

THE LARK LED

Published by the
Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Howell Michigan

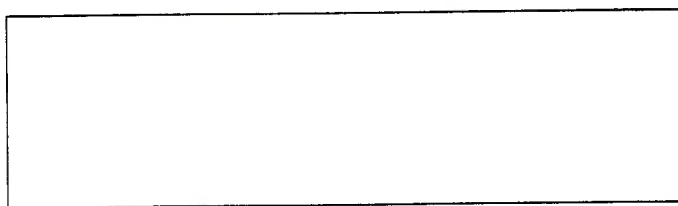
NET'S

L.A.R.K. Sunday 9:00 P.M.
MI YL Robin's Monday 8:30

November 1995

NEXT CLUB MEETING
November 7, 1995 8:00 PM
HOWELL FIRE STATION

Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Box 283
Howell, Michigan 48843



145.65
39786
614-335-0746
1/3/60

145.8850
29.3800 CW

LARK BOARD

President	Marge	N8EAJ
Vice-President	Ralph	KW8G
Secretary	Larry	KB8QJE
Treasurer	Darlene	N8NND
Board member	Ray	N8CPO
Board member	Paul	N8FVF
Board member	Jack	KA8BOG

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Repeater	Jack	KA8BOG
HamFair	Ralph	N8WWW
Contesting	Dave	N8NNC
Sunshine		
Historian		

THE PREZ SAYS

What a beautiful day this has been. I was admiring all the great color as I went here and there today. Fall is not my favorite time of year but I have to admit it is colorful...

Did all of you see how Dave, N8NNC, has challenged us? I would like to challenge all the LARK members as well. Several new and different ideas have been proposed for the next year. My challenge is for LARK members to actively participate and support these efforts.

It takes time and commitment to organize activities. Little or no participation is apt to discourage anyone from a repeat performance.

There's no better way to show your appreciation of someone's endeavor than to take part in the activity. So whatever the activity may be, show you care about LARK by being a participant. Have a fun time and enjoy your LARK.

With the November 7 meeting approaching quickly, please keep the following in mind...

I am not the first female to be President of the LARK but this is a "first" for me. Please hang in there and give me time to adjust to the new position.

Let's all have a great time making

this an interesting and enjoyable year to be a part of the LARK.

Marge N8EAJ

FROM THE EDITOR

There have been several comments concerning the list of "NEW BOARD AND OFFICERS" in the October "LED". No, I am not an officer of the LARK. Just wanted to let everyone know who was doing the "LED". The By Laws do not state who does the news letter and everyone else seemed wise enough to stay away from this task. This item in the "LED" also let me know that you notice what is not in your newsletter.

There is a very informal gathering at 28.470 MHZ about 8:00 P.M. to as late as 10:00 P.M. most evenings. Almost anything can come up for discussion and whoever has something to say they just speak up. NO formality, (it is desired to keep it that way) just as if we were sitting around the kitchen table.

The LARK board is looking for ideas for club functions. The board promises not to stick you with carrying out the suggestion that you submit. Will that statement help bring in more ideas? Paul's suggestion of a field trip to the U. of M. Radio Astrology Laboratory has been put on hold due to a severe lighting strike there. What other suggestions are out there?

Ray N8CPO

Wanted

Someone to fill the vacancies of the Sunshine and Historian committees.
Suggestions for field trips.

HAMFAIR REPORT

The fliers and dealer letters are printed. They will be in the mail by the 23rd. Darlene N8NND is in charge of the fliers. Get fliers from her if you are going to a swap. Next swap meeting is November 19, 1995 same time and place. We had a great chat while waiting for Ralph N8WWW to get to the meeting.



**MI
YL
NET
NEWS**

YL DINNER

Seven YL'S and one guest enjoyed a marvelous dinner at the Honey Dew Cafe on October 10. Attending the function were: Pam KA8PFS, Barb KB8TTT, Irene KA8MVW, Darlene N8NND, Marge N8EAJ, flo KC8AIO, Tina KB8YEJ, and Tina's daughter Tiffany.

We were all pleased to meet Flo and put a face with her call. Diane, KB8NSU, missed the dinner in order to do a good deed for a friend. Very commendable. Rita, WA8IAQ, was in the hospital for knee surgery. We all wish her a speedy recovery. Your editor had an enjoyable evening out and hopes we make it a semi-annual dinner next year.

FOXHUNT

We had one YL team consisting of: Darlene N8NND, Pam KB8PSF, Irene KA8MVW and Marge N8EAJ. This being our first attempt at finding the fox, I think we did a very fine job even if we did take last place. The main thing is that we all had a great time and will be chasing the fox again in the future.

YL NET - NEW DAY

The YL Net was discussed at our dinner. It was decided to move the net back to Monday nights starting in November. The time will remain at 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays net conflicted with other KLUB activities.

73, Marge N8EAJ

FOX HUNT

Well, the Fox Hunt went off as planned despite the rain. We had five teams entered in the hunt. Charlie KB8OVJ was the Hunt Master and the teams were:

1. Marge N8EAJ, Darlene N8NND, Irene KA8MVW, Pam KB8PSF.
2. Neil WA2WIM, Ray N8CPO, Larry WB8WOD, Rachelle, Chelsea.
3. Chuck KB8SBW, his wife Brenda, and their children Charles, and Jessica.
4. Jack KA8BOG, Raymond KB8WYE, Paul N8FVF.
5. Dave KF8IF, Tina KB8YEJ.

John N8MMB had found a very good spot to hide, no one had found us until we had to start giving out clues. And the results were:

Team #4. found us in 50 minutes, team #3. in 1 hour and 4 minutes, team #5. in 1 hour and 24 minutes, team #2. in 1 hour and 33 minutes, team #1. in 1 hour and 41 minutes. It was great that everybody had the chance to find the fox. And we hoped that everybody enjoyed themselves as much as John and I did.

Well it looks like the next fox hunt Fox's are Jack, Raymond and Paul and we'll be looking for you next time good luck.

The Co-Fox's
John N8MMB and Peter KF8YC

FIELD DAY RESULTS

The LARK placed FIFTH in the 5A category this year. The 10,350 points is the highest score the KLUB has ever attained. Another goal the LARK can look forward to beating next year.

SPEAKER FOR NOVEMBER

N8TAV Don Hosmer will give a talk on "Reception Of HF Signals Using Directional Beverage Antennas". The Talk will be from 8:00 PM to 8:45 PM. There will be some video used. A question and answer session will follow.

Thank you Neil WA2WIM for getting the LARK this speaker.

SWEEPSTAKES CONTEST

CW starts Saturday November 4, 1995 at 4:00 P.M. EST. Phone starts Saturday November 18, 1995 at 4:00 P.M.

The scores are sent in as yours individually and as a combined KLUB score. We have a contest committee chairperson. Lets see how we can do for a total club score this year. Get with Dave N8NNC to give him your score and when and what is necessary to get the LARK's score totaled up correctly.

BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 1995

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.

In attendance: Marge N8EAJ, Ray N8CPO, Darlene N8NND, Jack KA8BOG, Larry KB8QJE.
Minutes approved as read. Treasures report approved as read.

Old business:

Speaker for November. Jack agreed to contact Ralph KW8G about a speaker for the next meeting.

Marge brought up the resignation of John N8MMB. Larry nominated Niel WA2WIM. Jack nominated Al W8IW. The vote was 4 to 1 in favor of Neil. Ray agreed to contact Neil about the seat on the board.

Ray presented a draft letter the LARK plans to send to hams in the area that attended the swap.

Patches were discussed. The board decided not to lower the price.

Jack reported he was working on the problems with the repeater. Ray requested a written report as to what the problems exactly are, proposed solutions, and their costs.

Darlene talked about a coffee stop. Ray has the paper work from the state. We will bring it to the membership at the next meeting.

Ray presented a suggestion for a project activity to build ham related kits.

The meeting closed at 9:00 PM

Minutes by Larry KB8QJE

TREASURY REPORT

BALANCE FROM SEPTEMBER 1995 \$4537.42

EXPENDITURES:

Ameritech (phone bill)	\$ 73.73
Ray N8CPO (F. Day & swap)	932.66
Jack KA8BOG (repeater parts)	204.40
Paul N8FVF (F. Day)	125.00
Ralph N8WWW (HamFair)	25.00
Meridian Ins. (LARK ins.)	141.00
Office Max (tres. supplies)	11.11
Marge N8EAJ (LED postage)	38.40
Ameritech (phone bill)	18.43
Darlene N8NND (postage)	6.40
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$1576.13

INCOME:

Membership	\$ 25.00
50/50 drawing	16.50
TOTAL INCOME:	\$ 41.50

BALANCE FOR OCTOBER 1995 \$3002.79

BALLOON LAUNCH

The Milford Amateur Radio Club is going to try for another balloon launch on December 2, 1995. The package will have a 2 meter beacon on 146.460; a 10 meter beacon on 28.304 and amateur television.

Take your outside TV antenna and plug it into the cable ready jack on the back of your TV. Now tune to cable channel 60 and you should be able to see the ATV if the balloon is in our area. You may also be able to go through the VCR and record the flight.

KLUB SOCIAL SUGGESTION

A suggestion was made to have a KLUB function that would be one night a week for four or five weeks. The winter months are coming and social outings are looked for to break the cabin fever sickness. The main purpose of these get-togethers would be to have fun and socialize together. But, what could we do in the theme of amateur radio at these get-togethers. The suggestion was to build amateur radio kits. Before you panic, go back and read the third sentence again.

This program would be mainly set up for the person who does not know one electrical component from another. If you want to learn something this is also great. Learning how to solder is not difficult. The solder connections only have to be of such quality so a good electrical connection is made (these kits are not going into outer space or Sherman tanks). Electronic theory would only be discussed if a question was asked in that area.

Small groups of three to five people gathered around a table, with a guide, is the suggested setup. Hopefully, each group is working on the same or very similar project. This setup aids in personalized assistance. There are enough knowledgeable Hams in the KLUB for this type of setup.

A word to those experienced in building electronic equipment or kits. You are invited to ~~elmer~~ those that are just getting started. The first time kit builders will very probably need your expertise. Or, bring that kit you have been wanting to work on next and join in the social part of the evening as you put it together. This also gives you an excuse to get that kit and/or get started on it.

There are very useful kits that are also not very complicated. Several have been mentioned that range in price from \$25.00 to \$75.00. Not really expensive for several nights out and having a fun get-together. Most of these kits have enough tough components in them that anyone can learn to solder as they build the kit, accomplishing two things at once. If several people decide to build the same kit it may even be possible to get some components cheaper.

QST, in their March, June and August issues have kits that look interesting. Copies of these magazines brought to the meeting would be nice. Other kits have been mentioned.

Maybe the KLUB could even provide refreshments at the electronic quilting bees?

If you have any interest, questions,

or a kit in mind give Ray N8CPO a call at 546-9209. Or, bring your questions and kit info to the November KLUB meeting.

Ray N8CPO

THE BLURB

Well, once again here comes the cold weather. Sure have had some nice Fall days this year, good for raking leaves or antenna work. So I guess for me, it was get a few of the leaves up, before Mother Nature pastes them to the ground with a covering of snow. And boy, when the snow comes, antenna work kind of makes one want to wait till spring!

Ho Hum, The 2m repeater sure did not gain much, if any, when the frequency was changed, much to my and yours disappointment. A new tack will be trying a remote receiver, but all these things take time and money as I am sure you are aware. So what I will be doing is looking for a antenna site not too far away from our location. More on this subject in the future.

Was talkin, in a very laid back and simple way to one of the LARK members about something in Amateur radio that is gone. Gone? are you sure? Well after thinking a little on the subject, maybe and maybe not! What is being refered to is project building, or making your own radio stuff. It is true, most of us now are what is known as "appliance operators", we buy it, plug it in and start using it just like a toaster! And that includes Me too!!! Probably the complexity and technology of todays radio gear just about precludes "doing it yourself" for most of us, if just to match the performance of the modern gear. But ya know, We can still make lots of the other "stuff" that is part of this hobby, and that is a good thing! Kind of like the computer hobbyists, no one but no one can "make" a computer (ya put em together) but that fact will not keep one from programming that same machine! So the art is not lost., just taken on a different meaning! And thank goodness for that!!

73 s for now KA8BOG , Jack

THE STATE OF THE ART

I have heard much lately about the lack of technical abilities in the amateur radio community. This makes me wonder, Why? When I was first licenced back in 1974, I was constantly challenged by some ham to get involved. One taught me how to solder, another how to build a new final for a transmitter, another a fix to a 2 meter radio, and so on. I hope I am returning the lessons I learned by helping the locals with their problems. It's important to note that I did not build the complex gadget first. In fact many projects are simple to build, come complete with all parts and cabinet, and require little or no soldering! Many kits are built in steps, allowing you to test each small step before moving to the next step. I designed or found the needed plans, kits, and parts, and made it work. How I did it was easy! I asked lots of questions of others, and NEVER GAVE UP! Let's switch gears for a moment and I ask each of you what would you like to learn, fix, repair or build from scratch? Several local hams have expressed interest in building some kits. How about we get together once a week at some location and work together, fixing, learning, and laughing about my (and your) mistakes. I make many! Let your club officers know if you would like to take part. I also have many kit catalogs if you would like to check em out. How about a simple keyer or a complex 1.8 - 450 MHz all mode transceiver? Yes kits are available, and they are a fraction of buying a rig new or used. It's like building a house yourself. Sweat equity adds the value and self esteem.

Another area that technical expertise once developed is useful for is to maintain a repeater system. Several of you have noticed that ours is not working just right. Yes it takes time, lots of it! It takes sophisticated equipment and lots of planning. However it's like the kit. You need to break it down to each element one by one. Fix one and move on to another. Our current problem is called intermod. This is when multiple frequencies combine to form another frequency. If this new frequency is on the repeater input, you have lots of interference.

Our problem is a bit more complex, but the club has several possible solutions to choose between. They are:

1. A remote receiver or receivers at multiple locations linked to the transmitter with either phone lines or a UHF or higher radio link. Advantages, would solve the current interference problem. Disadvantages, a second receive site might not offer the same quality of repeater we had several years back, also high cost to build and maintain.
2. An advanced computerized attenuator filter. This device would listen to the frequencies that cause intermod and when present, insert attenuation in greater amounts than the received interference. When the intermod would go away, the attenuation would be removed automatically. Advantages, the repeater would have it's old coverage back most of the time, and would mute the interference when present, at relatively low cost, and the quickest of the options to do. Disadvantages: It would not completely solve the problem when the intermod would be present, the repeater would only be useful for strong stations.
3. A new site. Advantages, If properly selected, it could offer the best performance even under emergency situations. Disadvantages, cost, and the lack of suitable repeater sites in Livingston county to supply us the needed coverage.

This brings me to wonder, if we had an active construction group, could we slowly build such filters or remote links etc. to solve these problems? I think we can, and I'm willing to try. Many others in the club have already expressed interest to start with a simple kit. And then who knows? See you at the meeting.

73 Neil WA2WIM