



# THE LED

## August 2009

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



### BOARD MEMBERS

President	Jim	WB8AZP
Vice-President	Pete	W1LBR
Secretary	Mary	KC8SER
Treasurer	Patrick	W8LNO
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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.

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## **Jim's Jive ....**

It's hard to believe August is here already! I've been busy trying to balance a hectic work schedule, as well as take full advantage of the nicer weather to update antennas, attend a few ham swaps and relax with the family. For my household, the summer has been both busy and brief. It won't be long before we're complaining about weather instead of construction on Michigan roads and wishing it was just a bit warmer. I hope the summer has been enjoyable for all of you! We're all looking forward to more of you being able to make a meeting or two in the coming months. Don't put off working on those antennas; this winter should be much better for HF operations than last winter was!

### **Picnic**

I missed the last LARK picnic, but I'm confident that those who attended had a great time. Thanks to the picnic committee and the chief cook for making it happen!

### **Radio Raffle**

LARK is once again raffling off radio gear. This time, you have the opportunity to win either an ID-880 mobile or IC-80 handheld. Both radios are dual band, and can operate as either D-STAR or FM transceivers. Only 100 tickets have been printed, and each ticket is \$20. You can pick up tickets from Pat, W8LNO, if you wish to sell or buy a few.

Understand please, that our radio raffles allow us to continue to support our current dues structure. Your support is encouraged.

### **Planning For The Next Radio Raffle**

Bring your ideas for equipment to give away for our next radio raffle. Clearly, you can help decide on what we offer at our next raffle! I have to believe there's something you'd like to have a chance to win!

### **CERT Training**

We're nearing the end of the first round of CERT training. No matter how much training I receive, I always learn something new. Be sure and check in with Bruce, N8WWX for what new sessions are being planned. I like being prepared, and being in a position to make a positive difference. Our training and our amateur radio licenses can make a huge difference in an emergency. Since none of us have any good guesses as to where or when we may need to jump in to help out, it's always good to take advantage of the free training being generously offered.

### **August Meeting**

Jon, KC8VAB, has created a great program for us. He wanted to deliver it at the July meeting, but we didn't have enough members in attendance. Hopefully, more of you can show at the August meeting.

### **Still Looking For Your Presentations**

We're still looking for your participation. We've got folks that can help you prepare to share what fascinates you with the members of LARK. I also love to hear your excuses for why you can't do anything. Your collective creativity in this area never ceases to amaze me.

### **Freedom Is Just The Other Side Of Action.**

Recognize that your mental fences can only keep you stuck as long as you're looking at them. They can only contain you as long as you're not taking actions consistent with your vision. Go ahead, take the action you've avoided and leap into a future filled with possibilities. And remember, the fences are all in your mind!

Would you like to have more joy and less stress in your life? Do you want to discover the secrets to reaching your full potential? Would you like to make a positive difference in the short time you're here on this earth? You only have to take the first step, and do something.

### **Freedom Of Speech Is Very Important**

For all the trials and tribulations, we live in a very unique country. Our freedom of speech insures we can have conversations with differing opinions, and with only a few exceptions, those conversations can happen on the air. As long as you are operating within the guidelines set forth by the FCC, feel free to take on just about any topic. Remember though, that the party line of the airwaves reaches many, many ears.

### **This Month May Change The Klub Forever**

There may be news this month about changes that may affect the state of the Klub forever. You'll learn more at the next meeting. Why not invite someone to the meeting?

73



Jim WB8AZP

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### **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, American author

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## **Finance Report ...**

None provided at this time.

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## **LARK General Meeting Minutes 7-9-2009**

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

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## **LARK Board Meeting Minutes 7-16-2009**

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

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## **After Action Report for Field Day 2009 ...**

by Mark/WQ8S

I have been going over my notes for this year's Field Day. First off, I had a great deal of fun. Seeing so many of the club members and having a chance to operate a field day station again makes the sun burn worthwhile.

For so many years I operated 1B. This taught me a lot about portable stations that could be set up by one person, but it's not as much fun as working with a group. I got to see the video setup and met new people.

So what did I learn? What would I change for next year?

First we need more shade. Not only would this make it easier on us, but I noticed many of the public stopped by to watch us just for the shade. Having those extra chairs and water helped, too. Please remind me not to forget the sun block next year.

I really enjoyed meeting the public and telling them about amateur radio and MARS. This is a great venue to get the word out. I wish we had two or three more operators. This would have meant that Zak and I could have taken more breaks. Running two stations with two operators means either fewer contacts or two very tired operators. We still made over 100 contacts this year, which is about 90 more than last year.

Working 40m and 20m was a good choice. These are the bread and butter bands for Field Day. 80m should be saved for after dark and 15m for 11am to 2 pm. This cuts down on dupes. We should save the Buddy pole for 20m and 15m and use the full size dipoles for 80m and 40m. Of course it helps if we try things out before hand. Does your great new thing from that last magazine article really work?

## **After Action Report for Field Day 2009 (continued) ...**

Speaking of antennas, I should have asked to use the antenna analyzer to check my roll up dipole. The dipole worked fine, but took a while to get the right length whenever I changed bands. I was pleased with my roll up dipole this year. with the center only 20 feet high and the ends 3 to 6 feet high, I was able to break several pileups on 40m. I worked about 65 stations from 8am to 2pm. The trouble was the band changes. Using modeling software on my old standbys and new ideas would also save time.

To save time on band changes maybe the way to go would be a 40/15m and 80/20m dipole that used decoupling stubs. Each station would have one dipole with a day/night capability.

I want to thank everyone who supplied support. We lacked for nothing in set up or tear down. George was on site the whole time as was John. Zak ran the 40m stations all day Saturday fighting for every contact using the buddy pole.

We had plenty of people who came out to help even if they could stay for only a few hours. Plenty of visitors, too. Who ever brought the food and those who prepared it, THANK YOU.

I personally would like better chairs for the operating positions. My back went out for two weeks. Which is why I waited to write this.

For those who didn't make it out this year you missed a great show and we had the best seats in the house. We did a lot of great PR. Many hams and non hams stopped by just to see what we were doing.

We made a little over 110 contacts this year, which is one way to measure our productivity. It fall short though of measuring how much fun we had and what I've learned . Next year will be even better and I hope to see you there.

Mark/WQ8S

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## ARRL President Presents League's Views on Distracted Driving Laws to Safety Advocacy Group



**Many states currently have legislation pending regarding the use of cell phones. Most states also cover using cell phones in the case of accidents or other law-breaking activities while driving a vehicle in their respective traffic legislation. [iStockphoto/Dennis Oblander, Photo]**



A 2009 [experiment](#) with *Car and Driver* magazine editor Eddie Alterman that took place at a deserted air strip showed that texting while driving had a greater impact on safety than driving drunk. While legally drunk, Alterman's stopping distance from 70 mph increased by 4 feet; by contrast, reading an e-mail added 36 feet, and sending a text added 70 feet. [Photo courtesy of [Paul Oka](#) ]

To ensure that Amateur Radio is not an unintended victim of the growing public debate over what to do about distracted drivers, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has [written a letter](#) to the National Safety Council ([NSC](#)), highlighting issues regarding the use of Amateur Radio emergency communications devices in vehicles. Many states have outlawed the use of cell phones while driving; some states with these laws have ambiguous wording (such as "mobile communication devices" or "mobile electronic devices") concerning the use of Amateur Radio while driving.

According to their Web site, the NSC is "[on a mission](#)" to "alert the American public that different kinds of distractions have different levels of crash risk. Talking on a cell phone and sending text messages are much higher risk activities that occur for longer durations and with more people than most other actions engaged in while driving." They also seek to "lead a change in our nation's cultural norms, so people come to view cell phone conversations and text messaging while driving as unsafe and socially unacceptable. Calling for a legislative ban on these activities is the first step in a long-term process to educate Americans to their risk and change the culture."

Harrison explained to NSC President Janet Froetscher that Amateur Radio operators provide essential emergency communications when regular communications channels are disrupted by disaster: "Through formal agreements with federal agencies, such as the National Weather Service, FEMA and private relief organizations, the Amateur Radio volunteers protect lives using their own equipment without compensation. The ability of hams to communicate and help protect the lives of those in danger would be strictly hindered if the federal, state and local governments to not ensure that Amateur Radio operators can continue the use of their mobile radios while on the road."

According to ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, it boils down to the difference between *simplex* -- when only one message can be sent in either direction at one time -- and *duplex* -- a communications mode, such as a telephone system, that provides simultaneous transmission and reception in both directions. Harrison, citing Sumner's 40-plus years of experience as an Amateur Radio operator, puts it this way: "Simplex, two-way radio operation is simply different than duplex, cell phone use. Two-way radio operation in moving vehicles has been going on for decades without highway safety being an issue. The fact that cell phones have come along does not change that."

Harrison attached a copy of the [ARRL's Policy Statement on Mobile Amateur Radio Operation](#) to the letter to the NSC. "Amateur Radio mobile operation is ubiquitous, and Amateur Radio emergency and public service communications, and other organized Amateur Radio communications activities and networks necessitate operation of equipment while some licensees are driving motor vehicles," the Policy Statement reads. "Two-way radio use is dissimilar from full-duplex cellular telephone communications because the operator spends little time actually transmitting; the time spent listening is more similar to, and arguably less distracting than, listening to a broadcast radio, CD or

MP3 player. There are no distinctions to be made between or among Amateur Radio, public safety land mobile radio, private land mobile radio or citizen's radio in terms of driver distraction. All are distinguishable from mobile cellular telephone communications in this respect. Nevertheless, ARRL encourages licensees to conduct Amateur communications from motor vehicles in a manner that does not detract from the safe and attentive operation of a motor vehicle at all times.

"The ARRL acknowledges numerous and increasing instances of state legislative proposals (and occasionally municipal ordinance proposals) to curb the use of cellular telephones while operating motor vehicles, ranging from prohibitions on hand-held telephones to prohibitions on all forms of electronic devices," the Policy Statement maintains. "These statutory proposals would supplement the more generalized motor vehicle code requirements that exist in various forms in virtually all States, which require operators of motor vehicles to pay full time and attention to the operation of the vehicle while driving. ARRL understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, and it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles."

Saying that the League understands that driver inattention is a leading cause of automobile accidents, "it is not unreasonable to be concerned about substantial distractions to drivers of motor vehicles. Given the necessity of unrestricted mobile Amateur Radio communications in order for the benefits of Amateur Radio to the public to continue to be realized," the policy statement reads, "the ARRL urges state and municipal legislators considering restrictions on mobile cellular telephone operation to (I) narrowly define the class of devices included in the regulation so that the class includes only full duplex wireless telephones and related hand-held or portable equipment; or alternatively (II) specifically identify licensed Amateur Radio operation as an excluded service."

Harrison pointed out that some states, in designing legislation to combat distracted driving and prevent cell phone usage behind the wheel, have done exactly what the Policy Statement suggests. He gave four examples in his letter to the NSC:

- [Georgia SB 218](#), which relates to the penalties for harmful acts while driving which result in accidents, exempts the proper use of radios, citizens band radio, or mobile telephone.
- [Iowa SF 190](#), which would prohibit the use of handheld cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices by motor vehicle operators, does not apply to the use of an amateur radio by a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator.
- [Oklahoma HB 1782](#), which relates to full time attention while driving, prohibits use of certain devices by operators of motor vehicles and provides exceptions for a person who is operating an amateur radio and who holds a current, valid Amateur Radio station license issued by the Federal Communication Commission.
- [Texas HB 55](#), which was signed into law in June 2009, relates to the offense of using a wireless communication device (narrowly defined as "a device which uses a commercial mobile service as defined by 47 USC Section 332") while operating a motor vehicle and exempts an operator who is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission while operating a radio frequency device other than a wireless communication device.

"The ARRL is aware of no evidence that [mobile] operation contributes to driver inattention," the Policy Statement asserts. "Quite the contrary: Radio amateurs are public service-minded individuals who utilize their radio-equipped motor vehicles to assist others, and they are focused on driving in the execution of that function."

Harrison told the NSC that the ARRL "would welcome the opportunity to review further these issues and explain the important role of Amateur Radio operators in emergency communications operations to save lives and property in disasters and severe weather."

According to the [NSC Web site](#), the group "saves lives by preventing injuries and deaths at work, on the roads and in homes and communities. We engage organizations and individuals through our leadership and efforts in research, education and advocacy."

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## The Law of the Garbage Truck

One day I hopped in a taxi and we took off for the airport. We were driving in the right lane when suddenly a black car jumped out of a parking space right in front of us. My taxi driver slammed on his brakes, skidded, and missed the other car by just inches! The driver of the other car whipped his head around and started yelling at us. My taxi driver just smiled and waved at the guy. And I mean he was really friendly.

So I asked, "Why did you just do that? This guy almost ruined your car and sent us to the hospital!" This is when my taxi driver taught me what I now call, "The Law of the Garbage Truck."

He explained that many people are like garbage trucks. They run around full of garbage, full of frustration, full of anger, and full of disappointment. As their garbage piles up, they need a place to dump it and sometimes they'll dump it on you.

Don't take it personally. Just smile, wave, wish them well, and move on. Don't take their garbage and spread it to other people at work, at home, or on the streets.

The bottom line is that successful people do not let garbage trucks take over their day.

Life's too short to wake up in the morning with regrets, so...Love the people who treat you right. Pray for the ones who don't.

Life is ten percent what you make it and ninety percent how you take it!

Have a blessed, garbage-free day!

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## **FOR SALE ...**

**ICOM ID-800 D-STAR (and conventional FM) dual band radio). Brand new, never used. \$400.00 contact Jim, WB8AZP**

**ICOM ID-2820 D-STAR transceiver, with GPS D-STAR module. Used, but in great shape! \$700.00 contact Jim WB8AZP**

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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 June 2009 LED a success!

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## AUGUST 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b>  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am (name of restaurant)</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>12</b>	<b>13</b>  <b>LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am (name of restaurant)</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <b>ARROW AMP Outing 6 – 8:30 pm 7616 Edmund St. Whitmore Lake (grill available)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>  <b>LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Howell EOC</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>	<b>31</b>					

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## SEPTEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am (name of restaurant)</b>
6	7	8	9	10  <b>LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC</b>	11	12
13	14	15	16	17  <b>LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Howell EOC</b>	18	19  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am (name of restaurant)</b>
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

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