



THE LED

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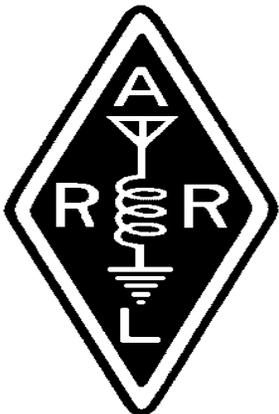
Livingston Amateur
Radio Klub
PO Box 283
Howell, Michigan
48844

www.w8lrk.org

**NET 146.680
SUNDAY 9PM**

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

**NEXT KLUB MEETING
November 9th 7:30PM at the
EOC, Highlander Way, Howell, MI**



BOARD MEMBERS

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Vice-President	Bruce	N8GVD
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LED Editor	Jim	WB8AZP
VE Coordinator	Jim	WB8AZP
PIO Officer	Brandon	KC8YHE
PIO Officer	Jim	N8ENX

SOCIAL EVENTS

18-19 Nov 2006*Indiana State Convention (Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo) Allen County Amateur Radio Technical Society

<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

Talk-In: 146.88 (-)

Contact: James D. Boyer, KB9IH 3031 Wilderness Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46845 Phone: 260-489-6700

Email: kb9ih@arrl.net Fort Wayne, IN

Allen County War Memorial Coliseum 4000 Parnell Avenue

PREZ SAYS



"Why not attend a meeting in person, or at least join us for breakfast on the first and third Saturday of the month? Amateur Radio needs your involvement to help keep it an important hobby and public service. Thank you for your support!"

73, from your President, Art KC8WAZ

LARK SOCIAL NOTES

LARK Dinner before the Meeting (DBTM)

Check in on the 146.68 repeater.

LARK Saturday Morning Breakfast

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast, held on the first and third Saturdays of each month. Our current location is the Crossroads Grill, near the intersection of Oak Grove Road and M59 in Howell. (The restaurant is located near the south end of the Kroger plaza). This is a great opportunity to get together with hams that can't always make our regular Klub meetings, and for hams just passing through! All are welcome!



To the Editor:

I promised that an article would be submitted for the L.E.D. so here goes.

There are several events that we try our hardest not to miss during the year. We consists of Mac N8RBA, Ray KB8WYE, Charlie KB8OVJ, and Isaac McChristy.

The first is the Ag. Expo held at Michigan State University in East Lansing. This is usually held in the middle of July. It's free, there are no gate fees or parking fees. We get to see the latest and greatest equipment for farming. We get to climb on, touch and kick the tires on these new tractors that cost Two Hundred Thousand Dollars. That's right, \$200,000.00. There are also lawn tractors and compact ones for acreage smaller than a farm. But there is also some neat equipment and new inventions. There are people from the electrical companies, you know, Consumers Power and DTE. Also people from Dept of Ag, the D.N.R., the D.E.Q. to mention a few. Also did you ever get to taste Honey Roasted Soybeans? There is this tent with all the

different makes of Toy Tractors, wagons, plows, disks, harrows, corn pickers, and combines. Some of these toy tractors cost \$150.00 to \$200.00 dollars.

We also got to talk to Paul Streng, N8PBS who owns the tower our repeater is on. He is a teacher at MSU.

Also there are some steam engines running and old tractors. They have a pulling contest using souped up lawn tractors and also some of the old farm tractors pull against each other on a fixed load according to their weight class.

If you are bored looking at all the new equipment, then you climb aboard one of the many tour buses to go into the fields at MSU and see this equipment in operation. Now that we are weary from walking and collecting the free yard sticks, note pads, and pencils along with all the other free goodies, we head for home looking for a place to eat. Happy that we saw a lot and were able to make it this year. Looking forward to next year God willing.

There is an old saying "You can take the boy away from the farm but you can't take the farm away from the boy".

Our second must go trip is in the middle of August, to the Mid Michigan gas engine show at Oakley Mich. Which is 10 mile north of Owosso.

We leave Mac's QTH at 6:00 AM Saturday morning and arrive at the site of the show which is 5 miles west of Oakley around 7:00AM. We pay our way in and head for the place that is serving breakfast.

The meal is \$5.00 and consists of pancakes, link sausage, orange juice, coffee and tea. Milk is extra. This is an all you can eat deal. Breakfast is over and we hitch a ride on one of the courtesy wagons that are being pulled by antique tractors. We tour the grounds riding the free wagon and return to the place we ate breakfast to watch the kiddie pull.

Girls and boys ages 4 to 7 compete on a peddle tractor pulling a known weight which is pulled a measured distance. There are trophies given to the winner in their age group. I think some of these kids practice all summer for this event. I wouldn't want to get kicked by some of those little girls. I bet they could bring tears to a grown man's eyes.

Now that the kiddie pull is over the Cheasning American Legion Honor Guard presents the colors for raising. A young lady sanfg the National Anthem. She did a good job.

I was eyeing the rifles carried by the Guard. There was 3 M1 Garands and 3 1917 Enfields. They were in excellent condition. Now for the start of the tractor parade. The PA man said there were about 1300 entries this year. They were honoring John Deere's and they were well represented. Right down to the smallest detail they were restored, and those paint jobs were excellent. If you could have all the money those paint jobs cost in a pile in front of you, there was not anything in this whole county that couldn't be bought. There was even a tractor pull just for John Deere's. From where we sat a saw mill could be seen operating.

A working machine shop in the stationary engine barn was being operated. Also some old engines were running. Those machines in the shop were being powered by an overhead line shaft like the old days. A single power source was driving the line shaft and running all the machines

There also was a rock crusher turning big stones into small pieces. On the far side of the grounds they were plowing with horses. Then there was the steam powered threshing machine harvesting oats. They were also cutting corn stalks with a team & binder. This sure brought back memories of my life on the farm. Back to the tractor parade. Those daughters & grand daughters were driving the family tractors in T shirts and it started to rain. Some of those girls were built healthy. It was time to think about lunch. We found a large kettle of bean soup being cooked.

So now for a small donation we were given a large cup of soup. It was sure good. Now that lunch was over we headed for the flea market. There was everything there from tractors for sale, to tools and chimes, to crafts. Ray and I went to find a couple we went to school with, Jim & Ruth Ann Johnson. They run a business out of Mio, Michigan selling tent and awning supplies. Jin sells these, Ruth Ann sells hats and signs. Ray KB8WYE wanted a John Deere cap. I found one for him but he wouldn't buy it. The color didn't suit him, instead of green it was pink.

Along about 4PM that bean soup we had for lunch was starting to get noisy. Everybody tried to stay up wind from each other. I sure wasn't looking forward to the ride home in the truck. We saw a lot of things bought a few, and headed to Owosso to stop for some dinner. The good Lord got us there safe and back. What more could we ask for? More wet T shirts!

Mac & Charlie did the midnight shift on Operation Care, Memorial Day. Here is the 12 to 4AM report. It was pretty calm except for the 19 year old girl who was pregnant and living in her car. Her boyfriend shunned her. We kept an eye on her while she slept in her car.

Then there were the 4 young men who had been to a concert and were being driven home by a lady who had a ring between her nostrils. Boy were those guys smashed. End of shift. Brad a friend who was a member of our Klub stopped by to see us. It's always a pleasure to see and talk with him.

73

Mac N8RBA

WHY SHOULD I GO TO ANOTHER TRAINING SESSION?

I hear people ask this question in and outside the Klub. I had someone ask me Saturday, "Why did you attend the Level I training class? You already took the test for Level I & II (and passed)." This is a valid question on the surface, but let me explain my thought pattern on this.

First, our job as emergency communicators is to be as well prepared as possible to fulfill our role in the county emergency operations plan. One of the big lessons I learned through years of Police and Fire work was that you never can get to much training or practice. Everything you do in an emergency needs to be an automatic response. When you are operating in a crisis the adrenaline rush reduces motor function and your ability to think clearly. The only thing that makes you useful is the ability to do things without thinking. A conditioned response. The only way to obtain that ability is through "Spaced Repetition". The act of revisiting the knowledge and the action, over and over and over, until it becomes a part of you.

There are three levels of knowledge and ability:

1. Unconscious incompetence – the level where you think you know something and how to do it.

2. Conscious competence – the level where you have enough knowledge and training to do the job if you have time to think it out and look things up.
3. Unconscious competence – the level where you have studied and drilled enough that you don't have to think about it, it is an automatic response. Some call it second nature.

Pro golfers don't hit a bucket of balls once a month. They hit thousands of balls every day, day in and day out, over and over and over and over. This enables them to have a more predictable outcome. Not a perfect game, just consistent performance with out having to think about mechanics. They need to focus all their attention on maintaining the right mind set and composure.

Another important reason to repeat training is that things change. In our current environment, the Department of Homeland Security is working very hard to improve and enhance the level of all responders' effectiveness by revamping the entire response system and eliminating all the problem areas. This has required many changes in national emergency plans and the entire command and control system. ARRL has also worked very hard to rework the Level I, II & III programs to include those changes.

Why is all this important to us as emergency communicators? Just try to imagine being in the "Real Thing". You won't have Jim on the DVR announcing the event for a week in advance. It will come at the least opportune time in your life. In the middle of something very important to you or the middle of the night after a long exhausting day. You won't have time to do anything but grab you go kit and run. When you check into the Net on the repeater there won't be any fun comments, just a very ridged Net Control Operator who is all business and has no time for conversation. When you arrive at the location NCS has sent you to there will be nothing but CHAOS. No one to guide you and hold your hand. DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION OR PART OF THE PROBLEM? If you have practiced and learned over and over, you will be an asset and will be able to be a calming force in the Chaos. If you have not, you will add to the confusion and will cause responders that should be doing other jobs, to have to stop and take care of you.

If that isn't enough, how about the pride you have in yourself. Would you feel better knowing that you are well prepared to do your job as a communicator and to be able to help others who are not as well prepared? If you are prepared you will know all the members of the Incident Command System and who you should contact for any part of the operation. You will know how to handle all the communication requirements from the Served Agency perspective. Last, but not least, if you drilled enough, you will even know how to operate all the radio equipment and know the procedures without help.

One major thing I have learned as both a line officer and a leader is that "If you think you are totally prepared, you are in big trouble". The more I learn, the more I realize there is more to learn. Be a Sponge. Don't ever get enough.

None of these things is convenient, but we didn't sign up for convenience. In an emergency there is no convenience.

So take the classes, ALL THE CLASSES, while it is relatively easy and relaxed. Enjoy being with your fellow Hams and feel good in the knowledge that you will be a real asset "When All Else Fails".

73

Dick W8KDR

EDITORS COMMENTS



It will soon be Thanksgiving. Wow, where did the summer and fall scoot off to? Hopefully, you've all been able to do all those outside chores on your antennas to get ready for a rockin' winter season on the bands. Have you considered building a kit over the winter, or perhaps brushing up on your code? Seems like a perfect time to start planning those inside activities.

Articles

Thanks for all those who have taken the time to contribute real quality articles to the newsletter. Your editor appreciates the effort.

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? Regardless, the 50/50 drawing is a great way to help support the Klub, and the extra prizes give everyone a chance to win!

SUNDAY EVENING NET ON 146.68

We seemed to have slipped back into our old habits. Turn on your rig on Sunday evening, and check into the net! It won't cause you any pain or discomfort.

LARK SATURDAY BREAKFAST

It's just a nice way to offer an opportunity to mingle with the membership. These meetings are currently held at the Cross Roads Grill in Howell, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, usually starting around 8 AM or so. Stop on in for a glass of water, or breakfast, or a cup of coffee. Heck, if I'm there (and I often try to be) you can probably get me to buy your coffee! Oh yes, let's see; your lame excuse for not making it on Saturday morning is?

OTHER COMMENTS

Thanks to all those folks who took the last training session we offered at the EOC. As others have pointed out, as we become more important to the served agencies we support, they'll be asking us to become even better prepared. One mechanism to handle that has become our Saturday training sessions.

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. Not sure if you have enough change to buy yourself a refreshing beverage at the meeting? We'll handle that for you as well. Afraid the room will be too cold for you? Bring your blanky. Dress is casual, so don't worry about digging out your Tux or Formal. We have plenty of seats in the front (or back) row for you. Do you have another unique excuse for not attending the meeting? Why not share it with others, in a lovely article for the newsletter?

Support the Klub. It's important. Not just to the organization, but to the future of amateur radio as well.

DX STORY and TIPS by Dave KE8Z

Have you wondered what it would be like to operate from rare DX location? As some readers MAY know I have operated from West Germany, DL5IZ, not very rare, South Korea, somewhat rare back in 1962 when I operated out of the Eight Amateur Radio Station, HL9US, until I received my own station call HL9KD. It was still somewhat rare in 1971 when I operated as HL9UR. Ryukyu Islands, Okinawa, now part of Japan, where I was KR6LS from 1963 to 1968, had over several dozen American hams and was not very rare until Bob Hitchen and I put my HT-37 on RTTY then the pile ups began for RTTY contacts. There was no amateur operations allowed from South Vietnam or I would have tried to get a license and call there. I applied for a license to operate from Cambodia but the paper work was so complicated that it took over six months and still not approved when I was evacuated.

At the time, 1962, it cost 25 Dutch Marks and a copy of my FCC license for a license in West Germany, my first DX station. I was issued the call DL5IZ and on the air all in one day. This was the easiest foreign call I applied for and issued. Since it was also my first experience in operating as a DX station I had a lot to learn. My first contact was Elmer, DJ1RB, who lived less than 15 miles away. Our families became close friends and he was the one who taught me the fundamentals of being a good DX operator. I did not realize how important his guidance and instructions would be until I was notified of my pending transfer to the Kingdom of Laos in 1971.

Having learned from my Cambodian experiences and all the delays there, I immediately wrote the person I was replacing to look in the requirements for an American to obtain an amateur radio license. His reply indicated that a copy of my FCC license was all that was required so I started planning.

Since a shoehorn could not shove the HT37 and SX111 in my suitcase, even if they did not weigh well over the weight limitations, the Heath Kit SB101 was dusted off. I found that it drifted over 50 KCs during the first 30 minutes of warm up. If I had any hopes of talking to Darlene, WA8WHM, it had to be by phone or about 5 WPM in CW if she could be convinced into trying CW again. Ok now for the antenna I ordered a Cushcraft 40 through 10-meter vertical and have it ship to the APO. What have I forgotten? Yes, the Vibraplex bug, a soldering iron, solder, hand tools and wire for a dipole if the vertical did not arrive. Now all I had to do was find room for my clothes and everything had to be crammed in the one B4 bag. After two of the girls sat on the B4 bag, we got it closed. Then I remembered there still was the power supply. There was no room in the B4 bag so I would have to carry it as carry on.

Everything went ok until it came to customs in Bangkok Thailand International airport. With my official passport, I should not have had to open any baggage. Well, you guessed it; I had to open both bags for the inspection. Tools, insulators and wire, etc. went sliding across the floor of the custom room in the airport. Then I had to try to explain what every thing was including the SB-101 to an inspector who did not speak more than a dozen words of English and knew nothing about radio. He passed me through after about a half hour, just minutes before the plane was due to depart. Then I had to repack everything and get the bags closed. Just as the steps were being pulled away, I was allowed to board. The quarters I had had four bedrooms so I used one for the radio room. The one item I forgot was a voltage step down transformer. Their power was 220 volts and of course, all my equipment was set for 110 volts. I had to do a little horse trading before I was able to find one for the right price. The license was a completely different matter. I was informed that I had to take both their written and CW tests. Well that is no big thing right. Wrong, the test was in not in English and since I did not speak, let alone read, Laotian I was in big trouble. After paying the manager of the Telephone/Telegraph department, the equivalent to our local FCC office, 1500 Kip about \$50.00 he decided to accept my FCC license and issue me the Laotian call of XW8GP.

I now could operate from Vientiane, the Administrative capital but not Luang Prabang, the Royal Capital. This meant that I would be able to operate only about half the time I was in country. With the help of several men, I was able to install the vertical antenna, which had arrived in country before I did. However, based on the advice from one of them, I mounted it on top of a 50-foot bamboo pole with eight radials from the base of the antenna and then eight guys about 30 feet from the ground. Now I was ready to get on the air.

I turned on 20 meters and it was very active with a few openings around 14.010 KHz where I called my first 3 X 3 CQ from XW8GP. I listened up and down a couple KCs but no response. So out goes another CQ. This time when I send -.- (K) at the end of the CQ call, I could not believe the pile up. I picked out one call and started to call him back when Murphy showed up as my rig went dead.

I immediately checked for a blown fuse in the power supply, which turned out good. After checking for output voltage from the step-down transformer, which was zero, I checked its input voltage and found it was also zero. Where was the fuse/circuit breaker box located? It took me most of the afternoon to find it and what a shock I got. They used homemade fuses made of solder. Depending on the amount of current the circuit drew the fuse was made of different size solder. Once I located the fuse that was open, I could have replaced it with some solder but decided to wait for the building maintenance to install it. I did not want to burn the house down the first week I was in it. Therefore, I was off the air for the next few days.

The fuse was repaired on Monday and the circuit was then rated at 30 Amps just in time for me to travel to Luang Prabang and points north for several weeks. The circuit was repaired just in time for me to travel to Luang Prabang for several weeks.

When I returned to Vientiane and had a chance to operate KR6LL was the first to reply to my CQ. I had known Martin for years when I operated on Okinawa. We had an enjoyable QSO, with signals 599 both ways, for five minutes or so and then, the QRM started building up. Stations started calling me even while Martin was sending to me. His signal went from a 599 down to the point that I could not copy but a few letters out of every transmission he made. I had to ask for repeats so often that we ended the QSO. Once the word got out that Laos was on the air there was no point in trying to hold a long QSO due to a large number of inconsiderate hams. Most of my QSO's consisted of just giving out signal reports. One other bad habit that some operators used was to give the prefix or suffix of their call only instead of the complete call as required. About every ten QSO's I would announce my QTH and who my QSL manager was.

Once a week I had a schedule with Darlene, WA8WHM, on SSB. It was difficult since I was running 100 watts with the ground plan but we tried anyway. On the days that conditions were very good we were able to make contact. At first, the QSO would be going great until other stations, primarily on the east coast, would hear us and started calling me. Then our QSO's would have to be cut short. It is sad to say but U.S. operators seem to be the most inconsiderate ones when it comes to trying to get a new country.

Operating in a strange country, as a single operator, always presents challenges but is lots of excitement. Thanks to the ARRL and our State Department, there are now a few international agreements that make it much easier to obtain permission to operate in foreign countries. If you are part of a large DX group the administrative paperwork and equipment set up can be much easier but some of the self-satisfaction of doing it all yourself is missing.

A few pointers I would like to pass on to anyone who works DX is listen, follow the DX station directions and most important is to be considerate. If he says "up 5" do not call him on his transmitting frequency but move your transmitter up 5 KCs and call him as he is working split frequencies. Do not give your call while the station he is working is transmitting. That is one sure way not to get call most of the time. If the DX station is working section by section, do not call if you are not in the section he is working. He will get to your section.

Be considerate and with a bit of luck you will work him. It may take years to work your DXCC or you may do it in a year at the expense of others. I tried to work as many of those who called me but the rude or inconsiderate operators never received a reply or QSL card from DL5IZ, HL9USA, HL8KD, KR6LS, XW8GO or HL8UR.

Dave KE8Z



You missed a real nice class!