

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

THE LED

Published by the Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Howell, Michigan



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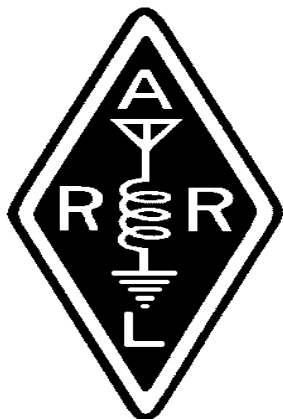
Livingston Amateur
Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan
48844

www.w8lrk.org

**NET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM**

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

**NEXT KLUB MEETING
January 11h 7:30PM at the
EOC, Highlander Way, Howell, MI**



BOARD MEMBERS

President	Van	N8GVD
Vice-President	Dick	W8KDR
Secretary	Mary	KC8SER
Treasurer	Clairus	KC8QQN
Program Director	Jon	KC8VAB
Tech Coordinator	Jim	WB8AZP
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

**LARK VE Test: Tuesday, January 9th, 7:00PM at
The EOC. It's never been a better time to
upgrade!**

Hobby Day: February 24th at the Hartland Library.

PREZ SAYS

I would like to thank Art KC8WAZ for his hard work as President for the last several years. I'm looking forward to serving as your president for the next few months. I would also like to thank Dick W8KDR for accepting the appointment as VP, He has already proven he is a valuable asset to the Club and I'm sure he will keep me in line. I would like the Club's VE's to be ready if needed for the future testing sessions we may have increased number of people wishing to upgrade.

I've been impressed with the attendance at the last few Club meetings and the turnouts at the Saturday morning breakfasts; I hope that the increase will continue. I believe strongly that part of the privilege of holding an amateur license is public service. I strongly encourage all of the Club's members to get their training up to date. I think we are in a unique situation in Livingston County so let's be ready if called upon. Oh I almost forgot, I would like to wish all a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Van N8GVD



LARK SOCIAL NOTES

LARK Dinner before the Meeting (DBTM)

Check in 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!



ARROW GENERAL CLASS

The next ARROW (Ann Arbor) General Class License Course will start Tuesday, January 16, 2007. It will either take place in KB6NU's basement in Ann Arbor or in Room 3437 in the EECS Building on U-M's North Campus (see map at <http://www.umich.edu/news/umnc.html>).

The class will meet from 7pm to 9pm each Tuesday evening for eight to ten weeks. The class will cover all of the theory and regulations needed to pass the General Class license test. Here's an outline of what we will cover:

Introduction

Electrical Principles

DC Circuits

- * Voltage
- * Resistance
- * Current
- * Ohm's Law
- * Kirchoff's Laws
- * Resistors in Series and Parallel

Power

- * Decibels

AC Circuits

- * Reactance: Capacitive and Inductive
- * Impedance
- * Transformers

Circuit Components

- * Resistors
- * Capacitors
- * Inductors and Transformers
- * Diodes and Transistors

Signals and Emissions

- * Signal Quality
- * Amplitude Modulation
- * Single Sideband
- * Frequency and Phase Modulation
- * Digital Modes

Practical Circuits

- * Power Supplies
- * Filters
- * SSB Transmitters
- * SSB Receivers

Antennas and Feedlines

- * Polarization
- * Random Wire Antenna
- * Vertical Antenna

- * Half-Wavelength Dipole Antenna
- * Directional Antennas
- * Loop Antennas
- * Feedlines
- * Standing Wave Ratio (SWR)
- * Impedance Matching

Propagation

- * Ionospheric Propagation
- * Critical Frequency
- * Maximum Usable Frequency
- * Solar Activity
- * Scatter Modes

Operating Procedure

- * Telephony
- * Operating Courtesy
- * Emergency Communications
- * Directional Antennas
- * Station Records
- * Digital Communications

FCC Rules

- * Operating Privileges
- * Transmitter Power Standards
- * Good Amateur Practice
- * Prohibited Transmissions
- * RF Power Amplifiers
- * Administering Amateur Exams
- * Station Identification

Amateur Practice

- * Test Equipment
- * Testing Transmitter Performance
- * SSB Power Measurement
- * Station Accessories
- * RFI
- * Safety
- * Mobile Operation

RF Safety

- * Safety Principles
- * Safe Exposure Levels
- * RF Exposure Rules
- * Field Strength Measurements

Setting Up Your Station

- * HF Equipment Features

- * Buying Used Equipment
- * Station Location
- * Practical Antennas

Exam Review

While not exactly part of the course, KB6NU will offer some guidance on learning Morse Code. (It is, after all, still a requirement!)

There is no fee for the course, but you will have to purchase (or at least want to purchase) a copy of the ARRL General Class License Manual. To register for the class, or for more information, contact KB6NU, at 734-930-6564 or by e-mail.

EDITORS COMMENTS



Happy New Year! Hopefully, you're already excited about attending the first LARK meeting of 2007. We look forward to your support. Amateur radio, and in particular, this Klub, can use your it. Together, we can represent all that our hobby has blessed us with, and can help it grow in the coming years.

Articles

Thanks for all those who have taken the time to contribute real quality articles to the newsletter. Your editor appreciates the effort.

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

We seemed to have slipped back into our old habits. Turn on your rig on Sunday evening, and check into the net! It won't cause you any pain or discomfort.

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, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, usually starting around 8 AM or so. 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?

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?

Support the Klub. It's important. Not just to the organization, but to the future of amateur radio as well.

AWARDS BANQUET INFORMATION

The awards banquet is coming up in February. Everybody that has attended can vouch for the good time we have with the white elephant exchange. Some of the things are very good and useful and some are not.

This year I would like to request that if at all possible do not bring back any of the white elephant goodies you were so lucky to win last year. Garage/yard sale season is about over for this year so getting something real cheap that way is hard to do if you do not already have something. Maybe you could even ask a relative, friend or neighbor if they have something to donate to the cause. Remember to tell them all the proceeds go to a charity. You could bring more than one item if you so desire. So start looking around for real goodie and save some of that fancy Christmas wrapping paper to make your package look very desirable. Lets enjoy the evening!

Who is going to receive the HAM of The Year Award this year? Be thinking about this. Who do you think should receive an award this year? It could be a very well earned recognition for work done and time spent making ham radio and/or the LARK more enjoyable. Or maybe a recognition for a real good screwup we all seem to make every once in a while. Maybe it could be just something funny that happened that you think the comedian ought to get recognition even if he/she doesn't think so. Let Marge know your suggestion. She is very anxious to put her new computer to the test of making those fancy certificates. Phone number 517-546-9209 or email at margemelosh@yahoo.com. She does need some ideas!

Ray N8CPO

TREASURER REPORT

OPENING BALANCE OPERATIONS FUND

NOV 30 2006 775.34

DUES 320.00

DUES 100.00

DUES 85.00

TOTAL BALANCE NOV 30, 2006 1280.34

1000 CD 1248.04

500 CD 613.13

TOTAL BALANCES DEC 31, 2006 3141.51

BALANCE FROM EMG FUND AS OF NOV 30 2006

BALANCE 1518.45

DEPOSIT DONATIONS 50/50 225.00

DEPOSIT DONATIONS 10.00

TOTAL BALANCE AS OF DEC 31, 2006 1753.45

Those Weird Sounds: By Tom Hermann (AB8IT)

With the advent of the New Year, I thought about what I wanted to do different this year. After contemplating learning Portuguese, or growing a Fu Manchu moustache, or even learning to crochet, I decided to write an

article or two for the LARK newsletter. And what better subjects to write about than those crazy, weird sounds and warbles you hear on certain portions of the ham bands. My wife calls them “alien” sounds, but I call them Digital Modes.

Digital Modes:

All the digital modes I am familiar with are considered soundcard modes. What I mean by that is that there are no modems involved in the reception or transmission of these modes. That is what makes these modes very cheap. In fact all you really need for these modes are a computer (with a soundcard), some software (much of it free) and some sort of interface between the radio and the computer. The interface could be as simple as my Buxcomm Rascal interface (I built as a kit 5 years ago, for under \$30 I might add) or some of the more elaborate Rig-Blaster type boxes for sale. In fact, all you really need is a cable that sends the audio from the radio to the computer. I have talked to folks who have used a single cable, and held the microphone up to the computer speaker, pressing the push-to-talk when they wanted to transmit. I wouldn't recommend this, but it works in a pinch.

The digital mode I'd like to tell you about is not the fastest, not the most efficient, not the most robust under poor band conditions (though pretty good when the band is unstable), in fact nothing I would ever recommend for any emergency-type communication. It is simply one of the coolest, oldest and oddest modes of electronic communication: Hellschreiber.

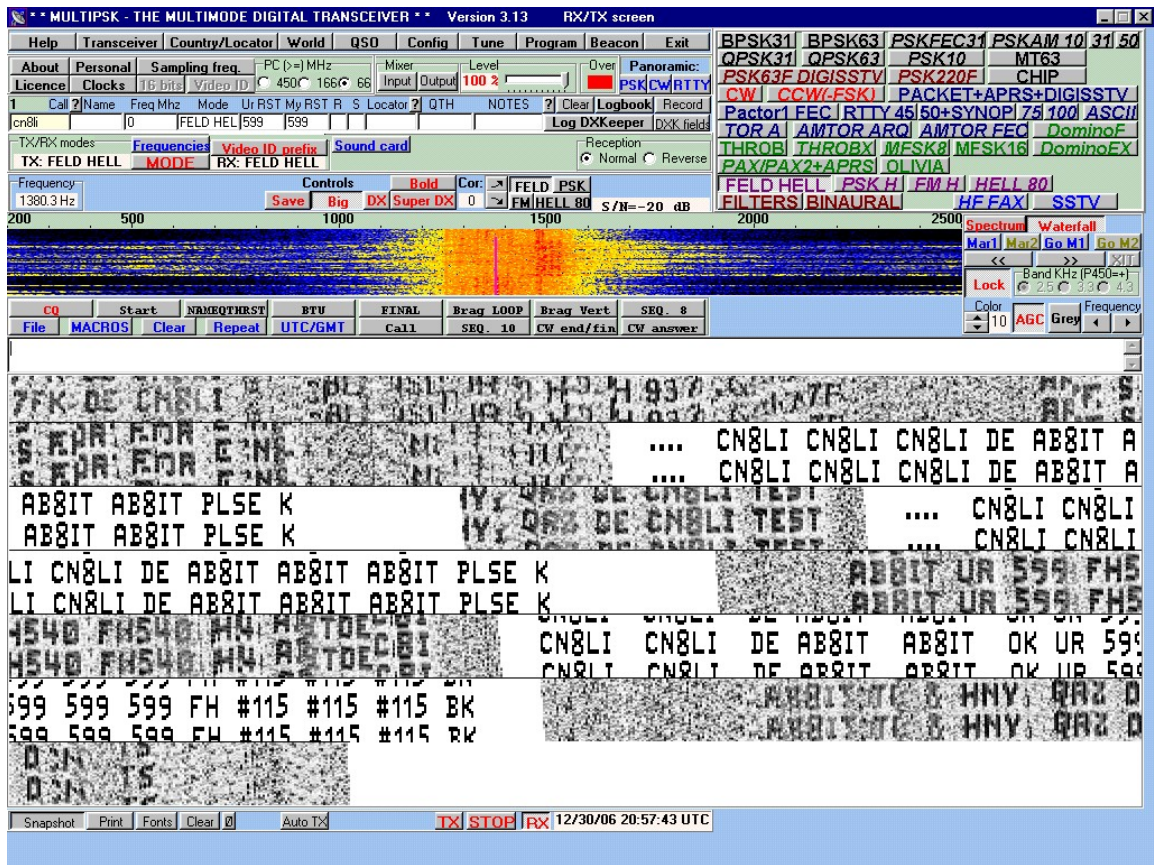
Say Hello to Hellschreiber:

Hellschreiber is German for “bright writing”. Rudolf Hell patented it in 1929. It was used in sending newspaper print via telephone before the war, and was used by the German military as a field communication mode. It is considered a “fuzzy” mode. That means that it is not entirely digital communication. In a non-fuzzy mode, the receiving computer interprets a digital signal digitally and then places it on the screen. Modes such as packet and PSK-31 do this. Hellschreiber, like its cousin CW, produce an analog visual or aural signal that needs a human to decode it. Here is an image of an old German Hell field unit:



Hellschreiber produces what I would call a ticker tape of at least two lines of the same text. This ticker tape used to be reproduced on actual paper, but now appear visually on a computer screen. Hellschreiber produces these images through sending a CW signal that produces a black spot for on and a white spot for off. Different parts of these letters are sent at different times. I participated in the Feld-Hell contest on December 30th and I have included a screen shot of a QSO I had with a Moroccan station. I do this, not just to show off

the DX I am proud of, (but I am!) but to show that Hellschreiber can produce reliable communication over long distances.



Flavors of Hellschreiber:

I mentioned before something called Feld-Hell. This is essentially the Field Hellschreiber mode used by the Germans, pretty much in its unchanged form. It is basically CW Hellschreiber. There are other types of Hellschreiber as well. FM-Hell modulates the frequency of the carrier, PSK Hell, the phase of the carrier, and MT-Hell or Multi-Tone Hell uses multiple tones (frequencies) to produce the information. Of these Feld Hell is the most popular, though FM-Hell is great for weak signal work. There are other forms of Hellschreiber being developed every year by digital radio enthusiasts.

Hell Activity:

In the past year, the amount of Hellschreiber activity on the HF bands has really increased. This is in part due to the inception of the FeldHell Club on March of 2006. It currently has 560 members and several SWL members. I am member number #115. The great thing is, again membership is essentially free. There is much Hell activity on 20 meters (around 14.075) and on 80 meters (3.585ish). There is also a FM-Hell net that meets on 30 meters.

More information:

There is much more information available on web about the Hellschreiber modes. You can read up about them at these web sites (where I got most of my info):

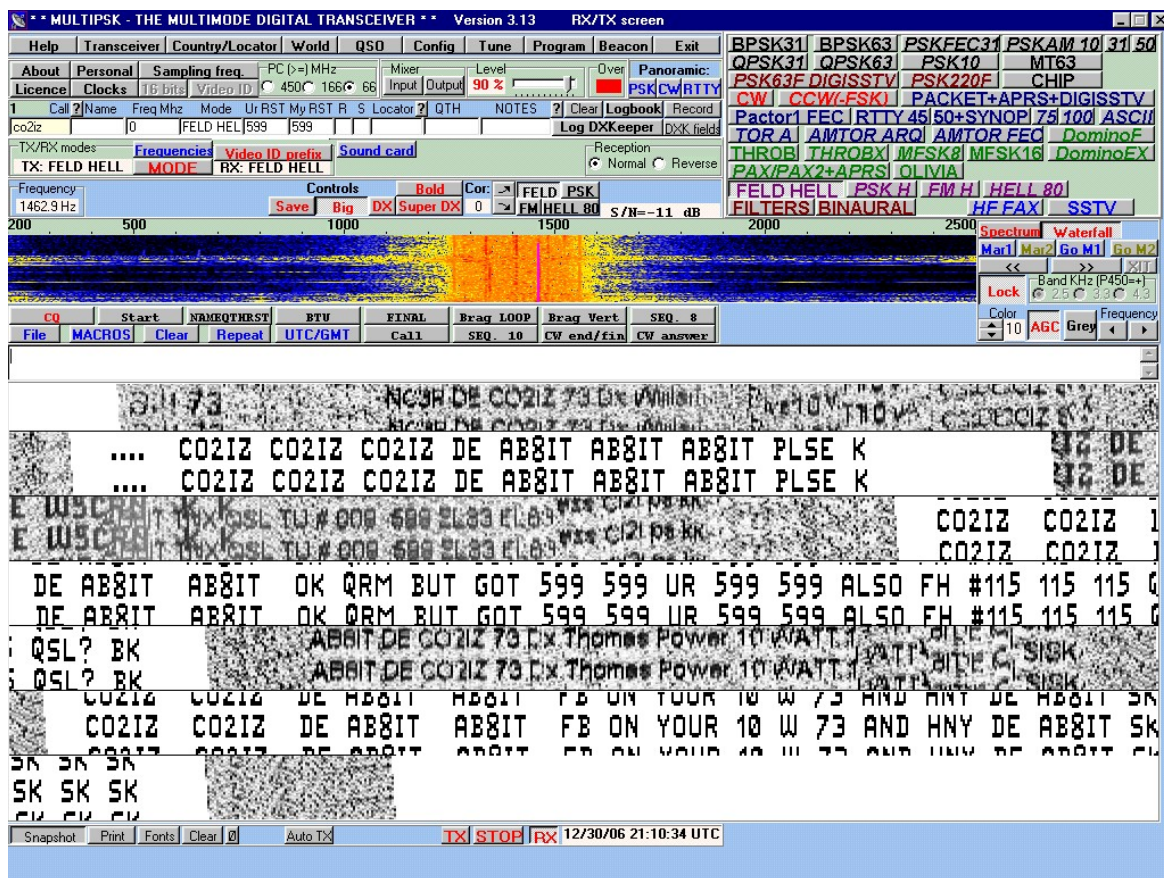
The Feld-Hell Club: <http://www.feldhellclub.org/>

Welcome to the World of Fuzzy Modes, by ZL1BPU: <http://www.qsl.net/zl1bpu/FUZZY/Index.htm>

If you want to know what Feld-Hell sounds like, try this web site: <http://det.bi.ehu.es/~jtpjatae/sound.html>
It has a collection (though not complete) of digital noises.

So if you are looking for a Hell of a time, say to yourself, "What the Hell, I'll try Hellschreiber". (I couldn't resist)

Finally one more screen shot of a station in Cuba using only 10 watts. Conditions were a bit choppy, but I was able to make contact.



ATTITUDE (by Dick W8KDR)

You probably don't have this problem, but I am constantly frustrated by events. Some of those events happen to me personally and some happen in the world in general. We all react to these events in different ways, but the way we react controls our personal outcome and how others perceive us.

You can't control almost everything in your life, but you can control how you react to everything that happens.

Before I go further I should state that I react in the wrong way often, however I am committed to catching myself and turning it around the other way. You have most likely listened to me on the repeater get on a rant about something and then catch myself and try to put a positive spin on it or make a joke about it at the end of the conversation. Unfortunately my military and law enforcement experience of looking for problems gets a grip on me for a moment and I have to kick myself in the butt and wake myself up to what I am saying. My goal is to think before I speak and make what I say positive. The old what you sow is what you reap is true. What you verbalize is what you get.

The major job we all should have is to look for the positive in everything. That is a very hard thing to do because we are all overwhelmed with our personal situation. Over the last ten years I have often been overwhelmed by the frustration of my medical situation. During that time the only thing I could think of to do was make jokes about what was happening to me. I attempted to focus on brightening the days of the medical people and other patients around me. That really improved my thoughts and lessened the frustration.

We have learned in FEMA training and ARECC training that attitude is an important factor in dealing with the served agencies. I would go a step farther and say it is important to dealing with anyone. It affects our relationships at work, socially, with our family and most important with ourselves. It creates ulcers or euphoria.

There is an old story about the clinical study with two little boys. The doctors were trying to figure out why one little boy was always happy and the other was always mad. They put the mad little boy in a room filled with every toy a little boy could wish for and they put the happy little boy in a room full of horse manure. They left them in the rooms for three hours. When they returned to check on them they found the mad little boy sitting in the middle of the toys crying and screaming. They asked him what was wrong and he told them what was wrong and what he didn't like about every toy in the room. They then went to the room with the happy little boy and found him laughing and sitting in the middle of the manure digging and flinging the manure in all directions. They asked him what he was doing and he said "*With all this manure there has to be a pony in here somewhere!*"

Attitude isn't everything, IT'S THE ONLY THING!

**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**
LARK

CHRISTMAS PARTY 2006



Ricky Martinez celebrated his 10th birthday with a special cake just for him.

The 2006 Christmas Party at the Prairie House restaurant in Howell included Great food, good friends, a warm fire in the fireplace and a special Christmas cake.



Art, our current president (on the right) introduced our new Klub President Van (on the left)

Since Art will be not be able to attend the December meeting he passed the gavel on to Van at the party.



For all the pictures from the party see the web site.