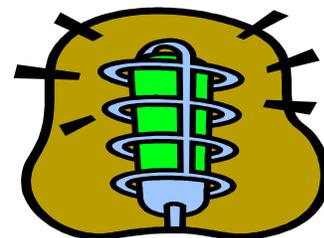




# THE LED

Published by The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub



## MARCH 2005

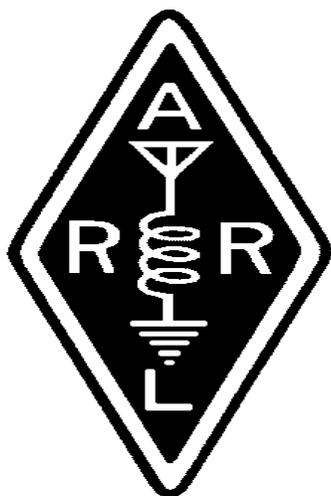
Livingston Amateur  
Radio Klub  
PO Box 283  
Howell, Michigan  
48844

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

NET 146.680  
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: KB8ZTV

NEXT KLUB MEETING  
March 10<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM at the EOC,  
Highlander Road, Howell, MI



### 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

19 Mar 2005 Marshall MI Crossroads Hamfest  
Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

<http://www.qsl.net/w8df>

Talk-In: 146.660 MHz (No Tone) Contact: Jesse Moreno,  
KC8EIC

74 Meachem Avenue Battle Creek, MI 49015 Phone: 269-962-  
2006 Email: kc8eic@ameritech.net

19 Mar 2005 Great Lakes Division Convention  
Toledo Mobile Radio Association

[http://greatlakes.arrl.org/division\\_convention.htm](http://greatlakes.arrl.org/division_convention.htm)

Contact: Brenda Krukowski, KB8IUP 9408 Salisbury Road

Monclova, OH 43542-9700 Phone: 419-260-4310 Email:  
kb8iup@arrl.net

20 Mar 2005 TMRA Hamfest Toledo Mobile Radio Association

<http://tmrahamradio.org>

Contact: Brian Harrington, WD8MXR 4463 Holly Hill Drive

PREZ SAYS



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## LARK SOCIAL NOTES

LARK Dinner before the Meeting (DBTM)



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### Secretary's Report General Meeting February 10, 2005

Meeting was called to order by Art, KC8WAZ. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed. Introductions were made. It was also announced that Dale, AK8R, had passed away.

Bob, K8PBA, made a motion to correct the Secretaries Report, and then following the correction, made a motion to accept. Jim, WB8AZP, was second. Motion Passed.

No Treasurer's Report this month.

Jon KC8VAB, gave a report on the new repeater, and detailed some of the fine tuning still to be accomplished. He also added that the PL tone was most currently off, unless there were band issues requiring it to be activated.

Jim Weaver, K8JE, presented John Champa, K8OCL, with the ARRL Microwave Achievement award, for his efforts on the High Speed Multi-Media (HSMM) Working Group.

Ham of the Year nominations were made, and nominations were closed. The nominees were Clairus, KC8QQN, and Jim WB8AZP.

Neil, K8IT, offered a memoriam for Dale, AK8R.

Jim Weaver, K8JE, presented on the history of change in amateur radio, along with answering questions from the membership present.

The 50/50 drawing was won by Van, N8GVD. He graciously donated his share to the LARK general fund.

Brandon, KC8YHE, made a motion to adjourn, and received a second from Mac, N8RBA. This motion passed.

Submitted by:  
Mary KC8SER

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**SECRETARY'S REPORT**  
**LARK Board Meeting January 2005**  
**Board Minutes**

Meeting was postponed until the next regular meeting in March. No business was believed to be of any urgency.

Van, N8GVD made motion to postpone. Art, KC8WAZ seconded it. Motion passed.

Submitted By,

Mary KC8SER

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# TREASURER REPORT

REPORT WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME

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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

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## 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

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## EDITORS COMMENTS



March has decided to roar in like a lion, bringing us cold, snow, and in general, a few more weeks of winter. It's a real good time to write that article you've "been meaning to" for the LED. I look forward to seeing your upcoming work! Amateur Radio needs your support, and part of that support comes by way of supporting local radio clubs, like LARK. If you have a differing opinion, I'd love to hear from you, but I don't think you can expect me too sway far from this mark.

## Articles

We still need YOUR articles for the newsletter. Swap items, favorite stories, magical operating moments, remembering your first rig, the time your dog ate your logbook, swap and for sale items, favorite recipes, whatever. Need a suggestion for a good article? Just call! Need help writing it down? We can assist you. In case you just can't seem to remember how to reach me:

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)

146.680 MHz most evenings

## 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?

## TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The technical committee has continued the work to transition to our new repeater. While the new system is online, we are continuing to iron out the difficulties. Special thanks to Brandon, KC8YHE, Jon, KC8VAB, Jim, N8ENX, and others who have provided a large amount of assistance in sorting through the technical "stuff". We intend to engage full PL operation during March, 2005, and will be planning user training on many of the new features real soon.

## OTHER COMMENTS

Be sure to welcome our new LARK members when you hear them on the air or see them at a meeting.

See you at the next meeting, right? (Even if you're not a member now, you can become one!) Need a ride to the meeting? We'll send someone to get you! Need someone to buy you dinner before the meeting? We can probably take care of that, too. Dress is casual, so don't worry about digging out your Tux or Formal. Do you have another effective excuse for not attending the meeting? Why not share it with others, in a lovely article for the newsletter?

# HAM OF THE YEAR

This year, at the LARK Awards Dinner, I received many wonderful accolades, including the coveted WB8OHO "Amateur Of The Year" award.

I was greatly honored to be this year's recipient, and join that fine list of deserving local amateurs who have exemplified the best that amateur radio can represent.

I remarked at the awards dinner that all of the LARK are really the "Amateurs Of The Year" this year, and I mean that. Together, we as a club have done things that would have been impossible to do without all of us working together. It has been remarked that the word TEAM actually means Together Each Achieves More - and that couldn't be more fitting for LARK during this last year.

More importantly, we together have taken steps to embrace change - Change in our vocations, avocations, and in our world in general. This is an exciting time in our hobby, but it is filled with technical advances and changes with license policy, modes, frequencies, and a host of other things. We need to stay sharp, remain helpful, and continue to support the advancement of amateur radio into the next decade.

Thanks again for your vote of confidence and support, and I look forward to continuing to grow the LARK - the largest amateur radio club in Livingston County.

Jim WB8AZP

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## 2005 MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

Attention Michigan Amateurs. It's that time of year again! Time to start talking about the 2005 Michigan QSO Party. This is a great opportunity to get on the HF bands, have some fun, and represent the great State of Michigan.

The organizers of this event would like to see as many Michigan stations on the air as possible. It is the activity of the Michigan stations that make this event a success.

As you can see from the rules listed below, this is only a 12 hour event. Please consider getting on the air for the whole thing, or any portion of the 12 hour period. You can operate from home, portable, or mobile. We again, with the support of mobile stations plan on having activity in all 83 counties.

How about making this a club event? You can submit your individual or multi-op scores under the name of the your club and maybe bring home the club plaque. Hey, why not challenge another local area club or other groups within your club? Are there others in your club that would consider a mini expedition for a portable operation in one of the Michigan counties with minimal activity?? Those of you that have been in the QSO Party, please help us get the word out and encourage other Michigan hams to participate and join the fun. The name of the game is to have fun and make Michigan "Radio Active" on April 16th. Hope to hear you on the air!

Date /Time: Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 16th until 0400Z April 17th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 16)

Modes and Categories: Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mobile categories. Single-op entries are categorized by output power, QRP (5W or less), Low Power (100W or less), and High Power (greater than 100W)

Multipliers: Work stations once per band and mode. Work other states and Michigan Stations. MI to MI QSO's are allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change county, state or province.

Exchange: Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, State/province or "DX" for others).

Scoring: One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode. Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states & provinces for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Freqs: Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3850, 7225, 14250, 21300, 28450.

Log Submittal: Mail logs no later than 30 days after the contest to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 or via e-mail to [logs@miqp.org](mailto:logs@miqp.org)

More Information: For complete rules, along with free logging software, log and summary sheets, see <http://www.miqp.org>

73 es cu April 16th 2005... Mark NU8Z

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## **MiQP For First-Timers**

**By Dave Pruett, K8CC**  
**[k8cc@comcast.net](mailto:k8cc@comcast.net)**

The Michigan QSO Party (MiQP) is an operating event held annually with Michigan as the center of attention. This article is a quick overview for those new to MiQP, to explain what it is and to offer encouragement to jump in and participate.

First of all, what is a "QSO party"? Over the years, this term has come to define an on-the-air operating event focusing on a particular geographic area. Amateurs inside the target area (in this case Michigan) earn points towards their QSO party score for making contacts with other amateurs located anywhere, while amateurs outside of the target area get QSO party points only for contacting amateurs inside the target area.

Perhaps the next question is: "Is the MiQP a contest?" Yes it is – the entrants are participating against one other and plaques/certificates are awarded after it is over. But don't let that scare you off - the MiQP is a lot less intense than other contests you might be familiar with, such as Sweepstakes, DX contests, or even Field Day. The bands are not as crowded as during those other events, and the operating style is a lot more relaxed. It's a great venue for a first-timer to get their feet wet.

Why might you want to participate in the MiQP? First of all, it's a great opportunity to hone your HF operating skills or work the bugs out of your HF station. MiQP can provide a concentrated dose of operating that will crack the rust off your CW ability or brush up on your phone operating techniques, skills that you can use in other on-the-air activities.

The fun thing about MiQP for Michigan amateurs is that we are the center of attention. When a Michigan station calls "CQ MIQP" there will usually be several replies. Many MiQP participants make several hundred contacts during the event, even with modest stations such as barefoot transceivers and dipoles. For many, there is a tangible feeling of camaraderie as you work fellow Michiganders, some located in sparsely populated counties with exotic names like Chippewa, Missaukee, or Presque Isle.

What does it take to participate in the MiQP? All it takes is to get on the air during the MiQP period and make contacts with other participants. When it's over, mail in your log if you like so that it can be checked and your score included in the results; you may even win a certificate or plaque. If you include your radio club's name in your entry, then your score will be tabulated along with other member's scores in a separate sub-competition to determine the top Michigan club in the MiQP that year.

When does MiQP happen? MiQP occurs the third Saturday of April every year. For 2005, the starting date for MiQP is Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. The contest period begins at noon local time here in Michigan (1200 EDST or 1600Z) and runs to local midnight (2400 EDST or 0400Z on April 17<sup>th</sup>). The contest period was deliberately chosen to be easy to fit into your weekend schedule – you can get up Saturday morning, get some chores or family activities done, and sit down for an afternoon or evening of operating.

Making MiQP QSOs is easy. You can operate on any of the "traditional" HF bands (i.e., no WARC bands) from 80 thru 10 meters. The exchange is your QSO number for that contact – i.e., the first is 001, the second 002, etc., plus your Michigan county. On CW, everyone uses the official county abbreviations from the list on the MiQP web site. Stations outside of Michigan will send their QSO number and state or province abbreviation.

Barring some sort of major propagation disturbance, you will find MiQP activity on 40M CW & SSB for the entire twelve hour contest period. This is a good band to get a mix of in-state and out-state coverage, plus it's popular with the mobile MiQP entries that move from county to county during the event. (Mobiles can be worked again when they change counties.). During the day there is usually good activity on 20M, and lesser amounts on 15M and 10M, depending on the solar cycle. Once darkness falls, there is a lot of MiQP activity on 80M.

Here's how your MiQP score is calculated. Each CW QSO is worth two QSO points while a phone QSO is worth one point. Your final score is equal to the QSO points you've accumulated multiplied by the number of multipliers (Michigan counties, non-Michigan states and Canadian provinces) you work. Multipliers are counted separately on **both** CW and phone. For example, if you work Washtenaw County (WASH) on both CW and phone, that's two multipliers.

As you start out in MiQP you might just want to make QSOs and have fun, but here are some suggestions to keep in mind which should increase your score. A station may be worked once on

both CW and phone on each band, so try all five bands (and both CW and phone) to look for MiQP QSOs. The lower bands (80M & 40M) are usually better for in-state QSOs, and out-state QSOs out to 500 miles or so, but try the high bands (particularly 20M) to bolster your score with US states and Canadian provinces from out west. Also, while most people probably have a preferred mode they like to operate, because state and province multipliers are counted separately on CW and phone, in MiQP it's worth the effort to spend some time on the "other" mode to build up the multiplier count for a good score.

When MiQP is over, you have thirty days to submit your entry in order for it to count in the final results. (Note: If you make MiQP QSOs but don't send in a log, no harm is done; the people you worked still get credit for your QSO(s) with them.) Paper logs can be sent to: **Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198**. Electronic log files (ASCII text only) can be e-mailed to [LOGS@miqp.org](mailto:LOGS@miqp.org).

What can you win for participating in MiQP? The Michigan winner in each majority category receives a beautiful 10" x 13" plaque, a total of eleven in all. The top single-operator score in each Michigan county making at least 50 QSOs wins a handsome certificate.

To learn more about MiQP, check out the Michigan QSO Party web site at <http://www.miqp.org>. There you will find a wealth of information including complete rules, contest forms (summary, log, and multiplier count sheets), a list of county abbreviations, past MiQP results, operating tips and links to free logging software.

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# FOR SALE

60 Foot (11" per side triangle) Steel Tower (Must be Guyed)  
With Mounting Plate, Rotor Plate, Thrust Bearing for 1 7/8 OD Mast Pipe

\$100.00 Don N8SKE 734-355-1056

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