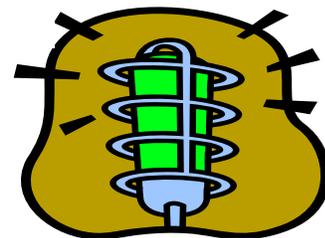


THE LED

Published by The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Howell, Michigan



FEBRUARY 2004

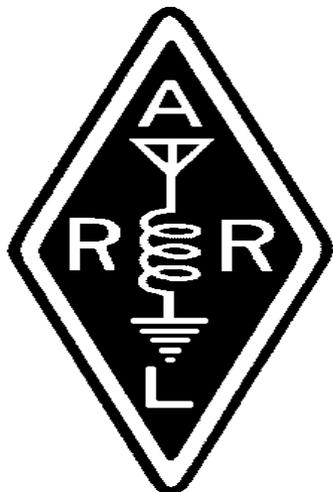
Livingston Amateur
Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan
48844

www.qsl.net/milark

**NET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM**

CLUB CALL IS: K8SZTV

**NEXT KLUB MEETING
FEBRUARY 12th, 2004 7:30 P.M.
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER
300 SOUTH HIGHLANDER WAY**



BOARD MEMBERS

| | | |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| President | Art | KC8WAZ |
| Vice-President | Bruce | N8GVD |
| Secretary | Mary | KC8SER |
| Treasurer | Clairus | KC8QQN |
| Program Director | Bob | K8VOC |
| Program Director | Jim | WB8AZP |
| Tech Coordinator | Chuck | W8CLK |
| Board Member | | |

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

| | | |
|------------------|------|--------|
| 146.680 Repeater | Jack | KA8BOG |
| LED Editor | Jim | WB8AZP |
| VE Coordinator | Greg | AA5GO |

SOCIAL EVENTS

1 Feb 2004 Northern Ohio ARS Lorain, Oh
<http://www.apk.net/noars/winterfe.htm>
Contact: Clark Beckman, N8PZD 3407 West 135th Street
Cleveland, OH 44111 Phone: 216-671-8795 Email: electro7@apk.net

7 Feb 2004 Hiawatha ARA Negaunee, Mi <http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/>
Contact: Bob Serfas, N8PKN 1600 Bayview Drive
Marquette, MI 49855 Phone: 906-225-6773 Email: n8pkn@aol.com

8 Feb 2004 Inter-City ARC Mansfield, Oh <http://www.maser.org>
Contact: Jack Weeks, K8RT 1210 East Hanley Road
Mansfield, OH 44903 Phone: 419-756-5301 Email: bigdogg@richnet.net

14 Feb 2004 Cherryland ARC Traverse City, Mi
Contact: Joe Novak, W8TVT 201 South Spruce Street
Traverse City, MI 49684 Phone: 231-947-8555
Email: jnovak@traverse.net

15 Feb 2004 Livonia ARC Farmington Hills, Mi <http://www.larc.mi.org>
Contact: Bill Johnston, W8WSJ PO Box 51532
Livonia, MI 48151-5532 Phone: 248-486-6443 Email: swap@larc.mi.org

THE PREZ SAYS



This has been an exciting first month in this first month of 2004. Many fruitful endeavors has transpired toward putting our KLUB back on an even keel. Also to plug up a bunch of holes in our boat hull.

Please plan on a longer than normal meeting at the regular Feb 2004 KLUB meeting, as we will be presenting some proposed changes to our KLUB's Constitution and By Law's.

We have discovered the need for these proposed changes as we have become aware of many other issues with which the Board is and has been resolving.

C.U. There.

73

Art

KC8WAZ

LARK SOCIAL NOTES

Our next pre-meeting dinner will be at 5:30 PM, Thursday, February 12th 2004 at the Golden House Chinese Restaurant, 1241 East Grand River, Howell. We meet at 7:00PM at the EOC for our eyeball QSO prior to the 7:30PM LARK meeting.

The ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET will be 4PM Sunday, March 28th at the Howell Masonic Temple. Non-members are also invited, so bring a friend Laurene Banta will be takings reservations (\$11 per person) at the February & March meetings. The reservation cut-off date is March 14th. She would prefer a check payable to: Howell Eastern Star No. 372 OES. You may mail your check to: Laurene Banta WA8IAQ 11297 Outer Drive Pinckney, MI 48169.

More details about Banquet & Amateur Of The Year below.....



AWARDS BANQUET & AMATEUR OF THE YEAR

The Annual Awards Banquet will be 4PM Sunday, March 28th at the Howell Masonic Temple. Non-Members are welcome, so bring a friend. Laurene will be taking reservations at the February and March meetings. The reservation cut-off is March 14th. Laurene prefers a check payable to: Howell Eastern Star No. 372, O.E.S. You may mail your check to: Laurene Banta, WA8IAQ 11297 Outer Drive Pinckney, Mi 48169.

Please think about WHO and WHY you would like to nominate for a special award. At the February Meeting our Secretary will have a ballot for you to vote on AMATEUR OF THE YEAR, and a place for you to nominate members for special awards.

We will be having our famous White Elephant Exchange after our Awards Presentation on March 28th. Bring an amateur related white elephant or a white elephant that a female might enjoy. Items should Be wrapped (in Christmas paper, newspaper, or a brown bag) and marked “male” or “female”. Raffle tickets will be sold before the dinner at \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5.

Money from the raffle will be given to a charity decided by those in attendance. Once the “white elephants” are gone we start stealing from each other until all tickets are drawn.

33 and 73 from Laurene Banta, WA8IAQ

Secretary's Report General Meeting January 8th, 2004

Art. KC8WAZ, called the meeting to order with the pledge of allegiance. Introductions were made. The passing of Bill Mondeau, K8BI, was marked by a moment of silence.

Rita WA8IAQ, made motion to accept the Sec report published in the LED. Bruce, N8WWX, seconded. Motion passed.

Rita WA8IAQ, made motion to accept Treasurer Report. Jon, KC8VAD, seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

ARES / RACES

Skywarn training to be announced at a later date (Editors note...in this issue of the LED).

General Class.

There was a discussion on holding a class for those interested in taking the General Class test. Likewise for a code class, and an Extra class.

Bylaws.

Secretary will contact Melissa, KC8UTF to finish them up.

New Business:

AWARDS BANQUET

Three names were picked for Ham of the Year. We need other suggestions for awards..

PROGRAM

Jim, WB8AZP gave a very good talk on Echolink & IRLP technologies, with highlights on similarities and differences.

Repeater:

The interference on the 146.68 repeater seems to have been taken care of. There was a spirited discussion about the repeater.

Operation Care:

Clairus, KC8QQN, asked for volunteers to help in making plans. Mary, KC8SER, volunteered.

Fox Hunt: A date will be picked for March or April.

EOC:

Bruce, N8WWX, gave an update on activities coming up.

LED

There was quite a bit of discussion about password protection of the current LED edition that contained a copy of the klub roster.

FIELD DAY

There were several members that were interested in having a field day station this year. Bruce, N8GVD, graciously volunteered to be the chairman. He intends to enlist help from many other klub members.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

A collection at the meeting yielded \$65.00, Art, KC8WAZ is chairman, Irene KA8MVW & Mary KC8SER are also on the team as well.

Mac, N8RBA, made motion to adjourn and Bob, K8PBA, seconded. Motion passed.

50/50 was drawn. Duane N8WMN won \$51.50, and donated it back to the klub. Many other door prizes were given out.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary, KC8SER

SECRETARY'S REPORT LARK Board Meeting January 2004 Board Minutes

Meeting called to order by Art KC8WAZ

Secretaries & Treasurers reports read & approved

Clairus, KC8QQN presented the idea of a sunshine committee, it was motioned to bring this forward to the general meeting for a vote.

A lengthy discussion surrounding 503C issues took place, without complete resolution.

Nominations for the Ham of the Year and other awards were solicited. Charities that will receive donations from our white elephant will be voted on at the event, and will hopefully be within Livingston County.

The LARK will have a Field Day. Discussion and initial planning will happen at the general meeting.

Fallout from requiring the password access of the newsletter was discussed. Jim, WB8AZP, removed the roster from the newsletter, and posted a non password version after the board meeting. Distribution procedures for rosters were discussed.

Planning dates were firmed up for the LARK fox hunt.

Paul, KC8UKF had an idea for a silent auction to be held at the awards dinner along with the White Elephant sale. The concept was to use donated items, and return the money to the general fund. Paul, KC8UKF, was nominated as chairman. (Editors note: Paul has since resigned.)

Jim WB8AZP made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Chuck, W8CLK seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30PM.

Respectfully Submitted, Mary KC8SER

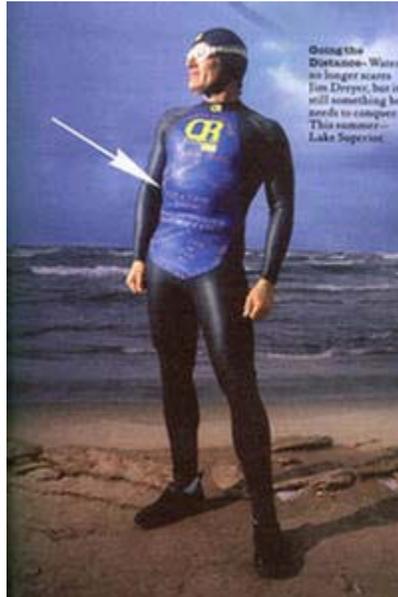
TREASURER REPORT

**TREASURER REPORT
GENERAL OPERATING FUND
FOR PERIOD JAN. 1, 2004 TO JAN. 31, 2004
OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY) \$ 509.45
INCOME
50/50 WINNER DONATION/ PATCH 105.00
DUES 2004 285.00
SUNSHINE COMM. 65.00
TOTAL DEPOSIT 455.00
EXPENDITURES
JIM WBSAZP, PRINTING LED 44.74
TELEPHONE 75.00
FLOWERS FOR FUNERAL 49.82
POSTAGE TO MAIL BY-LAWS 42.06
ENDING BALANCE . \$ 752.83
OPENING CASH (CD \$1,000.) \$1,221.59
OPENING CASH (CD \$500.) 590.50
TOTAL OPERATING CASH. \$2,564.92**

**EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS
FUND TREASURER REPORT.
PERIOD JAN. 1, 2004 TO JAN. 31, 2004
OPENING CASH (CHECKING ONLY) \$1585.23
BALANCE JAN. 31, 2004 \$ 1585.23

BALANCE FOR THE SUNSHINE COMM. \$15.18**

Respectfully submitted,
Clairus KC8QQN
Treasurer



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MODELING THE LATEST IN
AMATEUR RADIO ACTIVE WEAR**

Your Article, News, or Swap & Shop Item Could Be Right Here!!!!



Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
P.O. Box 283
Howell, MI 48844

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

CALL: _____ **FIRST NAME:** _____ **LAST NAME:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **CITY:** _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

PHONE#: _____ **CELL PHONE (OPTIONAL):** _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

LICENSE CLASS: _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____ **BIRTHDAY:** __/__/XXXX

ARRL MEMBER: Y__N__ **ARES:** Y__N__ **RACES:** Y__N__

*******IF YOU DO NOT WANT THIS INFO PUBLISHED INITIAL HERE:** _____ *********

FAMILY MEMBERS APPLYING:

NAME: _____ **CALL:** _____

RELATIONSHIP _____ **LICENSE CLASS:** _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

BIRTHDAY: __/__/XXXX **E-MAIL:** _____

ARRL MEMBER: Y__N__ **ARES:** Y__N__ **RACES:** Y__N__

NAME: _____ **CALL:** _____

RELATIONSHIP _____ **LICENSE CLASS:** _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

BIRTHDAY: __/__/XXXX **E-MAIL:** _____

ARRL MEMBER: Y__N__ **ARES:** Y__N__ **RACES:** Y__N__

NAME: _____ **CALL:** _____

RELATIONSHIP _____ **LICENSE CLASS:** _____ **EXPIRATION DATE:** _____

BIRTHDAY: __/__/XXXX **E-MAIL:** _____

ARRL MEMBER: Y__N__ **ARES:** Y__N__ **RACES:** Y__N__

MEMBERSHIP DUES: \$20.00 PER YEAR FIRST MEMBER (JAN 1-DEC 31) EACH ADDITIONAL \$5.00
TOTAL PAID: \$ _____

EDITORS COMMENTS



You learn something new every month, it seems, and last month was no exception. Sometimes what you learn can be valuable, and should be shared. Other things should have been laid to rest and considered a large part of the past long ago, in my opinion.

I learned that many of you, klub members or not, read the LED. That's good. I learned that many of you chose not to support the group, for whatever reason(s) you care to offer up. That's not so good. I also reaffirmed that sometimes the path to damnation is often littered with good intentions. To put it another way, "you just can't please everyone all of the time".

I received quite a bit of email, and physical notes. While some were positive and constructive, others just were not. I have chosen, therefore, to not print any of them in the LED. Why? Largely, because they don't pass my "does it serve anyone?" test. And of course, many of the notes came from folks who choose not to support the LARK and their efforts.

Editors get to make decisions like this. That's the job of a real editor. My intention, to be clear, is to create physical copies of all the correspondence, and file it as part of the klubs records. I suspect in this way, if you really want to read it all, you can. As someone that I spoke with recently on the whole subject commented, "The horse is dead, time to get off". Make no mistake about it, it's time to ride a new horse.

What I'm happy about is that little changes served as the catalyst to get folks to awaken from their walking slumber and pay attention. Supporting a club is not a one hour, day, week, month of year "thing". What we discover, or adjust today does not cast a shadow on the past, it simply reflects the change we are constantly surrounded by every single day. To those of you who have quit, resigned, or chosen to move their attentions to other matters, I bid you fond farewell, and happy trails!

To be clear, my efforts are focused at delivering the best newsletter I can, and support the LARK mission, and that of Amateur Radio, in the most positive way I know. I take constructive criticism very seriously; I take support in terms of effort even more seriously. In my book, if you're not part of the solution, the only option left is to be part of the problem.

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 help writing it down? We can assist you. In case all the holiday celebrating has left you a little numb, 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

Programs

The LARK web page contains a list of planned programs for the 2004 timeframe. Pay attention to the website for the most current information. I will also publish updates in the LED, and announce fast moving changes to programs on the Sunday night net, when possible.

The current schedule looks like this:

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| January 2004 | The Ins & Outs of Echolink & IRLP |
| February 2004 | TBD |
| March 2004 | Amateur Radio & The Basic Stamp |
| April 2004 | ARRL Section Visit |
| May 2004 | Foxhunt Here We Come! |
| June 2004 | Antennas For All Seasons |
| July 2004 | The Dummies Guide to DX |
| August 2004 | TBD |

September 2004 TBD
October 2004 TBD

I'm always looking for ideas and program presenters.....

2004 Extra Upgrade Challenge

Don't worry, this isn't going to cost the club any money, and won't require many of you to do anything. As unveiled on the 146.68 repeater one evening, my personal challenge to any Livingston Amateur Radio Klub member in good standing is to upgrade their skills. As reward and recognition for your efforts, I'm prepared to offer you the use of one of the following radios for 30 days after you've upgraded to Extra. The radios you get to play with are:

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| Icom 718 | Icom 706 |
| SGC 2020 | Elecraft K2 |

There are a few catches.... You must be a LARK member, you don't get to keep the radio after 30 days, and you do need to return it in working order. These are my backup rigs, and I'm hoping this will serve as an incentive to continue to improve your skills. First come, first served.

50/50 Plus Drawings

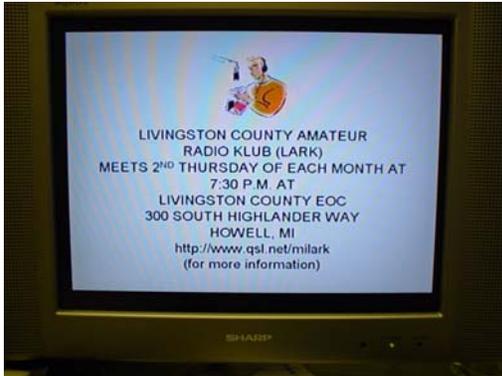
If you haven't attended a recent meeting, then you've missed out on fabulous prizes that are given away along with splitting the raffle pot. Ask a member who has attended for the low down. Better yet, why not show up at the next meeting?

SUNDAY EVENING NET ON 146.68

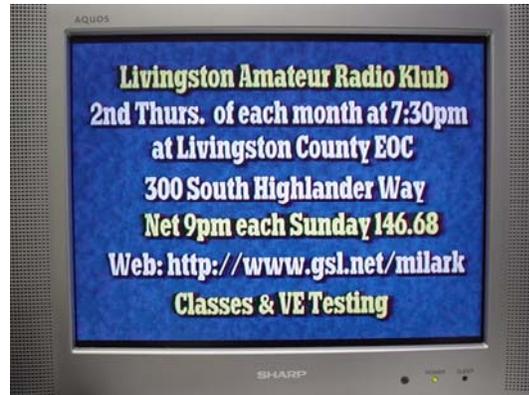
Let's not forget about the Sunday evening LARK net on 146.68 at 9PM. It's a great time to connect with other LARK members, share information, and just in general gather on the repeater. You would think that a club the size of ours could muster up more than a handful of checkins, now wouldn't you?

LARK ON TV!

Not really, but sorta! We now have meeting advertisements on Comcast Cable Channel 15 (Brighton Township) and Channel 17 (LESA and Livingston County). Screen shots below give you an idea. If you know of other cable systems public access channels, and can capture the contact information, we'll do the same thing there as well....remember, it's free!



Channel 15



Channel 17

Am I Physic?

I already printed a picture of our newly appointed vice president in the last edition of the LED....hmmm...I need to go buy a lottery ticket! Welcome Bruce N8GVD, who has stepped up to the task!



Livingston County
Amateur Radio Public Service Corps

300 S. Highlander Way
Howell, Michigan 48843
Phone (517) 546-4620

Skywarn Classes

On March 17, 2004, the National Weather Service, White Lake, will be conducting a Skywarn Class, 7pm at the Hamburg Twp Fire Dept, on M-36. The class will be a combination of the old Basic and Advanced Skywarn Classes. The class will last appropriately 2 hours and 15 minutes. I hope to see everyone there.

Net Control Meeting

On March 31, 2004, at the EOC, 7pm, there will be a meeting and training workshop for those members interesting in being net and/or resource control operators during Skywarn or ARES/RACES activations. Remember we will need a number of operators for activations during the daytime and evening hours as well as the weekends.

ARPSC Communication Room

Some of you may have been wondering what is happening with the communication room especially after the last meeting, where your brainstorming ideas were brought forth. Although some further suggests have been proposed, I have put them on hold at this time. The state and district meeting will be coming up in the next couple of months. Since, Ray DeVlieg, KB8VNI, has again been appointed the SEC, I would like to see what direction they may be taking.

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.

DX REPORT

NIGER, 5U. Bull, 5U7JB has been QRV on 17 meters, and will concentrate his activity on the newer bands for the next few months. He will be active on the other HF bands during contests. QSL via ON5NT.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Ricardo, CE3HDI will be QRV as CE9R from Escudero Base on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, from January 10 to February 24. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Felix, DP1POL has been QRV on 20 meters around 1800 to 2000z. QSL via DL1ZBO

IRAN, EP. Mohsen, EP3SMH is generally QRV on 15 meters around 1300z. QSL direct.

GUADELOUPE, FG. Pierre, F6FXS will be QRV as FG/F6FXS from January 14 to February 13. Activity will be on 40, 30, 20, 15 and 10 meters using CW. Activity may be around 1300 to 1400z and then 2200 to 2400z. QSL to home call.

SVALBARD, JW. JW5E has been QRV on 80 meters using SSB around 0630z. QSL via operators' instructions. Meanwhile, JW5RIA is also QRV until May 30. QSL via LA5RIA.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo, SV1ASP/A has been QRV on 17 meters around 0800 and 1400z and 12 meters around 0900z. QSL direct.

TUVALU, T2. T20RE has been QRV on 20 meters around 0700z, 30 meters around 1000z and 40 meters around 1100z. QSL via HA8IB

CONGO, TN. Walsker, CT3HK is QRV as TN3S until October 31. QSL to home call.

BELIZE, V3. Gerd, DJ4KW and Gisela, DK9GG will be QRV as V31YN and V31GW, respectively, using CW and RTTY, respectively, from January 10 to the end of February. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters. QSL to home calls.

NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9N. Jim, VK9NS has been QRV on 20 meters around 2300z. QSL direct.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Ted, NH6YK is QRV as VP8DHI and has been active on 17 meters around 0000z. QSL to home call.

VIETNAM, XV. Eddy, XV9DT is QRV using either XV1X or 3W1X. Activity is generally on 160, 80, 40 and 30 meters. QSL via operator's instructions

SYRIA, YK. Omar, YK1AO has been QRV on 40 meters using CW around 0500z. QSL direct.

UNITED NATIONS HQ, 4U_UN. Bernie, W3UR, Christa, KB3JIU, Steve, KU9C and Henry, KT1J will be QRV from 4U1UN beginning 1400z on January 30. Planned activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via operators' instructions.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y. Walter, DL8JS, Ulla, DF6QP, Alfons, DJ8VC, Eberhard, DJ8OT and Hannelore, DH5JR are QRV as 9Y4/homecall from Tobago, IOTA SA-009, until February 14. Activity is generally on 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home calls.

THE GAMBIA, C5. Andy, C56/G0VUH has been QRV on 15 meters between 1700 and 1800z. QSL to home call.

KYRGYZSTAN, EX. Bek, EX8AB has been QRV on 40 meters CW around 0200z.

SCOTLAND, GM. Hans, DJ6AU is QRV as MM0XAU from the Shetland Islands, IOTA EU-012, until the end of March. He is generally QRV on 20 and 17 meters SSB. QSL to home call.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, H4. Bernhard, DL2GAC is QRV as H44MS from Honiara, IOTA OC-047, until the end of April. It is not very likely that he will visit other island groups. QSL to home call.

DOMINICA, J7. Lars, SM0CCM will be QRV as J73CCM from February 5 to March 4. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using mostly CW, with some RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

FAROE ISLANDS, OY. Caen, OY1CT has been QRV on 160 meters around 2300z and 17 meters around 1400 to 1530z. QSL direct.

INDIA, VU. Ram, VU3DJQ may be QRV as either AT0D or AT0DJQ until March 31. He plans to be QRV in a few of the upcoming contests. QSL via EA7FTR.

CAMBODIA, XU. Peter, NO2R is QRV as XU7ACY from Sihanoukville from February 2 to 8. Activity will mainly be on 160 meters. QSL via K2NJ.

Product Review: Grundig Mini World 100 PE

Zac KC8YHU

treadwellzac19@swissinfo.org

I thought it would be best if I gave Jim a rest and thought up of an article of my own. This is my first time actually writing a review of something so any constructive criticism is appreciated. So here I go...

While roaming around the Radio Shack at the mall I work at I saw this little shortwave receiver and I just had to have it. So using some Christmas money I purchased the thing. Mostly because the radio looks so cool, but more on that later. Anyway this is



the radio

(from Universal-radio.com)

the Grundig 100pe. This is the first radio I have ever owned that does not have a Radio Shack/Realistic name on it. The radio is not very big, only 4.5 X 2.5/8. It is small enough to hold in your hand, if you're a small child. Opening the box which was packed up at the store (I bought the display model) I found it came with 2 AA batteries (even though the manual says batteries are not included, and since I had a display model, they had also put Radio Shack batteries in it for display purposes.), a leather case, belt clip, headphones (the small earbud kind), warranty card, manual, and Grundig's Shortwave Listening Guide.



Now for the important thing, how well it performs. On FM, it works like it should. The audio is decent, but has a tendency to overload the little speaker on the radio. Using the headphones audio is improved since you can turn the audio down and be able to hear it but it still could be a little better. On the AM broadcast band I am able to get Newstalk 760 WJR during the day somewhat well as long as I keep the thing away from my laptop. Audio is better on AM and shortwave than on FM for some weird reason (probable due to the fact that AM sounds funny all the time). On the shortwave frequencies, all of the major broadcasters can be received with this radio (BBC World Service, Radio Havana Cuba, Radio Taiwan, China Radio International). Also I was able to do a little dx and get Channel Africa on this little thing. However, it does not perform as good as my DX-440 which has a longer whip and can be connected to an outdoor antenna. Also, the stations on HF are really crammed into the analog readout making the radio really hard to tune unless you have a very steady hand (also another radio with a digital readout helps). Overall I liked this radio. It is great for casual listening to the major broadcasters, local and distant. However it is hard to tune and the audio could be better.

Grundig Mini World 100 PE Review Summary

Pro: Small, Light, Able to get the Major Broadcasters

Con: Hard to tune, audio distorted

Verdict: Nice radio for the yard and if you do not want to fire up your big stuff. Just remember your compromising some things for smallness.

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR PET HAM

By Laura Sargent

The pet HAM is one of the most intelligent of pets, often seeming almost human, but he can also be one of the most difficult to keep. Only a person with a great deal of patience and understanding should attempt to keep a pet HAM.

The following is a short guide to some of the most important things that you should know about caring for your pet HAM.

1. LIVING AREA: Your pet HAM should have a private area of his own, an entire room if possible, where he will not be disturbed. He will spend many happy hours alone there with his collection of treasures: boxes, wires, bits of metal, glass, paper, plastic, etc, that he regularly brings home. He should be encouraged to confine his activities to his "nest" room in order to protect the rest of the house from his natural tendencies toward noise, clutter and making holes in the walls.

2. EXPENSES: Raising your pet ham can turn into an expensive hobby but, unlike most pets, your pet HAM can be trained to work outside the home for short periods and so bring in enough money to cover part or all of his expenses.

3. FEEDING: The well behaved pet HAM will be able to eat with his family on occasion, but usually feels more comfortable and secure if he can take many of his meals in the privacy of his "nest" room. It will be your responsibility to see that your pet HAM is kept well supplied with food and drink during the long periods of time that he will spend alone in his "nest" room.

4. HOUSEKEEPING: Pet HAMs can be usually be trained to use the family bathroom facilities.

5. OBEDIENCE TRAINING: Most pet HAMs can be trained to respond to a few simple commands, the easiest for him being "SIT!" and "SPEAK!". Once your pet HAM has learned these commands, he will sometimes practice them on his own for hours at a time.

6. HEALTH CARE: The pet HAM is especially subject to minor irritations of the lower back and a sore throat from too much sitting and speaking. The special CW breed tends to have a tired wrist rather than a sore throat, and RTTY and PACKET versions may suffer from tired eyes depending on his age and monitor.

7. TRAVEL: Your pet HAM will gladly travel with you and your family if he is allowed to bring along some of his collection from his "nest" room. His favorite trips will be to places where he can associate with other pet HAMs from other families.

8. BREEDING: IF you plan to breed your pet HAM, you should do so as early as possible after you get him. As the pet HAM matures he becomes more and more reluctant to engage in any activities not connected with his "nest" room collection.

Editor's Note: The author is not a ham herself but she does keep one at her home as a pet.