event. You can keep tabs on my progress on the Sunday night net.

### **What's Been Going On?**

If you haven't been to a LARK meeting in awhile, you may have missed out on a few things. Our program director, Bob K8VQC, has put together a nice collection of things to talk about at the meetings. Various club members have brought in some really tasty snacks. Lots of really good sharing of hints and tips on a wide variety of topics have occurred. And of course, lots of fun being poked at various club members for all kinds of reasons. My personal thanks to all those who actually participate in making things happen.

Our newsletter editor, Michelle, KD8GWX, had been tied up with some personal challenges. I'm happy to report that she's back in full swing, and helping us get our newsletter back on track. Special thanks to Pat, W8LNO, for attempting to fill in for her.

Last fall, we had a very successful club building project, allowing members to put together an MFJ SWR bridge, either HF or VHF, (or both if you wanted an extra challenge) MFJ doesn't normally offer their products in kit form, but Bob, K8VQC, was able to convince them to sell us the units. Lots of folks had fun with this activity. We're in planning stages for our fall 2014 project, a very nice PowerPole distribution block. Unless you've been sleeping for the last 20 years or so, the Anderson PowerPole has become a widely accepted standard for power connection to radios and many other electronic devices. We think this project will be a fun and very cost effective way of utilizing this connection strategy at your shack. You can see various prototypes and talk with LARK members who are doing some of the Beta testing at the LARK meeting.

Field Day 2014 plans have already begun. We had tons of fun last year, and with only a small handful of members operating, actually made a score that vaulted us into the top 100 stations in our class in the USA! Just imagine what we could do if you helped us. Drop in and chat with us on Thursday night, or give us a call on the 146.68 repeater.

Our VE team still continues to be available for amateur radio testing just about any time there are 3 or more members present. We often can test for license exams on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month at the Klub breakfast spot (Grand River Grill near Woodland Medical Center), in addition to the second Tuesday evening sessions every month at the Central Dispatch location. Most recently, the VE team was involved in proctoring amateur exams for 25 individuals who are first responders or CERT members in and around Livingston County. If you haven't already upgraded, consider taking some time to study up and take a test. Did I mention that all amateur radio exams administered by the LARK VE team are totally free of charge?

---

## Jim's Jive continued ....

Speaking of licenses please be sure to check the expiration date of your license. Remember that the FCC will only allow you to renew without a reexamination as long as you do so within 2 years from the expiration date. Take your license out now and verify it! (Several Klub members have stumbled into this by accident).

If you haven't noticed, the 146.68 repeater has been operating for a few months without the normal "bells and whistles". We've had a few challenges, most recently in a repeater controller failure (the we believe was lightning induced), and also getting access to the site. Just ask me about getting my Jeep stuck in the snow at the tower location! Our plan is to re-integrate the repaired controller a little later on, when the weather is a bit more cooperative. In the meantime, the "68" repeater will be operating with just a CW identifier and a 60 second time out timer.

### **What Should I Be Doing?**

I actually get this question fairly often when I talk to Klub members. My answer is usually the same, "just do something, even if it's wrong." Within the Livingston Amateur Radio Klub, we have folks with talents across a wide range of disciplines who can help you with just about anything. Come to a meeting and connect with them. Consider inviting a former member of the Klub to drop in again, or better yet, if you run into an new amateur invite them to a meeting. I would also consider pushing yourself a little as well. I was recently privileged to meet Mark Stephan, a gentleman who describes himself as "just an average guy". Mark has been an avid fitness fan for many years, until one day (August 11, 2007) a bicycle accident left this 49 year old faced with living the rest of his life from the confines of a wheelchair. Mark's recovery from this tragic event culminating with his cross country bicycle ride of 3,129 miles in July of 2012 is a real testament, to never accepting the status quo. You can read about Mark on his webpage, [http:// www.Stepanchallenge.com](http://www.Stepanchallenge.com). One of my favorite quotes of his, "Don't always accept those things where your success is assured."

See you at the next meeting!



73, Jim K8JK

---

## LARK General (2-13-2014) & Board (2-20-2014) Meeting Minutes

**Members and guests present:** K8JK Jim Kvochick, W8MSP Les Butler, KB8AKC Karen Butler, K8VQC Bob Hitchens, W8LNO Patrick Shannon, N8WWX Bruce Pollack, N8MSA Mike Alexander, Issacc McChristy, N8RBA Ralph McChristy, KB8OVJ Charlie McChristy, N8CPO Ray Melosh, N8EAJ Marge Melosh, Mary O'Dell, KD8VKW Larry Kube, N8GVD George Van Dam, WQ8S Mark Sharef, K8TTI Denny Calmyn, John Wilson, N8NCR Nolan Rollo, KD8NNU Don Swetzig, W8CO George Verciuc ,AB8XU Tom Rozek, Reece Albright

After reciting the pledge of allegiance president Jim Kvochick K8JK made introductions and called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**Program Director** Bob Hitchens K8VQC brought information on the rescue disc quantity discounts available and passed a sign up sheet for those interested.

Minutes from the previous meeting were read a motion to accept by George Van Dam N8GVD Seconded by Ralph Mc Christy N8RBA. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurers report:** Pat Shannon W8LNO reported we have \$2867.32 in the Operations Fund 1000 cd has a balance of \$1422.29, 500 cd has a balance of \$669.09 for a total balance of \$4778.70, The Emergency Fund has a balance of \$4358.79. George Van Dam N8GVD moved to accept the treasurers report as read Seconded by Charlie Mc Christy KB8OVJ MOTION CARRIED.

**Bruce Pollack** reported Basic Cert Training class will be held March 15 & 16th. Ham in a day 2/22/2014 at the EOC. Sky Warn 4/21/2014 at the Hamburg Fire Department at 7 p.m. get there early to reserve your seat. M-36 and Pettysville rd.

**Technical Director** Les Butler W8MSP, reported that the Dstar repeater is working Jim Kvochick K8JK reported that the repeater controller is repaired and will be installed after the thaw.

**Newsletter Editor** Michelle Roderick no report

**Vice President** George Van Dam No report

Last Tuesday's test session we had three people take tests and they all passed . There are VE tests held the second Tuesday of the month at the EOC or any Saturday morning at breakfast.

**Old Business:** We have a few SWR bridge kits available if anyone wants to purchase one.

**New Business:**

**Nominations for awards:**

**Ham of the Year** - Bob Hitchens K8VQC, Jim Kvochick K8JK, Bruce Pollack N8WWX, Les Butler W8MSP, Mark Sharef WQ8S, suggestions for additional award categories can be brought to the next meeting voting on ham of the year will be at next month's meeting.

**Field day** - we are considering a field day station at the EOC and one on the Hill at Balloonfest.

Mark Sharef WQ8S moved to adjourn seconded by Ralph Mc Christy N8RBA.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49

50/50 raffle won by Larry Kube \$49.50 to the winner and same to the club

Respectfully submitted by

Karen Butler KB8AKC

---

---

## Board (2-20-2014) Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes not included at this time.

---

---

### Finance Report ....

OPENING BALANCE OPERATIONS FUND	
February 10, 2014 -----	\$2867.32
INCOME	
Dues -----	\$230.00
50/50 -----	<u>\$50.00</u>
ACCOUNT BALANCE -----	\$3147.32
EXPENSES	
Repeater Phone -----	\$83.80
Post Office Box Rental -----	\$56.00
Marsh – Liability Ins -----	\$320.00
Marsh – Equipment Ins -----	\$183.00
NEW ACCOUNT BALANCE -----	\$2504.52
1000 CD -----	\$1422.29
500 CD -----	\$669.09
TOTAL BALANCE March 12, 2014 -----	<u>\$4595.90</u>

\*\*\*\*\*

OPENING BALANCE FROM EMG FUND AS OF	
February 10, 2014 -----	\$4358.79
INCOME	
ACCOUNT BALANCE -----	\$4358.79
NEW BALANCE as of March 12, 2014 -----	<u>\$4358.79</u>

---

---

## FCC Grant - 02/22/2014

1 MARK E THOMPSON	KD8WPM
2 LOU A LOOMIS	KD8WPN
3 JOYCE B BRENNAN	KD8WPO
4 MICHAEL A CONNER	KD8WPP
5 JONATHAN L PERKINS	KD8WPQ
6 JOSHUA N PEDERSEN	KD8WPR
8 NEAL W MEISLING	KD8WPS
9 PATRICIA ANDRING	KD8WPT
10 DANIEL J BERLUCCHI	KD8WPU
11 JAMES A BRENNAN, II	KD8WPV
12 JANICE M JOHNS	KD8WPW
13 TODD M KUBE	KD8WPX
15 CHRISTOPHER R HAMMOND	KD8WPY
16 ANDY J PLESS	KD8WPZ
17 LESLIE D RODWELL	KD8WQA
18 MICHAEL D ECKMYRE	KD8WQB
19 BARRY J MARKS	KD8WQC
20 ERICA M HAMPTON	KD8WQD
21 LAWRENCE R MEADOWS	KD8WQE
24 DAVID L LAMBERT	KD8WQF
25 JOHN V FAUVER	KD8WQG

Congratulations to all the new Technicians from our Ham in a Day class and many thanks to those who made it possible!



---

Thought for the day ...



---

Upcoming Hamfests ...

**Hamfest/Convention**

03/15/2014 | [Crossroads Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Marshall, MI

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.w8df.com>

**Hamfest/Convention**

03/16/2014 | [TMRA Hamfest & Computer Fair](#)

**Location:** Perrysburg, OH

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Toledo Mobile Radio Association

**Website:** <http://www.tmrahamradio.org>

**Hamfest/Convention**

04/12/2014 | [Milford Swap](#)

**Location:** Highland, MI

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Milford Amateur Radio Club (W8YDK)

**Website:** <http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk>

---

---

## Humor for the Day ...

### PUNS FOR EDUCATED MINDS

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whiskey maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber band pistol was confiscated from algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the nudist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
14. A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: 'Keep off the Grass.'
15. The midget fortune-teller who escaped from prison was a small medium at large.
16. The soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
17. A backward poet writes inverse.
18. In a democracy it's your vote that counts. In feudalism it's your count that votes.
19. When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.
20. If you jumped off the bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine.
21. A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.'
22. Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says 'Dam!'
23. Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
24. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
25. Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.

---

Michelle Roderick, KD8GWX, [michelle.roderick@redcross.org](mailto:michelle.roderick@redcross.org)  
734-717-5660 Cell 734-864-6623 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 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> <b>LARK</b> <b>Breakfast</b> <b>8 am</b> <b>The Grand</b> <b>River Grill</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  <b>VE Testing</b> <b>7 pm</b> <b>Howell EOC</b> <b>FREE!!!</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>LARK</b> <b>Meeting</b> <b>7:30 pm</b> <b>Howell EOC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> <b>LARK</b> <b>Breakfast</b> <b>8 am</b> <b>The Grand</b> <b>River Grill</b>  Basic Cert Training  Crossroads Hamfest
<b>16</b>  Basic Cert Training  TMRA Hamfest & Computer Fair	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>LARK Board</b> <b>Mtg</b> <b>7:00 pm</b> <b>Teleconference</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>						

# April 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill</b>
7	8	9  <b>VE Testing 7 pm Howell EOC FREE!!!</b>	10	11  <b>LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC</b>	12  Milford Swap	13
14	15	16	17	18  <b>LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference</b>	19	20  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill</b>
21  Sky Warn Hamburg Fire Department 7 p.m. M-36 and Pettysville rd	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Future events:

June – Field Day