

THE LED

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Howell, Michigan



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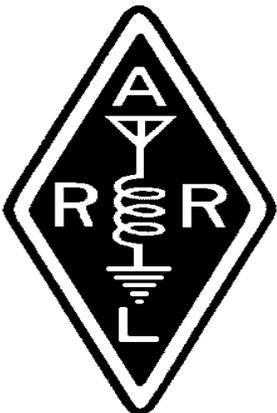
Livingston Amateur
Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan
48844

www.qsl.net/milark

IET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM

REPEATER CALL IS: W8LRK

NEXT KLUB MEETING
March 9th 7:30PM at the EOC,
Highlander Way, Howell, MI



BOARD MEMBERS

President	Art	KC8WAZ
Vice-President	Bruce	N8GVD
Secretary	Mary	KC8SER
Treasurer	Clairus	KC8QQN
Program Director	Jon	KC8VAB
Tech Coordinator	Jim	WB8AZP
Tech Coordinator	Jon	KC8VAB
Board Member	Chuck	W8CLK

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

146.680 Repeater	Jim	WB8AZP
LED Editor	Jim	WB8AZP
VE Coordinator	Jim	WB8AZP
PIO Officer	Brandon	KC8YHE
PIO Officer	Jim	N8ENX

SOCIAL EVENTS

Not anything listed on the ARRL website for April

PREZ SAYS



"Why not attend a meeting in person, or at least join us for breakfast on the first and third Saturday of the month? Amateur Radio needs your involvement to help keep it an important hobby and public service."

73, from your President, Art KC8WAZ

LARK SOCIAL NOTES

LARK Dinner before the Meeting (DBTM)

Check on the 146.68 repeater.

LARK Saturday Morning Breakfast

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast, held on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Our current location is the Crossroads Grill, near the intersection of Oak Grove Road and M59 in Howell. (The restaurant is located near the south end of the Kroger plaza). This is a great opportunity to get together with hams that can't always make our regular Klub meetings, and for hams just passing through! All are welcome!



OPERATION CARE 2006

Attached below is a copy of the signup sheet for this years operation care event during Memorial Day. Please sign up to help out during this event.

SETUP GROUP
 SETUP GROUP
 SETUP GROUP
 SETUP GROUP
 SETUP GROUP
 SETUP GROUP

Clairus & Chuck
 Mary KC8SER

TAKEDOWN GROUP
 TAKEDOWN GROUP
 TAKEDOWN GROUP
 TAKEDOWN GROUP
 TAKEDOWN GROUP
 TAKEDOWN GROUP

Clairus & Chuck
 Mary KC8SER

MAY 26th

Friday 8AM-12N
 Friday 8AM-12N

Friday 12N-4PM
 Friday 12N-4PM

Friday 4PM-8PM
 Friday 4PM-8PM

Friday 8PM-12M
 Friday 8PM-12M

Duane N8WMN

MAY 27th

SAT 12M-4AM
 SAT 12M-4AM

Duane N8WMN

SAT 4AM-8AM
 SAT 4AM-8AM

Van N8GVD
 Jim WB8AZP

SAT 8AM-12N
 SAT 8AM-12N

Ray Schafer

SAT 12N-4PM
 SAT 12N-4PM

Neil K8IT
 Tom AB8IT

SAT 4PM-8PM
 SAT 4PM-8PM

Marge N8EAJ
 Mary KC8MSA

SAT 8PM-12M
 SAT 8PM-12M

May 28th

SUN 12M-4AM
 SUN 12M-4AM

SUN 4AM-8AM
 SUN 4AM-8AM

SUN 8AM-12N
 SUN 8AM-12N

SUN 12N-4PM
 SUN 12N-4PM

SUN 4PM-8PM
 SUN 4PM-8PM

SUN 8PM-12M
 SUN 8PM-12M

May 29th

Monday 12M-4AM
 Monday 12M-4AM

Monday 4AM-8AM
 Monday 4AM-8AM

Monday 8AM-12N
 Monday 8AM-12N

Monday 12N-6PM
 Monday 12N-6PM

Mac N8RBA
 Charlie KB8OVJ

Van N8GVD
 Jim WB8AZP

Ray Schafer

Marge N8EAJ
 Mary KC8MSA

Mac N8RBA
 Charlie KB8OVJ

Van N8GVD
 Jim WB8AZP

**PLEASE SIGN UP
 FOR A TIME TO
 WORK AT
 OPERATION
 CARE!
 CALL MARY AT
 517-676-2529 AND
 LEAVE A
 MESSAGE
 THANKS! MARY
 KC8SER**

The 2005 LARK Awards Dinner

“Now for the rest of the story....”

By Mac N8RBA

First, I would like to thank the American Legion Post 141 for the use of their facilities to hold our event.

There was a good turn out, and for those who had a dozen excuses on why they couldn't attend, or were too busy, you missed by far one of the best feeds that L.A.R.K. has ever had since the event was started.

The varieties were endless, and the dessert table was a total disaster to anyone on a diet. We especially liked that decorated, two flavored cake that came from the Duffield Road area. This bad boy required extra insulin to overcome. No one went away hungry or looking for something to munch on. If you did it was your own fault.

The awards caught a few by surprise big time. Congratulations to Van, N8GVD, the 2005 recipient of the WB8OHO award. Van put in a lot of time and effort on Field Day, and this was one of Craig's main events. We're pretty sure he would have been proud that you received the award this year.

Speaking of the awards, they were assembled by Marge, N8EAJ, and they were all very nice. Thanks Marge, for all your efforts. Ray, N8CPO received a pair of awards that Marge built right under his nose. He was totally surprised, and the expression on his face was priceless.

The white elephant was won by Ray, N8CPO and along with this prize goes the honor of hosting the event next year, lock, stock, and barrel. Ray, the ball is in your court, and you have a hard act to follow. Start planning now, and no ducking out to Texas to ride the bike.

There were a good number of fine gifts won in the white elephant sale, and also some very fine junk. Rosie, the wife of KC8TGX, won a pair of angels, and

I've been told she collects 'em. Thank goodness my family took home less than we brought, which is a good thing.

We want to thank all who came and brought all that good eating. We hope everyone had a good time, and we'd also like to pass on a big thanks to those who stayed and helped with cleanup. We left the place in better shape than we found it.

73 and God Bless
Mac, N8RBA & Family

WB8OHO AWARD HONOR ROLL

1995	Ken Meier, AA8AV
	Ray Melosh, N8CPO
1996	David Schwein, W8MFR
1997	Neil Sablatzky, WA2WIM
1998	Tom Withers, N8HCC
1999	Bruce Pollock, N8WWX
2000	Bruce Pollock, N8WWX
2001	Ken Pearce, N4KCD
2002	John Champa, K8OCL
2003	Clairus Keep, KC8QQN
2004	Jim Kvochick, WB8AZP
2005	Bruce Van Dam, N8GVD

General Meeting Minutes March 9, 2006

The meeting was opened by Art KC8WAZ. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and a moment of silence was observed. Introductions were made. Awards were presented to Neil, K8IT & Bruce, N8WWX, since they were unable to attend the banquet held previously.

The secretary report was read, Chuck, W8CLK made a motion to accept, and Mac N8RBA was second. Motion passed.

The treasurer reported the Klub made \$290 from the White Elephant auction.

Correspondence included normal bills and LED expenses. Van, N8GVD made a motion to pay the bills, and Don N8SKE was second. Motion passed.

The LED editor reminded all those without email addresses to insure that their address was on his "hardcopy" list.

Bruce, N8WWX thanked all who helped on the CBRNE trailer radio installations, and also thanked those who made it to Skywarn training.

Tom AB8IT and Van, N8GVD will meet next month after the general meeting to begin the audit process.

Van, N8GVD was the "ham of the Year" for 2005. It was noted that Jim, WB8AZP was the recipient for 2004.

Klub positions for Vice President, Technical Coordinator, Treasurer, & Member at Large were decided at this meeting. All the current officers agreed to retain their respective assignments. Mac, N8RBA moved that the nominations be closed. Don, N8SKE was second. Motion passed.

A suggestion was made that Klub begin issuing picture ID badges. A motion to that affect was made by Bruce, N8WWX, and second by Shannon KD8BVT. Motion passed.

Van, N8GVD volunteered to do pictures, Jim, WB8AZP volunteered to do the lamination.

Jim, WB8AZP briefly discussed the QRP transceiver kits that some members were building. Jon, KC8VAB presented a training session on how to correctly use the Digital Voice Recorder (DVR).

The Constitution should be ready by next month.

Duane, N8WMN made a motion that the monies from the White Elephant sale be placed in the Emergency Fund. Ray, N8CPO was second. Motion passed.

A refresher course in Net Control will be held at the EOC on March 29th at 7PM.

The first prize in the 50/50 drawing was won by Mac, N8RBA.

Bob, K8PBA made a motion to adjourn. Van, N8GVD was second. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary KC8SER

LARK BOARD MEETING March 16th 2006

Art KC8WAZ called the meeting to order.

Secretary report was given and accepted.

Treasurer discussed current balances and the insurance bill due this month.

Operation Care was kicked off, and began the process to line up all documentation and volunteers.

Clairus, KC8QQN discussed what we needed to do to pursue acquiring Dale, AK8R, callsign for special station use at LARK events.

Board discussed the notion of selling ad space in the LED.

Van, N8GVD, has agreed to begin the establishment of a new Klub website.

Jim, WB8AZP made a motion to adjourn, Jon KC8VAB was second. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary KC8SER

EDITORS COMMENTS



I am happily typing away on this edition of the LED from my hotel room in Toronto, Canada (eh?). Producing any sort of newsletter is becoming more difficult as my schedule at work becomes more complex. Not really a complaint so much, as a general comment. I have a strong belief in the strength of radio clubs, and will continue to do the best I can, regardless of either the praise or criticism I receive. If you're just dying to help out, get in touch with me.

Articles

For newsletters to continue to be interesting, most editors rely on articles written by the membership at large. This is a very common and time honored practice. However, it doesn't seem to be much of a practice around here. We still need YOUR articles for the newsletter. Swap items, favorite stories, magical operating moments, remembering your first rig, the time your transmitter set off all the fireworks, swap and for sale items, favorite recipes, antenna projects, when you first discovered that you were fascinated by CW, or whatever. While I appreciate those who forward previously published material, it clearly isn't new and fresh, like something you create yourself. Need a suggestion for a good article? Just call! Need help writing it down? We can assist you. In case thoughts of spring have you thinking about other things, and you just can't seem to remember how to reach me:

Jim Kvochick WB8AZP
10366 Greystone Court
Brighton, MI 48114-7650

810-220-2098 Voice
810-220-2126 Fax
330-283-7070 Cellular
WB8AZP@ARRL.NET
146.680 MHz most evenings

Note that the best form to submit an article in is electronic, however we do accept handwritten and typed manuscripts. Beginning with the May issue of the LED, I have made a decision to attempt to appeal to your sense of greed to get articles for the LED. I will pay for articles that are original works, based on a schedule that I decide upon, that are submitted. Electronic submission will receive greater compensation than hardcopy or FAX pages. Payments will be made in cash, and will only be delivered to a LARK event, (meeting, breakfast, picnic, etc). Please don't worry; I will spend my own money on this project. All decisions for payment are mine, (after all, it's my money), and anyone who is a LARK member can participate.

50/50 Plus Drawings

If you haven't attended a recent regular meeting, then you've missed out on fabulous prizes that are given away along with splitting the raffle pot. Ask a member who has attended for the low down. Better yet, why not show up at the next regular meeting? Regardless, the 50/50 drawing is a great way to help support the Klub, and the extra prizes give everyone a chance to win!

SUNDAY EVENING NET ON 146.68

Let's not forget about the Sunday evening LARK net on 146.68 at 9PM. It's a great time to connect with other LARK members, share information, and just in general gather on the repeater. My thanks to all of you who have made an effort to check in! Again, this net meets every Sunday evening at 9PM.

LARK SATURDAY BREAKFAST

It's just a nice way to offer an opportunity to mingle with the membership. These meetings are currently held at the Cross Roads Grill in Howell. Stop on in for a glass of water, or breakfast, or a cup of coffee. Heck, if I'm there (and I often try to be) you can probably get me to buy your coffee! Oh yes, let's see; your lame excuse for not making it on Saturday morning is?

LARK WEBSITE

Our current website has a little issue. The host (QSL.NET) suffered a server crash, and had to reload from their most current backup, (October 2005). Many things on the website are not correct, and won't be until I get time to restore from my backup. My apologies for any inconvenience this may cause.

OTHER COMMENTS

See you at the next meeting, right? (Even if you're not a member now, you can become one!) Need a ride to the meeting? We'll send someone to get you! Need someone to buy you dinner before the meeting? We can probably take care of that, too. Not sure if you have enough change to buy yourself a refreshing beverage at the meeting? We'll handle that for you as well. Afraid

the room will be too cold for you? Bring your blanky. Dress is casual, so don't worry about digging out your Tux or Formal. We have plenty of seats in the front (or back) row for you. Do you have another unique excuse for not attending the meeting? Why not share it with others, in a lovely article for the newsletter? Especially now that you can get paid for an article!

Public Service Corp

Sometime either the last part of July or first part of August 2006, the First District Regional Medical Coalition will be holding another full scale exercise. I believe amateurs will be involved with this exercise throughout the district. I will keep you updated as I get more information.

Bruce Pollock, N8WWX, EC/RO

SWAP & SHOP

For Sale: Alinco DX70 HF rig w/ 6meters...100watts on all bands... I have the cable for detaching the front plate. I also have the ext. cable for the mike. This radio is probably a 9 out of 10 It still has the plastic on the display. it comes with everything it did new. The mike, dc power cord and the manual, and the box. I would like to get about 475.00 for this. It will make someone a nice mobile or even a base. Contact me at aa5go@amsat.org if you're interested. Tnx and 73 Greg

I have a Heil good line mike with the GM-4 cartridge in it. I have the cable for the Icom radio and a boom. This is not a shock boom but it is just as large. It is all in good shape. The mike is 149.00 new at AES right now, the boom was about 40.00 and the mike cord was about 15.00. To buy all of this new from AES would be about 200.00 with shipping. Would like 100.00 Contact me at aa5go@amsat.org 73 and thanks for reading. Greg

PIXIE TRANSCEIVER PROJECT

By AB8IT

Well, at the Memorial Day Operation Care, Jim (WB8AZP) handed me a small QRP kit to build and to give a few minute presentation at a future LARK meeting (sometime in the Fall of 2005) HA! I agreed to this readily, since I enjoy kit building and have always wanted to build a QRP rig. What a fateful day!

In case you are wondering, a QRP rig is a low powered radio that usually uses CW (Morse Code) but sometimes voice as its mode of communication. Some QRP kits are transmitter only, but this kit, the Pixie II is a transceiver (both receiver and transmitter in the same package). An internet search will bring up many articles on the Pixie II and other simple low-cost QRP radios of the same type, so I will not bother to describe the operation of the Pixie II. Any description of mine would be inadequate and redundant, and anyone who is interested will probably look it up anyway. All I can say is this project has sat on the back of my mind ever since, and currently sits on my workbench. It has been to me sort of like an itch that I just can't scratch. Perhaps writing this article will ease my mind about it, but I doubt it.

I agreed to build the kit believing that I would have ample time to build, test and report to the club my success in making QRP contacts with a radio that costs less than \$10. I was wrong on all three counts.

First, as many of you know, I recently moved. I really underestimated the amount of time and energy it takes to keep a house for sale clean and ready to show for any prospective buyer (particularly with two children). Needless to say, I devoted one or two evenings to the kit all summer.

Secondly, though I have had limited experience building kits (I successfully built my Jackson Harbor keyer, my Bux-Com soundcard to radio interface, and my Idiom Press audio filter) this project has befuddled me. I cannot get this thing to work right. The rig does not transmit when keyed, but puts out RF when it is not keyed. My research on the web into this kit tells me that it is not uncommon to get RF bleed-through when receiving with this radio, but I can't find any troubleshooting regarding the lack of transmitting power when keying the radio. (By the way, the early regenerative receivers from the 1910's and 1920's would also transmit when not properly adjusted). To troubleshoot the problem, I have repeatedly checked the parts layout, checked for poor solder connections and read and reread the sparse instructions to no avail. It is really a simple kit without much to go wrong (much simpler than my keyer and audio filter), yet I can't quite get it to work.

When I moved into my new home, it took me weeks to unpack and find the kit, and weeks more to get the workroom and workbench ready for me to do anything. The workroom required new electrical wiring and lighting, and the bench just needed to be organized. Excuses, excuses!!! I finally was able to get to the kit in November, and still remain puzzled as to what the problem could be. My current theory is that one of the two 2N2222 NPN transistors that the radio uses to switch between receive and transmit is fried. Radio Shack doesn't sell these transistors individually as far as I can tell, so my next course of action will be to go find a replacement transistor of this type and try this. I am half inclined to order another kit anyway since the cost is so cheap.

So, Jim, I'm sorry I have not prepared a presentation for a LARK club meeting about the Pixie II, so I hope you will please accept this lame excuse for an article and the hopeful promise of a future article about how I got this thing to work properly. Ah! I feel better now!

- Tom AB8IT

LATE NEWS BULLETIN

In a nearly unbelievable move, the Federal Communications Commission has announced that effective May 1st, 2006, they will no longer require amateurs to follow policies and procedures set forth in part 97 of the FCC regulations.

Citing rising costs to provide services to radio amateurs, the FCC has turned the task of licensing and regulation over to the Amateur Radio Relay League, (ARRL). "It just makes sense to us that hams could take care of this whole mess more easily, without all the paperwork", disclosed one FCC administrator.

The ARRL, learning of this sweeping change only moments before the Internet news services began relaying the information all over the world, has already begun to embrace the huge task of licensing and enforcement. David Sumner, formerly K1ZZ, has been brought back to fill the position of "license czar" for the ARRL.

"The first thing we're gonna do," David said in an exclusive telephone interview, "is cancel all existing amateur operator permits". He added, "This is our dream come true. We at the ARRL have had a plan in our back pocket for decades. All amateurs get to re-apply for a license, and take our new simplified 150 question standardized test. We will issue calls beginning with the A1 prefix, until we exhaust all possibilities, then move to A2 and so on. There will be no vanity calls. All privileges will be the same for all newly tested amateurs, with the exception of ARRL Life members and ARRL staff, who can request the use of any frequency at any time they wish."

David will appoint "assistant czars" in every state in the U.S. He commented that he would be looking for, "the kind of individual who will mark up newsletters in red ink, and sit in the back of the room at club meetings and snipe." He'll be accepting applications immediately.

Very little further details have been released at this point. Please stay tuned into this newsletter for further information, with a scheduled update available by April 31st.