



# THE LED

## May 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, May 14th, at 7:30PM  
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way  
Howell, MI



### BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Van</b>	<b>N8GVD</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Pete</b>	<b>W1LBR</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary</b>	<b>KC8SER</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Patrick</b>	<b>W8LNO</b>
<b>Program Manager</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>KC8VAB</b>
<b>Tech Director</b>	<b>Les</b>	<b>W8MSP</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>KD8CCR</b>

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

<b>Repeater Trustee</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>LED Editor</b>	<b>Michelle</b>	<b>KD8GWX</b>
<b>VE Coordinador</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>PIO Officer</b>	<b>Brandon</b>	<b>KC8YHE</b>
<b>PIO Officer</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>N8ENX</b>
<b>Web Site</b>	<b>Les</b>	<b>W8MSP</b>

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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## PREZ SAYS ....

Elections are May 14, 2009. Make your vote count.

I would like to thank the members for allowing me to serve as your President.

Good luck to this year's candidates.

Our ability to provide emergency communications to served agencies is a very important part of the spirit of Amateur Radio. I want to thank those that have stepped up, taken the required courses and training and participated in the exercises. But of course, we can do better. Waiting until we are needed isn't the time to decide you want to help. I would encourage all radio amateurs to become more involved in ARES and RACES. Take the required classes and make time to participate in the exercises. Having the training is as important as having the ability to do the job. To learn more, visit [www.n8eoc.org](http://www.n8eoc.org) or [www.w8lrk.org](http://www.w8lrk.org) and click on the ARES/RACES tab, contact our EC or any of the AEC's.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next Klub event.

Van N8GVD



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## Joke of the day ...

### WHO DOES WHAT

A man and his wife were having an argument before heading out to the LARK breakfast about who should brew the coffee each morning. The wife said, "You should do it because you get up first, and we won't have to wait as long to get our coffee." The husband said, "You are in charge of cooking around here, you should do it because that is your job and I can wait for my coffee." To which the wife replies, "No, you should do it. Besides, it is in the bible that the man should make the coffee." The husband replies, "I can't believe that, show me!" The wife picked up her bible and opened to the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages that it indeed says..... **HEBREWS.**

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# Petition to amend the LARK Constitution and By-Laws

## **Now reads as follows:**

Article IX: Funding the LARK KLUB

Section 1. There are two methods of funding the KLUB's activities and expenses which are as follows;

Section 1. Donations to the Emergency Communications and/or Sunshine Fund.  
Dues and Donations to the General Fund.

Section 2. Dues are \$20.00 per year per person plus \$5.00 for each additional Family member, who qualifies for full membership in the KLUB, resides in the same household, as the primary member, has the same legal address, and deemed to reside in the same household, by the Board of Directors.

## **To be amended to read:**

Article IX: Funding the LARK KLUB

Section 1. There are two methods of funding the KLUB's activities and expenses which are as follows;

Section 1. Donations to the Emergency Communications Fund.  
Dues and Donations to the General Fund.

Section 2. Dues structure will be determined annually by the Board of Directors.

Member: George Van Dam  
Call: N8GVD Date:16APR09

Member: James Kvochick  
Call: WB8AZP Date:16APR09

Member: John Waters  
Call: KD8CCR Date:16APR09



**WHY VOTING FOR JOHN WATERS**



## IS THE ONLY GOOD CHOICE

At the May 2009 LARK meeting, members in good standing will be asked to vote for a new Klub President. Assuming that there are no other nominations from the general membership, I strongly urge you to vote for my good friend, John Waters, KD8CCR, to serve as your next LARK leader. Some points to ponder as you make your selection during this historic evening are:

- John works tirelessly in Livingston County. His attendance at meetings and Klub functions is exemplary. His opponent could never insure that he will be in the same state, much less within the county, on meeting nights.
- John is always open to new ideas and encourages participation in a warm and friendly style. His opponent has the tact that could only be described in polite company as “confrontational”.
- John believes very much in supporting the traditions and principles that most LARK members have come to know and enjoy. His opponent believes that destructive change is beneficial and derives some sick pleasure out of torturing members with this concept.
- John is clearly considered a very nice guy. His opponent, well, let’s just say that there are different terms that we could apply to him.
- John has been actively involved in the Klub leadership team, and has contributed greatly to the benefit of all of the members. His opponent has done nothing but provide the giant spoon to stir the bubbling caldron of turmoil with.
- John has no hidden agenda. It has long been rumored that his opponent has other motives. It is very possible that the opponent intends to carry out his “master plan” for the complete take over of the LARK.
- John is well liked among the existing officers within the Klub. It’s doubtful that the other guy can boast this claim.
- John will always make sure there are hot dogs. John likes hot dogs. His opponent? Well, he has a proven track record of speaking out against hot dogs. I think that borders on being pretty much a communist or something.
- John will carry out faithfully the wishes of the membership at large. His opponent requires a great deal of supervision. Simply ask our program and technical directors. They will both say that John’s opponent is a real pain to deal with.

This is a very critical election. Don’t waste your vote on some flashy carpet bagger from the south. The Klub needs real, positive leadership, not some maniac who is bent on taking over everything. I’ve heard John’s opponent threaten to raise dues, force members to participate, and goodness knows what else. I respectively urge you to make the only correct choice when you vote at the May meeting, by voting for John Waters, KD8CCR, to represent you as your next LARK president. Remember, a vote for John is a vote for God, country, motherhood and apple pie! The other guy doesn’t like hot dogs, so I doubt if he even likes pie!  
Jim WB8AZP

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**Why you should vote for Jim, WB8AZP for President**

I'd like to take a brief moment of your time to ask for your vote for Jim, WB8AZP, for President of the LARK. Jim has many, many, many years of experience in life and in Amateur Radio, much more than his opponent does. The last thing the LARK needs is an inexperienced, untested person at the helm.

Jim also has plenty of time, way more than his opponent does to lead the Club into the future as evidenced by the fact that he has had lots of time to send lengthy emails and additions to the newsletter. Jim is tireless and always thinking of the club, even at midnight, sending messages to everyone.

Both the former and new Emergency Manager/911 Director cannot say enough good things about Jim. His knowledge and selfless devotion to Livingston County has spurred many projects here that have put Livingston County to the forefront in Amateur Radio.

For these reasons and many, many more that unfortunately since I don't have the time on my hands that Jim does, I cannot list them all. You should cast your vote for



**Jim Kvochick, WB8AZP for President**

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### **LARK General Meeting Minutes 4-9-2009**

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

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### **LARK Board Meeting Minutes 4-16-2009**

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

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### **Finance Report ...**

**OPENING BALANCE OPERATIONS FUND**

April 03, 2009 ----- \$1853.75

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**INCOME**

50/50 ----- \$ 50.00

Dues ----- \$ 60.00

TOTAL ----- \$ 110.00

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ACCOUNT BALANCE (04/24/09) ----- \$1963.75

**EXPENSES**

Account Balance ----- \$1963.75

1000 CD ----- \$1390.51

500 CD ----- \$ 656.85

TOTAL BALANCES APRIL 24, 2009 \$4011.11

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**BAL. FROM EMG FUND AS OF APRIL 24, 2009**

BALANCE ----- \$4642.01

TOTAL ----- \$4642.01

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**Thought for the day ...**

“Success means having the courage, the determination and the will to become the person you believe you were meant to be.”

~ George Sheehan, American physician, author

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**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN**

# ELECTRONICS TINKERING?

We're trying to gauge the potential interest level on doing some exploration in various facets of electronic technology. We are targeting the potential use of some low cost (60 to 80 dollar) microprocessor experimentation kits, coupled with local expertise, in something like a once a month forum, beginning in the fall of 2009. Our current thinking is to meet at the EOC for a few hours after one of the LARK breakfast meetings.

If you're interested, or have other ideas for potential sessions, please get in touch with Jim, WB8AZP, or Jon, KC8VAB. Although we will do our best to keep costs low, there will be some funding required from participants.



## FINISH YOUR RECEIVER KITS (THERE'S MORE BUILDING FUN COMING)

Remember how much fun we had working on those Ten Tec receiver kits? The next LARK meeting will be an excellent time to bring your uncompleted or untested kit to finish. You'll want to have your kit assembled and operating to be able to take on our next project.

The Technical Team is currently evaluating an exciting option: a digital display that can also double as a handy frequency counter. Top priority for assembling the next project will be given to those who have completed the current kit. More details on the great digital display selection at the next LARK meeting.

Need to put your new receiver in a case? Several Klub members have already accomplished this and they will bring their creations to the next meeting. We'll even have some enclosures available for you. Again, top priority given to those who have completed a kit.

Come build with us! Have fun! Watch others struggle with reading the labels on the parts!

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## ICOM ID-880H



Enter the world of Digital Radio with the **ICOM ID-880H** 2M/440 dual band mobile. Output power may be selected at 50, 15 or 5 watts. The receive range (USA version) is: 118-173.995, 230-549.995, 810-823.990, 849-868.990 and 894-999.990 MHz. Supported modes include: FM, AM (receive only) and DV. You get 1052 memory channels in 26 banks, with 8 character channel names. CTCSS/DTCS tone encode/decode is standard. Weather receive with weather alert is supported. This radio

comes with the HM-133 DTMF mic, separation cable, mobile mounting bracket, remote head bracket, mic hanger, DC power cord and spare fuses. This radio requires 13.8 VDC 12.5 amps. Free CS/80/880 programming software is available from the Icom website.

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## Icom IC-80AD



The above photo includes optional HM-189GPS.

The **Icom IC-80AD** is a rugged dualband 2 meter/440 HT with D-STAR built-in! Power output is up to 5 watts on each band. Four power levels are available: 5, 2.5, 0.5 or 0.1 watts. The [controls](#) are easy to use. Multiple [scanning modes](#) are supported. You get 1052 memory channels in 26 banks, with 8 character channel names. CTCSS/DTCS tone encode/decode is standard. Weather receive with weather alert is supported. A large, informative back-lit [display](#) is featured. This radio comes with SMA antenna, MB-107 belt clip, BP-217 lithium ion battery, BC-167A charger and wrist strap.

Free CS/80/880 programming software is available from the Icom website. The IC-80AD is shown left with optional HM-189GPS speaker mic.

Both of these new items are expected 05/08/09. Just in time for the Dayton HAMvention!!!

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## ARLB016 FCC Denies Petition to

## Increase Size of Amateur Radio Question Pools

In April 2008, Michael Mancuso, KI4NGN, of Raleigh, North Carolina, filed a petition with the FCC, seeking to increase the size of the question pools that make up the Amateur Radio licensing exams. Mancuso sought to increase the question pool from 10 times the number of questions on an exam to 50 times more questions. On March 19, 2009, the Commission notified Mancuso that it was denying his petition.

In his 2008 petition, Mancuso claimed that the current question pool is too easy to memorize and "that there has been a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators receiving their licenses over at least the last decade or more who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by the class of license that they have received. Most discussion about this topic, both on the air and on Internet forums, generally refers to these widespread observations as the 'dumbing down' of Amateur Radio. It has been widely assumed that the cause of this observed situation is based upon the subject material addressed by the license examinations, that the material requirements specified for the examinations does [sic] not meet some minimum level of knowledge expected by some or many in the Amateur Radio community."

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that each applicant for a new or upgraded Amateur Radio operator license "is required to pass a written examination in order to prove that he or she possesses the operational and technical qualifications required to perform properly the duties of an amateur service operator licensee, i.e., that he or she is qualified to be an amateur service licensee."

The Commission summed up Mancuso's petition, saying, "You argue that the current question pool size is no longer adequate, because online practice examinations enable examinees to memorize a question pool without fully comprehending the subject matter being tested. Consequently, you propose to increase the size of the question pools, in order to hinder memorization."

The Commission concluded that Mancuso did not present grounds for the Commission to amend its rules: "As noted above, the purpose of the examinations is not to demonstrate an applicant's comprehension of certain material, but rather to determine whether he or she can properly operate an amateur station. Moreover, your contention that there has been 'a significant increase in the number of Amateur Radio operators...who do not appear to possess the knowledge indicated by their class of license' is not supported by any data or facts."

The FCC pointed out to Mancuso that the Commission's Rules only dictate the minimum number of questions for each question pool for the three Amateur Radio license classes. This, the Commission told Mancuso, "does not prevent the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) from increasing the number of questions in a question pool should it decide that this is appropriate. We conclude, therefore, that the petition presents no evidence of an existing problem or other reason for a rule change."

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### Dayton HAMvention ...

The **ARROW Communication Association**, once again, is proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the **2009 Hamvention** in Dayton, Ohio. Started in 2002, this annual club activity has grown in size and

reputation with Hams across Michigan. We have been host to over 250 Hams for this event. Last year was a sell out and based on early reservations, we expect to sell out again this year!

Join us **Saturday, May 16, 2009**, when we depart from Ann Arbor at 4:30 am, arriving in Dayton around 8:00 am. On board, you can stretch out, relax, chat with other Hams and enjoy a continental breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the door of the country's largest amateur radio event!

We arrive at Dayton early enough so that you can enjoy a full day!

- Visit exhibits
- See what's new from major manufacturers
- Attend seminars
- Take license tests
- Shop one of the largest outdoor swap meets in the United States

When Hamvention closes at 5:00 p.m., return to the entrance with your purchases and our bus will pick you up for the ride back home. No standing in lines waiting for a shuttle bus or fighting traffic!



### **Got Stuff to sell? We can help!**

Got stuff you want to get rid of? We will have an attended booth space in the flea market. If you buy a bus ticket, you can sell your stuff at our booth. The cost of the booth alone is \$70.00 more than the cost of the ticket, which makes the ARROW trip a GREAT value!

### **For our out of town Guests!**

If your QTH is too far away to drive to meet our bus that leaves at 4:30 a.m., arrangements have been made with hotels in Ann Arbor. Contact us at the information listed below for details.

## **This is no ordinary bus trip ... it's an ADVENTURE!**

Tickets are \$60. This does **NOT** include your admission to the Hamvention. We suggest that you purchase your 2009 Hamvention ticket(s) in advance to take advantage of the discount and enjoy the day without waiting in line for your tickets.

When you add it all up, taking the bus with the ARROW is the most economical and relaxing way to attend Dayton. ARROW coach tickets can be purchased now and are refundable up to 4/24/09. For more information on the 2009 trip and the fun we had in 2008, go to our web site and click the Dayton Bus Trip link.

### **Contact information:**

Michelle Roderick, KD8GWX  
Phone: (734) 717-5660  
e-mail: KD8GWX@W8PGW.ORG

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