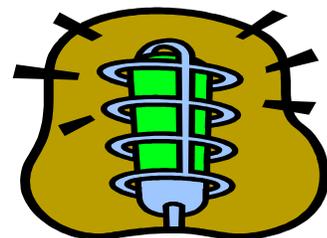




THE LED

Published by The Livingston Amateur Radio
Klub



JUNE 2005

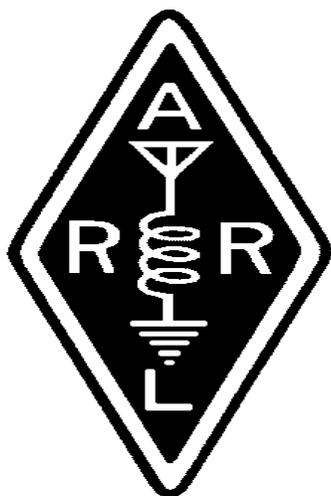
Livingston Amateur
Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan
48844

www.qsl.net/milark

NET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

NEXT KLUB MEETING
July 14th 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	Jon	KC8VAB
Tech Coordinator	Jim	WB8AZP
Tech Coordinator	Jon	KC8VAB
Board Member	Chuck	W8CLK

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

18 Jun 2005 31st Annual Hamfest Midland Amateur Radio Club
<http://www.qsl.net/w8kea> Talk-In: 147.000 (no tone
required) Contact: Bill Albe, N8FUZ 4300 Washington Street
Midland, MI 48642 Phone: 989-835-4142 Fax: 989-835-4142
Email: n8fuz@arrl.net

19 Jun 2005 Monroe County Radio Communications Association
<http://www.mcrca.org/hamfest.htm> Talk-In: 146.72/.12
Contact: Fred VanDaele, KA8EBI 4 Carl Drive Monroe, MI
48162 Phone: 734-242-9487 Fax: 734-587-2250 Email:
ka8ebi@arrl.net

25 Jun 2005 Tailgate Swap Top Of Michigan Amateur Radio
Club Talk-In: 146.820 no pl. & 146.52 Simplex Contact:
James E. Davis, KC8NTE 8378 VanTyle Road Elmira, MI 49730-
9717 Phone: 989-732-0012 Email: KC8NTE@arrl.net

PREZ SAYS



"See you at the meeting"

LARK SOCIAL NOTES

LARK Dinner before the Meeting (DBTM)

Ask on the repeater.....



Secretary's Report General Meeting May 12th, 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.

Secretary & Treasurer reports were tabled until next month.

Sunshine Committee sent out 4 birthday cards and 1 "get well" card.

ARES/RACES: Bruce, N8WWX, gave the amateurs that participated in LIVEX thanks and praise for a job well done.

Brandon, KC8YHE, told us about joining the ARRL through the Klub so we could receive a commission on that membership. He also highlighted several PR articles in the local papers.

Jim, WB8AZP, 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, WB8AZP, made a motion to put any monies received from ARRL renewals in the Emergency Fund. Clairus, KC8QQN, was second. Motion passed

Jim, WB8AZP, made a motion to give a \$25 gift certificate, and certificate, to Trudi Daniels, who recorded our repeater announcements. Mac, N8RBA, was the second. Motion passed. Brandon, KC8YHE, agreed to handle the delivery.

PICNIC IN THE PARK: Clairus, KC8QQN, made a motion, with Van, N8GVD, as second, to check on dates for the picnic. They are researching August 6th or 13th, 11AM to 5PM. Bring a dish to pass, with hamburgers and hot dogs being provided. Committee includes Duane, N8WMN, Brandon, KC8YHE, Irene, KA8MVR, Mary, KC8SER, and Clairus, KC8QQN.

FIELD DAY: Is Saturday, June 25th and Sunday, June 26th, at Tom Cory's QTH. Details will be discussed at the June meeting.

MAY ELECTION: As prescribed by the revised bylaws, elections were held for President, Secretary, Program Director, and Member at Large. The winners were:

President, KC8WAZ
Program Director, KC8VAB
Member at Large, W8CLK
Secretary, KC8SER

Chuck, W8CLK, won the 50/50 (\$64.50)

Mac, N8RBA, made a motion to adjourn, and Ray, KB8WYE, was second. Motion passed.

Submitted by:
Mary KC8SER

SECRETARY'S REPORT

LARK Board Meeting May 2005

Board Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Art, KC8WAZ. Four board members were present. It was decided to give Jack, KA8BOG, a certificate and \$75 of American Express checks for his service on the Klub repeater.

It was also discussed that we would approach the idea of acquiring Dale McLain's call, AK8R, for special events.

Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted By,

Mary KC8SER

TREASURER REPORT

Not available at press time

PROJECT CARE: NOTES FROM THE MIDNITE SHIFT

By Charlie, KB8OVJ and Mac, N8RBA

The night started off quiet and not many visitors. Then the "rockers" arrived. He had blonde hair spiked with a Mohawk haircut, with rings in both ears. His girlfriend had trouble talking. All she could seem to say was "Yo man!". Her ears and nose were pierced, and she had more iron hanging from them than our coffee pot was made of. They were both polite and friendly! The girlfriend took a dog biscuit, and spotted the animal crackers. She asked if she could have one, and of course we said yes, so she took a box. They said there wasn't much money between the two of them, but a dollar was scrounged up, and they asked if that was enough. We thanked them, and they left. They were sure living in their own little world. We never figured out if the dog biscuit was for him or her!

There were also two girls who showed up holding hands from their car to the restroom, and back to their car. We wondered how they managed inside, and if they parted long enough to wash their hands. These weren't young girls, either.

And then there was the skinny guy who followed a plump woman into the ladies room. We called to him to stop, but he kept right on going. Then, he reopened the door from the inside, and told us he was inside to make sure nothing happened to his woman. Charlie and I figured this gall must be something special. He didn't have to worry about someone stealing her from him, upon seeing her, we decided there wasn't enough beer in the county to drink her pretty.

The guy then asked us if we had special coffee for his woman. When we said "no", they went to the vending machines and bought something, then sat on the curb near their vehicle, until it started to rain.

Then, everything was quiet again, and our Sunday morning shift was about over.

Our Monday shift began with a visit from Jim, WB8AZP, who spent part of our time rag chewing with us. That made the time go fast. The only thing that happened on our shift was the young man who was more than half in the bag, and had bought a diet pop for his lady. She didn't want it, and now he was trying to trade it to us for a regular pop. We told him we didn't have pop, and his comment was "what the hell am I going to do with this diet pop?". We told him to take some lemonade to her and keep the can of pop. He thanked us twice, once when he got the lemonade, and once again before he left. The lemonade must of got him out of the dog house.

The day after Operation Care had ended, a truck driver was stabbed and robbed at this very rest area. Ladies of LARK, trust us, you do not want to work this shift, the events that we write about are not fiction or make believe, they actually happened. Charles and I have certain procedures we go through so we watch each others back. I'm not saying we can't be caught off guard, but we try our best not to be.

73's

KB8OVJ and N8RBA

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

What do you mean by saying in your column "no one reads the newsletter anyway."?

Well, I read it. As a matter of fact, all of my family read it. Whoever gets the mail first (we don't have e-mail), is the first to read the LED. Then, we argue over who's turn is next.

Jim, you stated twice in your article that no one reads the club newsletter. What are you trying to do? Convince yourself that this is true, or are you trying to make someone like me mad enough to write an article? Well, it worked, I'm writing an article.

At the meeting, when we talked about the summer picnic; you stated that you were tired of hot dogs. What is the most convenient food to cook; but hotdogs? What does

everyone expect, but hotdogs? The kids and other adults love hotdogs, and it really isn't a picnic without hotdogs. I'll tell you what we'll do about our next picnic; you can cook, and we'll let you cook whatever you want. Steak would be nice; although I prefer hotdogs.

Jim, you are right. Members that don't attend the meetings do miss out on some good prizes. My toolbox is filled with screwdrivers, flashlights, and all sorts of things. But why are most of the prizes favor the male portion of our club? Is it because men are the largest part of our club? I know that there are only 5 females that regularly attend the meetings (same ones every month) KC8SER, KC8QQN, KA8MVW, N8EAJ, WA8IAQ, and when she isn't working, KC8MSA which makes six. Come on girls, come to the meeting. It's only once a month. I bet your man would love to have you attend the meeting with them. Have them take you to the club dinner before the meeting and make a night of it. I do, and so do the other ladies who regularly attend the meetings. Maybe you will win the 50-50 drawing. This will give you extra money to shop, and I know we all love to shop.

Well WB8AZP, I've ragged on you long enough. I told Mac, N8RBA, I was going to write you a note about your statement you put in the LED, and he said, "I'll bet Jim will put it in the Club paper", and I told him that I wasn't worried, because according to Jim "No one reads the Klub newsletter anyway."

Irene KA8MVW

EDITORS COMMENTS



June, the real start to summer, is finally here. I've already had the opportunity to help on one antenna project, and looking to help out on a few more. You'll of course be pitching in if someone needs a hand, right? It's also 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 to

sway far from this mark. And although it does appear that some folks read the newsletter, I can still say whatever I want, because for the larger part, most won't ever tap on a keyboard or lift up a pen to contribute.

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're so stuffed with grilled hotdogs 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

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? Sadly, most of the prizes are male oriented, largely because a guy is doing all the prize shopping. Have you noticed it's hard to get any help these days?

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? Don't have the net preamble? We've only printed it in this newsletter twice in the last 6 months. Just want to have something to whine about? Fine, waste your talents. Too bad, participating can be fun if you let it.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

The technical committee has begun the design effort to deliver on the next phase of the repeater, remote receivers! The technical team is also working on a number of projects that may be of interest to you, if you're paying attention. They include low cost packet TNC's, QRP transceivers, and evaluation of potential club projects. Drop into a meeting, or drop me a note. On second thought, don't bother. That way, we can keep it a secret, and we don't have to share it with anyone. I hear a lot of people talking about their expertise, and I see very few folks doing anything more than that. Talk is, very cheap, and ultimately easier than actually doing anything. Spare me the excuses, unless they're really unique.

OTHER COMMENTS

Our PR campaigns are starting to bear fruit. Come to a meeting and see for yourself.

Be sure to ignore calls for assistance on the repeater. It helps set the tone for how we operate around here.

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? Remember, if you're not part of the solution, you're simply a part of the problem. Or perhaps you prefer to be part of the problem? OK, you're in good company. Eight out of Ten hams are part of the problem. Please, come to a meeting and complain in person. It's so much more effective than mumbling about it on the air.

What the Heck Is an Affiliated Club Coordinator?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, Michigan Section Affiliated Club Coordinator 734-930-6564, kb6nu@arrrl.net

There are many positions within the ARRL Field Organization, and generally people are unaware of them. Some of us may have gotten a notice from an Official Observer (OO), or know the Emergency Coordinator because they are part of an ARES or RACES group. Many, however, are not familiar with the Affiliated Club Coordinator, or ACC.

According to the ARRL, the ACC is the primary contact and resource person for Amateur Radio clubs in a section. The ACC is appointed by, and reports to, the Section Manager, and must be a full member of the ARRL. The ARRL's official job description includes the following:

1. Get to know the Amateur Radio clubs' members and officers in his or her section. Learn their needs, strengths and interests and work with them to make clubs effective resources in their communities and more enjoyable for their members.
2. Help clubs get started and encourage new clubs to become ARRL affiliated.
3. Encourage clubs in the section to become more active and, if the club is already healthy and effective, to apply for Special Service Club (SSC) status.
4. Approve SSC application forms and pass them to the SM.
5. Work with other section leadership officials (Section Emergency Coordinator, Public Information Coordinator, Technical Coordinator, State Government Liaison, etc.) to ensure that clubs are involved in the mainstream of ARRL Field Organization activities.

6. Ensure that clubs file annual reports (updates officers, liaison mailing addresses etc.) and keep their information up to date.

Basically, my job is to do whatever I can to make clubs stronger in our state.

I got interested in becoming ACC about four years ago. At that time, ARROW Communications Association (www.w8pgw.org), our club here in Ann Arbor was going through some tough times. Aside from running a repeater—and that was really the job of a single person—ARROW was nearly inactive. In fact, we didn't really know how many members we had because the guy who was treasurer at the time wasn't processing membership applications and cashing membership checks! To be honest, I don't know how ARROW stayed in business.

Fortunately, we somehow attracted some new blood into the club. I became the treasurer, and I convinced my bicycling buddy, Mark, W8FSA, to join the club. He became the first elected president in many years. Sam, KC8QCZ, became our activities coordinator. We joined Tim, KT8K, the club trustee, and Tom, N8AMX, the technical coordinator, and were able to breathe some new life into ARROW. We began sponsoring interesting meetings and activities and attracted a bunch of new members. My experience with ARROW led me to believe that I could also help other clubs in Michigan.

I believe that clubs are a very important part of amateur radio. Clubs are where the action is. Good clubs bring people into the hobby and turn them into active amateur radio operators. Bad clubs turn people away from amateur radio and foster bad stereotypes about amateur radio and amateur radio operators.

I also think that the amateur radio community must provide better support for clubs. For example, one program I am working on is a seminar on leadership training for club officers. The model for this seminar is the training that the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) makes to its section officers. Since it's nearly summertime already, I'm shooting to hold this seminar sometime in the fall.

Another thing I'm working on is collecting information that will make it easier for a club to obtain 501c3 status, should they decide to do so. Here in Ann Arbor, there is an organization called Nonprofit Enterprise at Work (NEW). They publish a manual that includes all the forms an organization needs to file for 501c3 status. My idea is to loan this manual to interested clubs and then help them fill out and file them.

A third program that we've started to discuss is a website specifically for clubs in the Michigan section. There are a number of things we could do with such a website, including posting PDFs of club newsletters, list club events all around the state, and share information among clubs in our section. If any of you might be interested in working on this website, please feel free to call me or e-mail me.

Finally, here's a partly-baked idea that we've been tossing around—establishing District Club Coordinators (DCCs) in the same way that we have District Emergency Coordinators. Michigan is a big state, and it's really impossible for me to cover it by myself. The idea would then be to have DCCs that would do many of the same things that I do, but specifically for their district. I'd like to hear what you think about this idea, especially if you'd be interested in becoming a DCC.

Well, that's my story. I hope this article has given you some insight into what an Affiliated Club Coordinator is supposed to do, and specifically what I'm doing here in Michigan. Comments, compliments, questions, and complaints are always welcome.

I still have these two items for sale:

- 1.) HF Triband Beam 20m, 15m, 10m, similar to TH3 \$100
- 2.) Rohn Tower Ginpole \$100 (Have tower? - Need Ginpole!)

Thanks.

Neil K8IT
k8it@cac.net

CW Net on the LARK's 146.680

The Technical team is pleased to bring to the Livingston County, and some surrounding areas, a CW Net on Sunday evenings. The Net will start a few minutes after 8pm and last for around one half hour. When the announcement is heard "LARK code practice session" you have about 5 minutes to gather pencil and paper and be ready. CW will be sent at 5, 13 and 20wpm intervals.

This Net will be a semi-automated net. There is a way to interrupt the net for emergency traffic. It is not a normal "Polite" net. If you key up during the net it will not automatically shut down. Starting at 8pm the Repeater is looking for any DTMF digit to be pressed. When it hears a DTMF it will acknowledge it with a report sound. From that point forward it is a "Polite" Net. If you or anybody else keys up it will abort the current session and wait until the next speed to be sent.

The content of the Net will vary from week to week but follow some simple guidelines. The text will be from FCC Part 97, General or Extra Class question pool or a sampled QSO. The reason for this sampling is for the encouragement of upgraded licenses. Since Extra Class has nowhere to go up the next best thing is to cover Part 97.

The 5 word per minute session will be sent at 15 X 5. If you are not used to this format it is a 15 wpm character speed and 5 wpm spacing. It is the Koch method of learning. This is being sent for the purpose of license upgrade for the Novice thru Technician operators. The QSO's being sent will be sent in the format of the exam BUT NOT THE QSO's FOR THE EXAM.

Since there is no need for the 13wpm exam anymore the 13wpm will be more for honing your skills as a CW operator. This portion will be sent at 15 X 13, if people would like this one a little faster we can change it later. The text for this session will contain Extra Class exam and the FCC's Part 97. There will be occasional QSO's in this section but not as often as in the 5 wpm.

The next to last session will be at 20wpm, sent 20 X 20. This is for the "Brass Pounders"! This is purely for sharpening your skills as a true CW operator. The content will generally be from FCC Part 97 but will also contain QSO's and riddles. As the operators at this level are at the peak, the signal may be tweaked a little bit. There will be times that there is a high noise floor, a weak signal, QRM or Chirp. This will be just for getting our Operators to feel at home.

The last session is nothing but Call signs for now. They will be sent at 5, 13 and 20wpm with an unspecified amount of time. They will be in any order and may contain DX call signs. This is purely for practice for now. It will not be included in the contest within the Net.

Now onto the fun part! As long as we are having a Net for this we thought that it would be fun to have a reward for good copies. With a contest comes rules. If you have a good copy and bring it to the meeting you can win a prize. Prizes will

be of the Technical Committee's and or the Executive Boards choosing. It might be big and then again it might not. It is in the works to have an annual CW Net Contest with some rather nice prizes. So practice now before you miss out. Here are the simple rules:

- 1) You can only enter 1 copy per session.
(A session is defined as the sending speed 5, 13, 20wpm)
- 2) You can only enter in your License Class and above.
5wpm - Novice thru Technician
13wpm - Novice Thru Advanced
20wpm - Novice Thru Extra
- 3) The Technical Committee is not allowed to enter.
(The Technical Committee will be checking the copies)
- 4) If there is a question sent, it must be answered CORRECTLY for credit.
- 5) Have Fun!

The proposed Annual event will take place in November with the awards being presented at the Christmas Party in December. We, the Technical Committee, will be working on some donations to our cause for this event. To have a good copy, you will have to copy all of the nets in November and "solve" what is sent. Arrangements will be made for checking the copies prior to the party and awards to be present at the party. There will likely be one award for each session, 5, 13 and 20wpm. These will not be easy copies the signal will be "tweaked" for this month.

If you have any suggestions please feel free to bring them to the meeting or Email Brandon at kc8yhe@charter.net.

LARK SUNDAY NIGHT NET PREAMBLE (for the THIRD time)

And now, the excuse "I don't know the net preamble" is eliminated from the excuse list. How long will it take you to think up a new excuse in its place?

THIS IS THE LIVINGSTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NET. THIS NET MEETS EVERY SUNDAY EVENING, AT 9PM LOCAL TIME, ON THIS REPEATER. THE PURPOSE OF THIS NET IS TO DEMONSTRATE THE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS OF THE LARK, PROMOTE GOOD WILL AMONG RADIO AMATEURS, PROVIDE A SERVICE TO THE RADIO AMATEURS WITHIN THE RANGE OF THE REPEATER, AND TO IMPROVE OUR CAPABILITIES IN COMMUNICATIONS.

THIS IS YOUR NET CONTROL STATION FOR THIS EVENING, (your call), MY NAME IS (your name), AND I'M LOCATED AT/IN (location). AT THIS TIME, I WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL RADIO AMATEURS TO CHECK IN. PLEASE CALL (your call).

(After list is established, go through list)

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CHECK-INS BEFORE WE BEGIN THE ANNOUNCEMENT SECTION OF THIS NET? IF SO, PLEASE CALL (your call)

(Announcement section consists of any ARRL, FCC, DX, HAMFEST, OR CLUB bulletins)

ARE THERE ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE NET?

WE'LL NOW BEGIN THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PORTION OF THE NET. ANY ELECTRONICS OR AMATEUR RADIO QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL NOW. THIS IS (your call).

IS THERE ANY OTHER STATION THAT HAS FURTHER ANY FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS OR QUESTIONS FOR THE NET?

THE SWAP N' SHOP SECTION OF THE LARK NET IS NOW IN SESSION. IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEM FOR SALE, OR ARE LOOKING FOR AN ITEM, THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO LET ALL OF US KNOW ABOUT IT. ALL ITEMS ADVERTISED ON THIS PORTION OF THE NET ARE TO BE NON-COMMERCIAL, OR PRIVATELY OWNED ITEMS. PLEASE LIMIT YOUR

ITEMS FOR SALE TO ONLY AMATEUR RELATED GEAR. THE LARK CLUB, REPEATER TRUSTEE, AND NET CONTROL ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ITEMS BOUGHT OR SOLD ON THIS NET. AT THIS TIME I WILL STAND BY FOR CALLS WHO WOULD LIKE TO LIST AN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE NET. PLEASE CALL (your call).

DO WE HAVE ANY LATE CHECK-INS OR ANY OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE NET?

THIS IS (your call) NET CONTROL FOR THE LIVINGSTON AMATEUR RADIO KLUB NET. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL OF THE STATIONS ON FREQUENCY FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION, AND I'M SECURING THIS NET SESSION AT (current local time). 73'S EVERYONE.



Selling Towers with a pretty face

The "ICOM PJ Girls"



More Dayton Shots



Jack, KA8BOG at work



More goodies.....

This space reserved for YOUR article.....