

# 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

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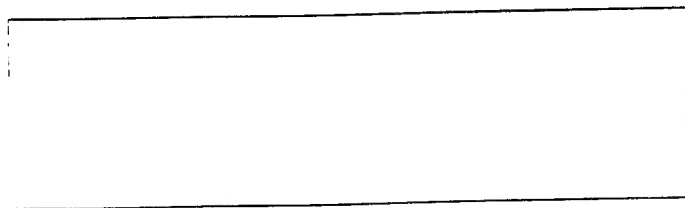
### APRIL 1996

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NEXT CLUB MEETING  
April 2 8:00 PM  
HOWELL FIRE STATION



Livingston Amateur Radio Klub  
Box 283  
Howell, Michigan 48843



## BOARD MEMBERS

|                |         |        |
|----------------|---------|--------|
| President      | Marge   | N8EAJ  |
| Vice-President | Ralph   | KW8G   |
| Secretary      | Larry   | KB8QJE |
| Treasurer      | Darlene | N8NND  |
| "LED" editor   | Ray     | N8CPO  |
| Board Member   | Paul    | N8FVF  |
| Board Member   | Jack    | KA8BOG |

## COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

|            |       |        |
|------------|-------|--------|
| Repeaters  | Jack  | KA8BOG |
| HamFair    | Ralph | N8WWW  |
| Contesting | Dave  | N8NNC  |
| Sunshine   | Peggy | N5XHT  |
| Historian  | Donna | KA1KFO |

## THE PREZ'S COLUMN

Here I sit, once again trying to put some words of wisdom down, for whatever reason. Who started this business of having the Prez write a column anyway?

Spring is supposed to be here, but I think someone forgot to remind Mother Nature. The first day of Spring was the worst day of Winter! But take heart! Dayton is only a month and a half away. So make out your list and pull those boat anchors out of your closets.

Speaking of Dayton, how many wives will be staying behind while the OM has his fun at the Great Mecca? How about we all get together for a night out? Darlene, Rita, Diane and present company, have tickets to see "Lend Me A Tenor" at the Millpond Theater in Brighton on the 18th of May. Any of you interested in joining us? We could even have dinner before hand or dessert afterwards. I will be happy to get tickets for anyone that's interested.

I still have some awards & certificates to hand out to the following:

|                |        |                |        |
|----------------|--------|----------------|--------|
| Ken Meier      | AA8AV  | Pam Denomme    | KB8PSF |
| Peggy Galipeau | N5XHT  | Greg Yost      | N8FZD  |
| John Gay       | N8MMB  | Ralph Heinrich | N8WWW  |
| Don Hibbard    | WD8NFX |                |        |

So, if you should bump into any of them before the next meeting, tell them that the Prez is just dying to hand them out. See you all at the meeting on April 2

Your Prez, Marge N8EAJ

## EDITORS COMMENTS

It does not take long to get used to faster computers. Both of the (at times) frustrating machines have been upgraded to the 486 category. The faster machines saves a lot of time jumping between programs to look for information or do something else in the hobby of Ham Radio.

Two ham swaps in two consecutive days can really tire a person out. Thought there wouldn't be much time to spend a lot of money and pass out fliers too. But, both were managed quite well. I Found out that Tower Electronics carries the high quality microphone cord and it isn't cheap.

It has come to my attention on a couple occasions that some of the abbreviations used in ham radio are not understood by everyone. So, every once in a while a couple will be stuck in the news letter. One example is "DVR" which stands for "Digital Voice Recorder". When a message is put on the repeater it is recorded and played back using computer technology, not a tape player.

Another oversight on my part that is embarrassing. Larry **WB8WOD** did not get the proper credits for the pictures in last months "LED". This kind of added input to your Klub's newsletter is very much appreciated.

Ray N8CPO

## THE BLURB

Sure is nice, or is it when ya realize that the bargain that ya got at the swap is not quite what ya had in mind? A "pig in a poke" or a "white elephant" or a plain "door stop"? Well if you have any of the above, or close to it, get em' out, polish them up, and get ready, cause the Great elephant grave yard of the Amateur world, the Dayton Hamvention is coming up in May!

Notice I said May, and not April. The thought is that the mid-Ohio monsoons will be over. In other words, better weather. It has been said that if u want to experience all of the types of weather on the face of the earth go to Hawaii. If ya want to experience all the types of weather minus, go to Dayton in April. Whats the one type of weather? "nice" Don't have all my "stuff" together yet, for the Hamvention but maybe spring will come, and improve the "attitude" so I can.

Got an idea that I am not alone on this! Just remember, this is spring coming, not summer, so don't roll the car window down too far or you will get a good cold like I did!

73's KA8BOG, Jack

## ARES/RACES

John (KD1E) gave the LARK a very informative talk on how the NWS uses the information gathered from us amateurs and other weather watchers. It seemed that quite a few Klub members were very impressed to what extent the NWS had gone to gather information from us amateurs. Even though their radar is the state of the art, the weather service still needs the trained human input to determine what some of the items are that show up on their monitors.

There will be a skywarn training class at the Howell Fire Hall on April 9, 1996 at 7:30 PM. The NWS is trying very hard to get these information sessions geared much more towards what we would expect to see in Michigan. The skywarn class last year was much more informative than in previous years.

If you have any photos or videos of severe weather please take the time to send this material to the NWS in White Lake Township. Let the NWS decide if your pictures can be used.

The National Weather Service is having an open house on April 20, 1996 from 9:00 AM to 1 PM at their new radar site in White Lake, MI. Go north on Tegerdine to end, turn right and you can't miss it. A tour of the site is very enlightening and it will make you a believer in how much the amateur radio operators are respected and needed.

AEC Ray N8CPO

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF!

Kinda sounds familiar, right! Well, it's time to gather the Klub's history and digest what has been going on since the creation of the LARK. Not much information seems to exist so I'm asking YOU to help out. I need anything and everything you have that references the LARK. If you want to keep it, just give me a copy or let me copy it.

Another bit of history is memorabilia. Do you have KLUB hats, key chains, mugs, pins, etc...? If so, please bring them to the April meeting so I can take a photograph of the item(s). The photo will become part of the LARK history. I will need to know around what date the item was issued and if it was for a particular occasion. All this will help us understand the past workings of the LARK. Are we *repeating* things that may not have worked in the past, or, was there a good topic presented at a meeting that is worth *repeating* in this day and age.

Let's get our history up-to-date! Show your Klub spirit! Bring in whatever you have that can help us find our roots! If you are not sure your item is Klub related, just call me (810)

229-7982. I'll let you know if we can use your item. All input is welcome.

Now in an effort not to repeat myself, I am signing off!

Donna KA1KFO

## NOMINATIONS for OFFICERS

Irene (WB8UVQ) is diligently trying to call all club members. The effort is to locate those that would be willing to take their turn at guiding the LARK through next year. How can you sit back and always let someone else have all the fun? By now you have heard the sweet sound of her voice. But, just in case you want to volunteer (or volunteer someone else, yuck) Irene can be reached at (810) 220-0643.

Those that have volunteered their nomination are:

|              |             |            |               |
|--------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| President    | Marge N8EAJ | Vice-Pres. | Ray N8CPO     |
|              |             |            | Dave KB8DAV   |
| Secretary    | Tina KB8YEJ | Treasurer  | Darlene N8NND |
|              |             |            | Irene KA8MVW  |
| Program Off. | Neil WA2WIM | Director   | Jack KA8BOG   |
|              | Roger N8SGU |            | Paul N8FVF    |
|              |             |            | Larry WB8WOD  |
|              |             |            | Al W8IW       |
|              |             |            | Dave N8NNC    |

## HamFair HAPPENINGS

Harlayne (N8SVM) is gathering in the door prizes already. The effects of his tremendous efforts last year are already paying off this year!

Bill (KG8AW) is sending out some packet messages and getting the advertisements into the magazines. He is also sending out an advertising package to any clubs he can find the address for. If you have the address for any clubs (from fliers or whatever) please call Bill at (517) 546-7483 and make sure it is on his list.

The Klub members need to make every effort to get fliers to all ham and computer (ask for permission) swaps. When our fliers keep popping up in front of the swap attendees it draws their attention.

All Klub members will be invited to tour the fair grounds for their input. This will happen right after the buildings are emptied around the first part of May.

Ray N8CPO

## GOODIES

Who is bringing the treats for the April meeting? At least one bottle of diet soda is required! Call Marge if you can arrange to accomplish this task.

## VE UPDATES

*(editor's note) Eventually, everything might get into this news letter that should. A big oversight on my part for not including something in this area in the past. My apologies.*

The VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) informs me that an average of one to two examinees are coming to the sessions. The problem with getting enough extra class licensed amateurs to cover testing above tech-plus has alleviated somewhat. The cost of the tests (except elements 1A & 2) is now \$6.05. The LARK does not allow the copying of the dot/dashes. The examinee must translate the sounds directly to the written alphabet.

The confirmation and use of a new license can be had in about ten days (pretty fast huh). The latest license information can be gotten by calling the ARRL/VEC from 8 AM to 5 PM EST daily at 860-594-0300 or on the WWW at <http://www.uair.edu/doc/hamuair/callsign.html>

The last VE session got canceled due to our great spring weather (i.e. snow storm). Rescheduling of the test session in the first part of April is in the works. Testing is normally on the third Wednesday of the month.

*info from Ken AA8AV reported by Ray N8CPO*

## REPEATER(S) REPORT

The 146.680 still has a broken antenna. Still waiting for the tower climbers.

The 145.210 repeater is coming along. Parts have been ordered to complete two small controller boards. New coax and connectors are in the works for the realigned duplexers. It looks at this time like the 5.21 will be installed at the N8CPO QTH. If this does happen there will be an effort to raise the tower another ten feet and better coax will be installed.

For those that remember when a repeater was here once before, this will put the antenna about 23 feet higher with better coax. Hopefully, it will cover the county a little better this time. Listen for the calls for help to do tower work.

## APRIL'S PROGRAM

Dale Williams, WA8EFK, "ARRL Great Lakes Section Manager" and "Company" will present a program on:

- 1: Updates in the ARRL and their affects in the great lakes section.
- 2: How these happenings affect Michigan and what is happening in our state.
- 3: What leadership opportunities are in ARRL and the Great Lakes Division and how to pursue them.

## FUTURE PROGRAMS

### MAY:

Steve kauffman, N8QFH, and Jerry, N8ULU, are bringing us a presentation on "satellites".

### JUNE:

"Field Day Related"

### JULY:

"The John And George Show"

### SPRING OR EARLY SUMMER:

Stephen Mendelsohn, WA2DHF, "First Vice President of the ARRL" will join make himself available for a talk on the ARRL and answer Questions.

Neil, WA2WIM, scheduled these events.

## FIELD TRIP ANYONE?

The question was brought up at the last Klub meeting about going on field trips as a club. The Radio Observatory near Ann Arbor is still shut down, but amateur radio museums was one item suggested. Car pooling in vans with radio contact could also make the trip to and from a lot of fun.

A lot of those in attendance were in favor of the idea. Now the question is where? There is a museum of amateur radio equipment in Guelph, Ontario. This would be about a 260 mile trip or about ten hours driving time. Quite long but possible. Another suggestion was an amateur radio museum at the Masonic Retirement Home in Alma, MI.

Does a field trip have to be amateur radio related? If there are any other suggestions let someone know and we will try to make arrangements for a trip.

Ray N8CPO

## RADIO CONTESTS

### Major contests being held during April 1996:

MAR 30-31 CQ WW SSB WPX CONTEST  
 APR 6-7 EA RTTY CONTEST  
 APR 6-7 ITALIAN YLRC MARCONI

### International Contests:

APR 6-7 MARAC SSB COUNTY HUNTERS  
 CONTEST  
 APR 13-14 QRP ARCI SPRING CONTEST  
 APR 27 QRP TO THE FIELD CONTEST

For details on contests contact: **Dave N8NNC.**

## AMATEUR RADIO SWAPS

The following hamfests are being held, within driving distance, during April and first week of May '96

April 10 Muskegon, MI Mona Shores HS 1121  
 Seminole Rd. TI: 146.82 [94.8 hz]  
 Tom Vander Mel KB8VEE [616] 733-2963  
 April 21 St. Joseph, MI St. Joe Kickers Sports Club  
 US 31/33 6 MI S. I-94 TI: 146.82, 146.72  
 {131.8 hz} 442.275 1051 Main St.  
 St. Joseph, MI 49086 [616] 982-0404  
 Apr. 28 Grosse Pointe Woods, MI Grosse Pointe North  
 S 707 Vernier Rd. TI: 146.74 [100hz]  
 Thomas Orlicki, N8HLY, 15835 Novara,  
 Detroit MI. 48205 [313] 527-3497  
 Apr. 28 Athens, Ohio city recreation center, Carl  
 Denbow, KA8JXG, 63 Morris Ave. Athens,  
 OH 45701 Paket JXG@KA8DRR.OH.US.NA  
 May 4 Cadillac, MI Cadillac Middle School TI: 146.98  
 Dan, KA8KU Wexauke ARC, PO Box 163  
 Cadillac, MI 49601 [616] 775-0998

Anyone going to a hamfest please pick up any flyers announcing future ham fests in order that I can expand the data base of hamfests. Also Ray N8CPO and I have flyers for our hamfest. please pass out our flyers we need your help.

Dave N8NNC

## TRIVIA QUESTION

Found out that one of our well known local amateur radio operators is working as a disc jockey for a very popular radio station. Who is this person and what station are they working for?

Ray N8CPO

## MARCH TREASURY REPORT

Balance for end of January 1996 \$3546.44

### Expenses for February 1996:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Ameritech (3 months)-----                | \$ 55.29         |
| Postage for "LED"-----                   | \$ 25.60         |
| Ms. B. Maize Jr. (K8CWM)-----            | \$ 45.00         |
| Rent of P O Box-----                     | \$ 12.99         |
| Post Master-----                         | \$ 20.00         |
| Wohlens & Co.-----                       | \$ 185.00        |
| <b>Total expenses for February</b> _____ | <b>\$ 343.88</b> |

### Income for February 1996:

|  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Membership dues-----                   | \$ 225.00        |
| Refund for repeater parts-----         | \$ 139.95        |
| 50/50-----                             | \$ 9.00          |
| <b>Total income for February</b> _____ | <b>\$ 373.95</b> |

BALANCE for MARCH 1996 \_\_\_\_\_ \$3576.51

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| HamFair Allocation-----                 | 400.00        |
| Balance at end of January, 1996-----    | 350.00        |
| Expenses for February, 1996-----        | .00           |
| Income for February, 1996               |               |
| Sale of tickets - 4 @ \$4.00-----       | 12.00         |
| Rental of table @ \$8.00-----           | .00           |
| Sale of Trunk Space @ \$5.00-----       | 5.00          |
| <b>Total Income for HamFair</b> -----   | <b>17.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Expenses for HamFair</b> ----- | <b>50.00</b>  |
| <b>Balance at end of February</b> ----- | <b>367.00</b> |

Respectfully Submitted by: Darlene N8NND

## LARK'S SUNDAY NIGHT NET

There is a net on the 146.680 almost every Sunday night. Lately, the participation has been down to very few check-ins. Why? The net is a good place to keep the net control operating procedures finely tuned. It is also a good place to get some late breaking information.

What can be done to liven things up a bit? Comments or questions by the check-ins on a specific amateur radio subject? More of the club's current activities discussed? Both of these seem to be effective on other nets. What about a slightly different format?

The net is one of your Klub's activities. Why are you not participating?

RAY N8CPO

