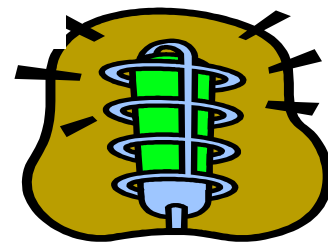




# THE LED

Published by The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub  
Howell, Michigan



## AUGUST 2004

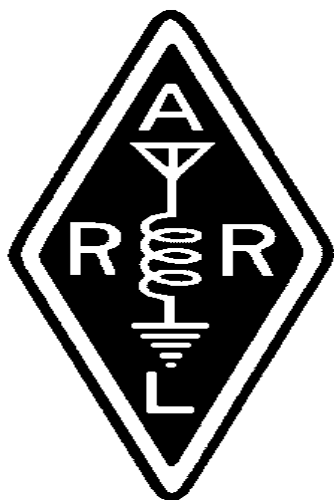
Livingston Amateur  
Radio Klub  
PO Box 283  
Howell, Michigan  
48844

[www.qsl.net/milark](http://www.qsl.net/milark)

NET 146.680  
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: KB8ZTV

NEXT KLUB MEETING  
August 12th, 2004 5:30 P.M.  
SPECIAL PICNIC MEETING SEE  
DIRECTIONS IN SOCIAL NOTES  
ON NEXT PAGE



### BOARD MEMBERS

President	Art	KC8WAZ
Vice-President	Bruce	N8GVD
Secretary	Mary	KC8SER
Treasurer	Clairus	KC8QQN
Program Director	Bob	K8VQC
Program Director	Jim	WB8AZP
Tech Coordinator	Jim	WB8AZP
Tech Coordinator	Jon	KC8VAB
Board Member	Chuck	W8CLK

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

146.680 Repeater	Jack	KA8BOG
LED Editor	Jim	WB8AZP
VE Coordinator	Greg	AA5GO
PIO Officer	Brandon	KC8YHE
PIO Officer	Jim	N8ENX

### SOCIAL EVENTS

7 Aug 2004 Delta County ARS Contact: John Anderson, WD8RTH  
PO Box 923 Escanaba, MI 49829-0923 Phone: 906-789-6950  
Email: wd8rth@arrl.net

7 Aug 2004 Iosco County AR Enthusiasts  
<http://www.w8icc.org>  
Contact: Ray Knuth, KB8ZYY PO Box 252 Oscoda, MI 48750  
Phone: 989-739-2896 Email: kb8zyy@webtv.net

14 Aug 2004 Cascades ARS <http://www.w8jxn.org/swap.htm>  
Contact: only George, AB8PW PO Box 1520  
Jackson, MI 49204-1520 Phone: 517-782-4007  
Email: ab8pw@arrl.net

22 Aug 2004 Lapeer County ARA <http://www.w8lap.com>  
Contact: Bill Miller, KD8VP 3605 Pratt Road  
Metamora, MI 48455 Phone: 810-797-5329  
Email: kd8vp@juno.com

## PREZ SAYS



THE PREZ SEZ:

Wow, this has certainly been a busy summer, so far, and we are only half way along! Our Sky-Warn Team has been quite busy, with all the storms we have been experiencing! "Well done, SKY-WARN Team "!

I regret not attending the July Picnic in the Park, as we had a death in the family and I was called out of town. I hope to join in on the fun at our August Picnic!

Your Board of Directors as had another productive meeting this month and has been privileged with the blessing of the addition of a new committee! We are pleased to announce the appointment of Brandon Field (KC8YHE) as Public Relations Director, and his assistant Jim Busard (N8ENX), and wish to thank them both for voluntarily assuming this very important function for our KLUB ! I'm confident we will all want to give them our complete support and cooperation as we all strive to make the Klub grow and better serve the community! Thanks Brandon and Jim, for stepping up to the Plate, so to speak !

We now have an improved repeater operation, with the completion of testing having been done recently by our Tech Coordinator Jim (WB8AZP) and Kenny Pearce (N4KCD) as they discovered some problem issues at the tower site. Some of these issues were resolved and some are in the process of being addressed and Jim will report on these discoveries at the regular meeting on 09/09/2004 ! In the mean time the 68 machine is working better than before, but still has more issues we are working on, and can only be improved in a Timely Manner! More on this Later!

I hope to see you all (Y'all) at The August Picnic In The Park on 08/12/04 and in the mean time "BE WELL" and Please remember our Troops with Prayer !

73..... Art

---

## LARK SOCIAL NOTES

### HOT DOGS IN THE PARK

We now have both dates for the July and August meetings to be held at the boat launch at Thompson Lake (same place as last year). The dates will be July 8th and August 12th. We will gather at 5:30 with dinner around 6. Bring a dish to pass and hot dogs and drinks will be provided.

Directions: from the east and west take 96 toward Howell to exit 137 (D-19). Head north. It turns to Michigan Avenue after you cross Grand River in Howell. Go just a few blocks north of Grand River to Lake Street and turn right. This will come to an end at the boat launch area.

Hope to see you there. Bring your favorite dish and your smiles and let's have a happy day.



---

## Secretary's Report General Meeting July 8th, 2004

Our meeting was held at the Park (picnic) in Howell. There were 24 people present, along with K9DOG. It was windy and cool but everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Hope to see one and all at our next picnic at the same park on August 12th at 5:30 PM. Bring a dish to pass. Again, looking forward to seeing you there.

Submitted by:

Mary KC8SER

---

## SECRETARY'S REPORT LARK Board Meeting July 2004 Board Minutes

Meeting called to order by Art KC8WAZ

There was a discussion on Field Day with Art, KC8WAZ and Chuck, W8CLK suggesting that there be a short delay in reporting the results in order that all the records can be rechecked.

It was mentioned that a shirt be present to Tom and Miss Cleeta Cory (his with his call KB8AL and "Miss Cleeta" on hers). Mary, KC8SER made a motion to do so and Van, N8GVD second it. Motion passed.

There were no Committee reports.

Picnic status. Everything is in place for the first picnic of the year.

Silent Key. Work is continuing on this project.

Repeater. There will be an article in the LED about the repeater. Jim, WB8AZP will write the article on behalf of the Board. We appreciate all the help from Kenny, N4KCD.

Van, N8GVD made motion to adjourn. Mary, KC8SER second it. Motion passed.

Submitted By,

Mary KC8SER

---

## TREASURER REPORT

### TREASURER REPORT GENERAL OPERATING FUND

FOR PERIOD JULY 1, 2004 TO JULY 31, 2004

OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY)	\$ 538.38
------------------------------	-----------

#### INCOME

#### EXPENDITURES

JIM WB8AZP, PRINTING LED	79.28
--------------------------	-------

ENDING BALANCE.	\$ 459.10
-----------------	-----------

OPENING CASH ( CD \$1,000.)	\$1,221.59
-----------------------------	------------

OPENING CASH ( CD \$500.)	592.13
---------------------------	--------

TOTAL OPERATING CASH.	\$2,272.82
-----------------------	------------

---

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS  
FUND TREASURER REPORT.

PERIOD JUNE 1, 2004 TO JUNE 30, 2004

OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY) \$1399.31

BALANCE JUNE 30, 2004 \$ 1399.31

BALANCE FOR THE SUNSHINE COMM \$86.44

Respectfully submitted,  
Clairus KC8QQN  
Treasurer

---

WANTED!!!!

I need as many peanut butter containers as possible, something like 50 of them would be great. I would like them to be with lids and of the 16oz size. I have a wide assortment of nuts, bolts, washers and such that is in need of a new home instead of in the bottom of the draws of my tool boxes. Thanks in advance for your help.

Clairus KC8QQN

---

## STILL LOOKING

I'm still looking for additional pictures to be included in the Klub photo album. If there are any photos of Sub Drew at our outings, I would like copies. Additionally, any Klub pictures of any LARK activities would be appreciated. Please bring them to a LARK meeting or send them to me!

Mary, KC8SER  
220 N. Rogers  
Mason, MI 48854

---

## EDITORS COMMENTS



Lots of things to share with both LARK members and those “not a member, but we’ll read your newsletter anyway” folks, as usual. Hopefully, some of you can answer the question of why you read a newsletter from a group you don’t support, anyway?

Don’t forget our August meeting will be another Picnic in the Park. Please invite Klub members, past Klub members, and any other amateurs you run into to join us for the August festivities. Heck, why not invite some folks you’d like to see get thrown in the lake, too?

### Articles

We still need YOUR articles for the newsletter. Swap items, favorite stories, magical operating moments, remembering your favorite rig, the time your dog ate your logbook, whatever. Need a suggestion for a good article? Just call! Need help writing it down? We can assist you. In case the extreme heat and humidity has left you a little confused, you can reach me at:

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](mailto:WB8AZP@ARRL.NET)

### 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?

## 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. You would think that a club the size of ours could muster up more than a handful of checkins, now wouldn't you? Why not even volunteer to take on the Net Control responsibility for one or two Sundays to gain some experience? Don't need experience in running a net? How about just volunteering to help out?

## SILENT KEYS ON LARK WEB PAGE

We now have a Silent Key section on the LARK webpage. Feel free to send me additions to this section. If you have special requests, please contact the LED Editor.

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The technical committee will get underway officially after our August picnic meeting. I hope we can get together for a few minutes after the regular meeting in September to chat for a bit. I'm grateful for all of those folks who have volunteered to serve the Klub in this fashion.

## REPEATER ISSUES

With the help of some fine Klub resources, we have identified the source of the repeater receiver interference problem, and with help from Ken, N4KCD, we have eliminated the issue. For those of you who would like to understand the issue better, it turned out to be your everyday fifth order harmonic mix, involving four 900 MHz frequencies and one VHF business frequency. Hopefully, that will be the final resolution for this particular type of interference.

While I'm writing this, a song from the 80's is playing on the radio. I couldn't agree more with the chorus:

"I'm looking at the man in the mirror,  
I'm asking him to change his ways,  
And no message could've been any clearer,  
If you want to make the world a better place,  
Take a look at yourself, and make the change.."

Talking about something is easy....doing something about it is a bit more challenging. When you look at yourself in the mirror, which person do you identify with?

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the upcoming LARK picnic!

Jim WB8AZP

---

## ARPSC

### **RACES Qualifications**

The FEMA IS-2 Emergency Preparedness U.S.A. is now back on the FEMA-EMI website. This course is one of the requirements for RACES. Please download the material and then take the test. I have some hard copies available.

### **Incident Command System**

Incident Command System is the standard by which Fire, Police, and EMS conduct business. In order to be of assistance in doing your job with providing emergency communication in a critical incident, you must really understand what is going on, and who is really in charge of the incident. The FEMA IS-195 Incident Command System Course is also on the FEMA-EMI website. Please download the material and then take the test if you have not already

**Please don't wait for the real thing and wished that you would have taken the time to attend some training.**

---

The Crystal  
By Zac Treadwell KC8YHU  
[kc8yhu@arrl.net](mailto:kc8yhu@arrl.net)



*The premises of this story can not be completely contributed to me. It was partly conceived by myself and fellow amateurs last January. I just finally figured out how to tell it while mowing my yard. So to those who did nothing but talk on the repeater all winter, thank you.*

The sun had finally set on the cool mid-October night. With a small desk lamp to illuminate her setting, a young ham sat down for a night of operation. Her shack was modest but mostly low key. The transceiver was a qrp kit, converted to operate on more than one frequency. This was hooked to a homemade amp that could pump 4.25 watts of electrifying mojo through the MFJ tuner and SWR meter out on to a 102 foot long G5RV.

Her setup fit the budget most young 20 and under hams had, but it could not be ruled out as a good setup. Her qsl card pile was quite large despite the fact she could only operate on 1 frequency in 3 bands 80, 40, and 20. Tonight was different from all the others though, she just made a new modification to her rig. She set it up to take a new crystal, a 2<sup>nd</sup> frequency on the 80 meter band. It was purchased at a swap from an odd fellow. He had set up in a dark corner of a high school gym and had numerous old parts, parts that have not seen the light of day for over a half a century. The crystal she purchased from him for the low price of a quarter operated on 3749.999.1 MHz. She remembers thinking how this was a very odd frequency and how the old ham was kinda creeping her out. He had an aura that radiated spooky as she thought to herself as the old grizzled ham placed the crystal and some other literature about it into a large manila envelope. The papers were mostly about the crystal itself, specifications mostly, and the old ham's address.

Now at home, she was prepared to fire off the rig for a nice quiet night of CW operation. She flipped the toggle switch and the little led light light up, telling her that the radio was on. She turned her selector switch over to the crystal on 3749.999.1 MHz and another light lit up, telling her that current was going through the crystal. It should, she double checked it twice with an ohm meter. She slipped the old style headphones she bought at a garage sale and began to make a CQ. No sooner had she let off the paddle, a reply. Another ham had heard her make the CQ and came back.

The young female ham was excited as she began her reply. She gathered that the other ham was in South America, Brazil to be exact. He was shocked to hear about how the qrp'er was on only 4.25 watts with a simple dipole. Also a small comment about the oddness of the frequency, if he had not set his radio to scan, he would never have heard her. The simple qso went on for a few minutes until the South American said his 73's, promised to mail a QSL card and left. But this would not be her only contact.

She made another CQ on 3749.999.1 and another ham in a far away country, this time South Africa came in for a short simple qso. The comments were the same as the first, would not have found you if I was not scanning and on so low power. This kind of thing went on all night. Tons of countries came in, Canada, Russia, Australia, Germany, and even a ham in Antarctica, all came in through her headphones. The shock was enormous. She stayed on the small homebrewed kit till the crack of dawn and by then she had worked all 7 continents with QSL cards on the way. By now she was exhausted but overjoyed as she climbed into bed to wonder what will happen the next night.

Time went by as she slept, woke up, and went about the rest of the day until dusk. By then, she was prepared for whatever the crystal she bought off an old grizzled ham would bring her. She flipped the power switch and the led came on, indicating the rig had power. She turned the selector switch over to the mysterious crystal that operated on 3749.999.1 MHz, but the led did not light. She sat

there, dumbfounded, wondering why had it not lit up. She turned off the kit, unhooked the battery, and opened the cover. Her eyes grew wide and her face pale.

As if some unseen force guided her, she grabbed the manila enveloped to get the grizzled ham's address, but this only shocked her more after she opened the envelope. She sat back down in her chair to clear her mind... For both the crystal and information about it and the old grizzled ham, had vanished.

---



DOES THIS MEAN LESS TIME FOR RADIO FOR KC8RVR?

---

#### BROADBAND PROVIDER TO DROP BPL IN NEW YORK TRIAL COMMUNITY

The broadband provider that's been testing BPL in the Village of Penn Yan, New York, reportedly plans to "move away" from that technology. The Western New York community of some 5000 residents has been considering various proposals with Data Ventures (DVI) to offer broadband service. A BPL trial has been underway in Penn Yan for several months. The village reportedly would get 10 percent of the generated revenue. According to an

article in the July 28 edition of the Finger Lakes Times Online, DVI now is proposing to employ wireless mesh "WiFi" technology instead of BPL. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Penn Yan Mayor Douglas G. Marchionda Jr and DVI for going with wireless broadband instead of BPL.

"Not only will your citizens receive better service, but a serious radio spectrum pollution problem has been averted as well," Sumner said in a fax to Marchionda and to DVI CEO Marc Burling. "We hope that other communities will be able to profit from your experience." Sumner raised the issue of interference complaints from the Penn Yan BPL trial with Marchionda last April.

The Finger Lakes Times report quotes Burling as saying that his company didn't feel BPL was "commercially deployable." He also cited issues with the BPL trial including security concerns and interference--which will not be an issue with the wireless system.

Burling told ARRL that the Penn Yan BPL system remains on line but would be shut down once DVI starts deploying its wireless system. As for BPL, "We are going to sit back and wait for an official ruling from the FCC and go from there," Burling added.

Penn Yan already has rejected two DVI proposals to bring high-speed Internet service to the community, the newspaper said. Village officials reportedly met again with DVI representatives this week. DVI is partnering with Nortel to offer the wireless service.

In a March 23 article "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," Wall Street Journal reporter Ken Brown described a "firestorm" of protest from amateurs when Penn Yan approved the BPL test plan.

ARRL also has learned that Energy East--a cooperative of New York State Electric & Gas and Rochester Gas & Electric--decided against deploying BPL in their Western New York service area. Energy East based its decision in large part on the high levels of radio frequency interference an engineer and company officials observed during a visit to the Penn Yan field trial.

On July 29, Grand Haven, Michigan, announced that it had become the first community in the US to deploy a WiFi network <<http://www.ottawawireless.net/about-us/press-room.html>> that blankets the city and up to 15 miles off shore in Lake Michigan with broadband Internet access.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL)

and Amateur Radio" <<http://www.arrl.org/bpl/>> page on the ARRL Web site.

## ARRL SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF FCC RESPONSE TO BPL INTERFERENCE COMPLAINT

The ARRL wants the FCC to further explain its recent response to a North Carolina amateur's complaint of BPL interference. FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Deputy Chief Bruce A. Franca replied July 22 to an April 27 BPL interference complaint from Thomas A. Brown, N4TAB, of Wake Forest. Brown had complained of BPL interference to his amateur HF mobile station emanating from a Progress Energy Corp (PEC) BPL field trial in the Raleigh area. In his letter, copied to ARRL, Franca said an on-site investigation had concluded that PEC's BPL trial "is in compliance" with FCC rules and that the company's ham band notching efforts "are effective" to avoid the potential for harmful interference. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, however, cited evidence to the contrary.

"It is not at all clear that the tests and measurements taken by the FCC . . . established the absence of harmful interference to licensed stations," Sumner responded July 22. He said the League would like the OET to make its test report available to the general public or at least to the League for technical review and comment. The ARRL also wants to know what steps PEC took between April 27 and June 28--when the FCC began its testing--to address interference complaints from Brown and several other radio amateurs.

The FCC defines as "harmful" any interference that "seriously degrades, obstructs or repeatedly interrupts a radiocommunication service operating in accordance with the Radio Regulations."

According to Franca, FCC personnel "undertook extensive testing and measurements" of the PEC BPL system between June 28 and July 2. The complainant--Brown--says the FCC delegation never contacted him while it was in North Carolina. Franca says FCC measurements indicated notch depths averaging 24 dB below Part 15 emission limits, which he characterized as "sufficient to eliminate any signals that would be deemed capable of causing harmful interference, including interference to amateur operations."

Franca maintained that "in no instances" were signal levels high enough to "cause serious degradation, obstruction, or repeated interruption" of amateur mobile or fixed communications. He conceded, however, that notching on 10 meters was somewhat less effective at the low end of the band and said the FCC would instruct PEC and its partner, Amperion, to widen its notch there.

Sumner noted that the Part 15 device operators "must eliminate all harmful

interference, and therefore in some cases must achieve more--in certain cases, considerably more--than a 24 dB reduction in order to be in compliance." He also cited recent reports from amateurs in the area indicating that strong BPL interference continues in parts of the PEC trial zone.

Sumner told Franca that amateurs in the Raleigh area on July 17 and again July 22 monitored a BPL signal "at full strength and causing harmful interference" from 14.290 to 14.350 MHz. "Harmful interference" also was reported in the first 100 kHz of 15 meters as well as on the WWV/WWVH frequencies of 15.000 and 20.000 MHz and on several international broadcasting bands.

"Even in the notched bands," Sumner said, "the interference was still evident on ordinary amateur equipment." He said it's clear to ARRL that the system's Holland Church Road site--where the most recent amateur measurements were taken--is in violation of Part 15.

For his part, Brown--an engineer with considerable RF experience--said he was glad the FCC finally took some action but found some of Franca's assertions "very troubling." He told ARRL that his 14-page complaint cited interference "sufficient to mask a weak signal," although it did not register on his S meter. An active Amateur Radio Emergency Service District Emergency Coordinator, Brown said it's not unusual to have to copy similarly weak signals during an HF emergency net.

"I suspect the principal reason for their coming down here was to say they've actually done something," Brown commented. He also worried that the FCC was attempting to define a standard of "acceptable interference" within the framework of what constitutes "harmful interference."

"If it interferes, it interferes," he maintained.

Sumner also requested that the FCC clarify some additional aspects of its North Carolina testing and measurement activities.

"Until these points can be clarified," he concluded, "we trust that the Commission will not permit its conclusion to be erroneously represented as having given the Progress Energy trials a 'clean bill of health."

---

---

## JOHN CHAMPA WINS AWARD!

John Champa, K8OCL and Brian Justin, WA1ZMS, were named joint winners for the 2003 ARRL Microwave Development Award (they're always for the previous year).

The ARRL Microwave Development Award is given each year to a licensed radio amateur or to individuals who are licensed radio amateurs whose accomplishments and contributions are of the most exemplary nature within the framework of microwave development, i.e., research and application of new and refined uses and activity in the amateur microwave bands, along with the millimetric bands above 30 GHz. This includes adaptation of new modes both in terrestrial formats and satellite technique(s).

---

THIS SPACE IS RESERVED FOR YOUR ARTICLE OR SWAP ITEMS....

PLEASE CONTACT THE EDITOR.....

---



LARK JULY PICNIC...(IF IT'S JULY, WHY ALL THE COATS?)



THE SUN EVENTUALLY PEEKED OUT.....AS WE WERE LEAVING!



ZACK RETURNS FROM THE HIDDEN TRANSMITTER HUNT

## ISS CREW SCHEDULE TIGHT FOR CASUAL HAMMING

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) says the ISS Expedition 9 crew of Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, and Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, has very limited time to pursue casual hamming from space.

"The ARISS program is fortunate to have another all-ham crew that is very enthusiastic about talking to ground-based Amateur Radio operators," said ARISS spokesperson Scott Stevens, N3ASA. "The ARISS team wants to remind everyone that the crew is on a strict schedule, so the best time frame to try contacting them is between 0800 and 1900 UTC." Chances are even better during weekends, he added.

Fincke and Padalka both got on the air--from NA1SS and RS0ISS, respectively--during ARRL Field Day in June, making some 60 contacts. Fincke has also made some casual QSOs.

The ISS worldwide downlink frequency is 145.80 MHz. The FM voice uplink is 144.49 MHz in ITU Region 2 (which includes the Americas) and Region 3 (South Asia, Australia, New Zealand and Oceania), and it's 145.200 MHz for Region 1 (Europe, the Middle East, Africa and North Asia.).

July 19 marked the midpoint of the Expedition 9 crew's six-month stay aboard the ISS. Fincke and Padalka are set to return to Earth October 19. Now preparing for an August 3 space walk, the crew this week packed unneeded equipment and trash into the Progress supply vehicle, which was scheduled to undock July 30. Undocking the Progress will clear the way for the space walk.

The ARISS gear will be shut down during the space walk, starting at 0850 UTC on Monday, August 2. The radios should return to service approximately 0850 UTC on Wednesday, August 4.

ARISS is an international educational outreach program with US participation from NASA, AMSAT and ARRL.