



# THE LED

## MARCH 2008

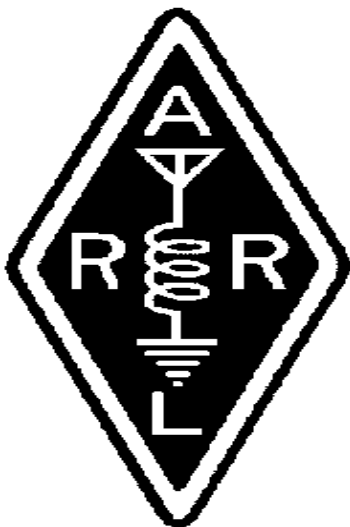
**Livingston Amateur  
Radio Klub  
PO Box 283  
Howell, Michigan  
48844**

[www.w8lrk.org](http://www.w8lrk.org)

NET 146.680  
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

NEXT KLUB MEETING  
MARCH 13th 7:30PM at the  
EOC, Highlander Way, Howell, MI



### **BOARD MEMBERS**

**President Van N8GVD  
Vice-President Dick W8KDR  
Secretary Mary KC8SER  
Treasurer Clairus KC8QQN  
Program Director Jon KC8VAB  
Tech Coordinator Jim WB8AZP  
Board Member Chuck W8CLK**

### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S**

**Repeater Trustee Jim WB8AZP  
LED Editor Neil K8IT  
VE Coordinador W5YI Jim WB8AZP  
VE Coordinador ARRL Van N8GVD  
PIO Officer Brandon KC8YHE  
PIO Officer Jim N8ENX  
Webmaster Les W8MSP**

The Livingston Amateur Radio Klub maintains the 146.680 (Negative Offset, 162.2 CTCSS) and also the 444.525 (Positive Offset, 100.0 CTCSS) repeaters in Livingston County.

Please feel free to use them with good Amateur Operating Practices and don't forget to attend our meetings!

## PREZ SAYS

WOW! Another nice turn out for the February meeting.

I would like to thank Russ K8AF for his presentation, pretty amazing stuff!

Congratulations to:

Lawrence K8NYY for his upgrade to General,  
John KD8HVT for his return to Amateur Radio.



With spring right around the corner its time to gear up for weather season, with that in mind I am looking forward to this months presentation. Kaz Fujita, Professor of Geological Sciences at MSU. Professor Fujita will be talking to us about his Dad's work developing the Fujita Scale. Also on March 8 Net Control Training Class 09:00 to 12:00 at the EOC and April 15 NWS Skywarn Class 7pm at Brighton Area FD, Sta 32, Old US-23 and Hyne RD.

We still have a few tickets left for the IC 7000. If you wait to long they might be gone. If you need some call me 313.999.5547, the drawing will be at this months meeting. Good Luck!

Also lets not forget our Klub Dues.

Elections will be at the May Meeting, and this year up for election will be:

Vice President

Treasurer

Technical Coordinator

Director/ Member At Large

Our ability of providing Emergency Communications to served agencies is a very important part of the spirit of Amateur Radio. I want to thank those that have stepped up taken the required courses and training and participated in the exercises. But of course we can do better and waiting until we are needed isn't the time to decide you want to help. I would encourage all Radio Amateurs to become more involved in ARES and RACES take the required classes and making time to participate in the exercises. Having the training is as important as having the ability to do the job. To learn more visit [www.n8eoc.org](http://www.n8eoc.org), [www.w8lrk.org](http://www.w8lrk.org) click on the ARES RACES tab or contact our EC or any of the AEC'S. This is going to be a reoccurring message.

Looking forward to seeing you at the next Klub event.  
Van N8GVD

# LARK SOCIAL

**LARK Dinner before the Meeting** 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!

## LARK Meeting Minutes 2-14-08

- The pledge of alliance was recited.
- Introductions were made.
- Our speaker was RUSS MEYARGLE. The subject was "Introduction To Aviation Radio". It was a very informative talk.
- Sec Report as in the Led.
- Treas Report accepted as printed.
- Bruce's N8WWX notes:
  - March 8th 9am to 12pm net control training.
  - APRIL 15 TH SKYWARN TRAINING 7-9PM.
  - CERTIFICATES OF APRECIATION WERE GIVEN FOR ASSISTANT EC, WERE GIVEN TO JOHN KC8VAB, JIM WB8AZP, VAN N8GVD, DICK W8KDR. RAY N8CPO, NEIL K8IT.
  
- JOHN PROGRAM DIRECTOR HAS A FIRST AIDE PROGRAM FOR JUNE.
- REPEATER IMPROVEMENTS ARE ON THR WAY
- Dick reminded us of our march speaker, Kaze, it should be a very interesting talk.
- Led no report
- Old Business there are only 53 tickets left.
- New business Operation Care COMING UP.
- VAN WON THE 50/50.

## LARK BOARD Meeting Minutes 2-20-08

- Sec Report read and accepted.
- Trea Report 50-50 was deposited, along with the money from the raffle.
- Chuck had nothing to report.
- Jim reported that the new controller for the repeater will be here soon. It is too cold to work outside.
- Dick nothing to report.
- There was no old business.
- New business:
  - The possibility of laptops for the Sec and the Treas.
  - John Champa had a LARK history. Would be something we should update!
  - Should we do a radio for a 50-50 prize.
  - Discussion on licensing for raffle and 50-50.
- Jim made motion to adjourn and Dick second. Motion passed.

Respectfully Submitted  
Mary KC8SER

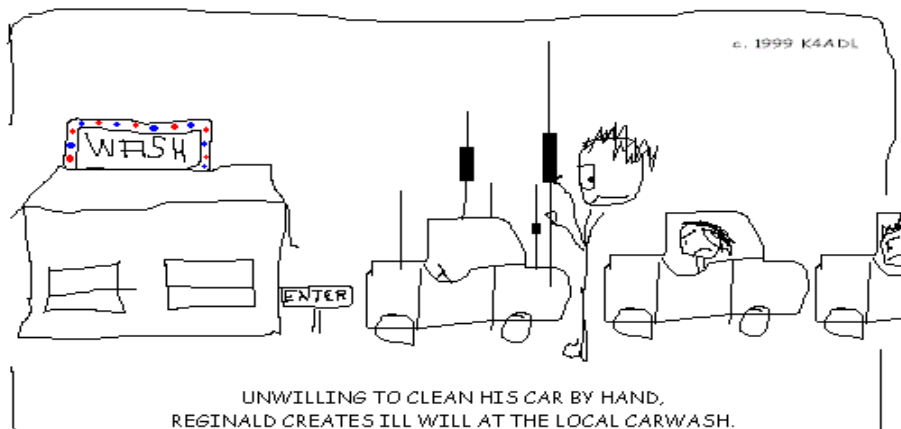


**Anyone interested in building these as a club project?**

## MARCH 2008 SWAPS

<p>15 Mar 2008</p>	<p>+ 48th Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest Southern Michigan ARS &amp; Marshall High School Industrial Arts Club <a href="http://www.w8df.com">http://www.w8df.com</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.660 (PL 94.8) -600 offset &amp; 146.520 simplex <b>Contact:</b> Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ 20960 NE Capital Avenue Battle Creek, MI 49017 Phone: 269-966-0770 Email: <a href="mailto:daffne25@yahoo.com">daffne25@yahoo.com</a> Marshall, MI Marshall High School <a href="#">701 North Marshall Avenue</a> <b>Div:</b> Great Lakes <b>Sect:</b> Michigan</p>	<p>Marshall, MI Marshall High School <a href="#">701 North Marshall Avenue</a> <b>Div:</b> Great Lakes <b>Sect:</b> Michigan</p>
<p>16 Mar 2008</p>	<p>+ Hamfest and Computer Fair Toledo Mobile Radio Association <a href="http://www.tmrahamradi.org">http://www.tmrahamradi.org</a> <b>Talk-In:</b> 146.27+ (will be in net mode - no tone needed) <b>Contact:</b> Brian Harrington, WD8MXR 4463 Holly Hill Drive Toledo, OH 43614 Phone: 419-385-5624 Email: <a href="mailto:bharrington@meduohio.edu">bharrington@meduohio.edu</a> Maumee, OH Lucas County Recreation Center <a href="#">2901 Key Street</a> <b>Div:</b> Great Lakes <b>Sect:</b> Ohio</p>	<p>Maumee, OH Lucas County Recreation Center <a href="#">2901 Key Street</a> <b>Div:</b> Great Lakes <b>Sect:</b> Ohio</p>

Cartoon reproduced from [www.qsl.net/k4adl](http://www.qsl.net/k4adl)



# WIN This RADIO

## ICOM IC-7000 & RMK KIT



Serial Number 0507622

CLICK for INFO: <http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/hamhf/0700.html>

**Ticket sales for the LARK Raffle for an  
IC-7000 with RMK remote kit  
valued at \$1,539. will start at the  
December 13<sup>th</sup> LARK meeting**

The DRAWING will be held at 9pm March 13<sup>th</sup> at the LARK Meeting  
300 S Highlander Way, Howell, MI  
*You need not be present to win*

**Tickets will be available at \$20 each (only 150  
will be sold) from any LARK Board member at any  
LARK function starting December 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**Order by mail: LARK, PO Box 283, Howell, MI 48844.  
Make checks payable to: LARK  
For more information call Dick 810-923-3600**

# Build Something!

Dan Romanchik, KB6NU  
MI Affiliated Club Coordinator

A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can't really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair. That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build, but are useful additions to the ham shack.

Here are a couple of sources:

- Elecraft ([www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com)). In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about anything on the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation. I also have and use the W1 wattmeter.
- TenTec ([www.radio.tentec.com/kits](http://www.radio.tentec.com/kits)). While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits.
- QRP Kits ([www.qrpkits.com](http://www.qrpkits.com)). QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit (\$40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience:

- Small Wonder Labs ([www.smallwonderlabs.com](http://www.smallwonderlabs.com))
- Wilderness Radio ([www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html](http://www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html))
- Milestone Technologies ([www.mtechnologies.com](http://www.mtechnologies.com))
- Almost All Digital Electronics ([www.aade.com/index.html](http://www.aade.com/index.html))
- FAR Circuits ([www.farcircuits.net](http://www.farcircuits.net))
- Jackson Harbor ([www.home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm](http://www.home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm))
- QRPme ([www.qrpme.com/](http://www.qrpme.com/))
- Linear Amp UK ([www.linamp.co.uk](http://www.linamp.co.uk))

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts only for a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out:

- American QRP Club ([www.amqrp.org](http://www.amqrp.org))

- Four State QRP Club ([www.4sgrp.com/kits/kits.htm](http://www.4sgrp.com/kits/kits.htm))
- NORTEX ([www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm](http://www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm))

Ready to rock and roll? Here are a couple websites that you might want to check out before you dive in:

- Electronic Construction from A to Z ([www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm](http://www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm)). This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder.
- Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station ([www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html](http://www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html)). This site not only discusses kit building, but also radio theory.
- The Art of Kit Building (<http://ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html>)

I hope that I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

What have you built lately? Let Dan know. KB6NU works CW and PSK on the HF bands and blogs about ham radio at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com). You can reach him by e-mail at <mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com>

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## **MS150 – HELP NEEDED ..... Act Now!**

The dates have been set for this year's Mid-Michigan MS150 Bike tour, July 12 & 13. We are in need of operators to work the 2-day event. The MS150 event is the largest Amateur Radio public service event in South East Michigan. It requires a minimum of 75+ amateurs, to cover some 200+ miles of route, plus rest stops, and some 20+ mobile units each day. Each amateur that participates in the two day event supplies his or her own equipment, mainly consisting of a 25 Watt or greater VHF/UHF Mobile radio, Magnet Mount antenna, cigarette lighter socket Y adapter, and power cords. Food and lodging for Saturday night are provided for by the MS organization. The event starts promptly at 7 am Saturday and concludes late Sunday afternoon after the last rider arrives back. The Saturday night entertainment at MSU is a fun time for all.

If you are interested in participating or need any questions answered, please email Fred, W8FSM - [fred@moses.bz](mailto:fred@moses.bz). We currently have many open assignments for either Saturday, Sunday, and many 2 day assignments as well. To sign up for the event or get more information visit our website: <http://ms150.moses.bz>

73, Fred, W8FSM, MS-150, Amateur Radio Communications Manager (ARCM)





# LARK Coming Events



All Amateurs and Non Amateurs are welcome

Mar 1 – LARK Breakfast, 8 am at the Crossroads Grill M-59 at MichiganAve/Oak Grove Road (west end of the Kroger Plaza in Howell.

**Get your ICOM IC-7000 Radio Raffle Ticket.**

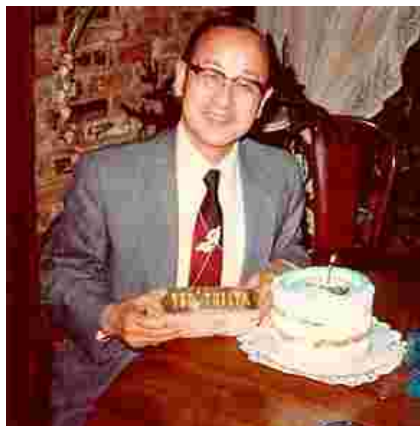
Mar 8 – Net Control Training Class 9am – 12 noon at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. Bring a 2M HT.

Mar 11 – VE Amateur License testing, 7 pm at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. Including W5YI FCC Amateur License, Code Proficiency and ARECC testing. Contact Jim WB8AZP at 810-220-2134 or e-mail [wb8azp@arrl.net](mailto:wb8azp@arrl.net) . Walk-ins are welcome.

**Get your ICOM IC-7000 Radio Raffle Ticket.**

Mar 13 – LARK Monthly Meeting, 7 pm at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. The Program will be a Special Overview of Ted Fujita's work developing the Fujita Scale used to rate Tornados. Speaker will be Ted's son Kaz Fujita, a Professor of Geological Sciences at MSU. Kaz has extensive background in earthquake studies in Russia and Michigan. Kaz does a very interesting and entertaining presentation. All SKYWARN Spotters will want to attend this one. **LAST chance to get your ICOM IC-7000 Radio Raffle Ticket.**

*Ted Fujita 1920-1998*



*Kaz Fujita*



**RAFFLE DRAWING FOR THE ICOM IC-7000 WITH RMK KIT WILL BE HELD AFTER THE BUSINESS MEETING. DON'T MISS ALL THE EXCITEMENT.**

Mar 15 – LARK Breakfast, 8 am at the Crossroads Grill M-59 at Michigan Ave/Oak Grove Road (west end of the Kroger Plaza in Howell).

Apr 5 – LARK Breakfast, 8 am at the Crossroads Grill M-59 at Michigan Ave/Oak Grove Road (west end of the Kroger Plaza in Howell).

Apr 8 – VE Amateur License testing, 7 pm at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. Including ARRL FCC Amateur License, Code Proficiency and ARECC testing. Contact: Van N8GVD at 313-999-5547 or e-mail [bvandam@comcast.net](mailto:bvandam@comcast.net) . Walk-ins are welcome.

April 10 – LARK Monthly Meeting, 7 pm at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. The Program will be a collection of Morse Code Keys and custom paddles. Several different keys will be on display and live for you to try. Speaker is Greg WB8LZG who makes custom paddles.



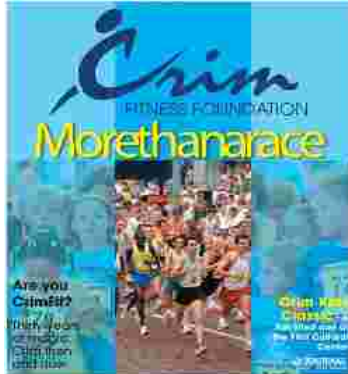
## **SKYWARN TRAINING**

**April 15, 2008, 7pm SKYWARN Class will be held at Brighton Area FD, Sta 32, Old US-23 and Hyne Rd.**

Apr 19 – LARK Breakfast, 8 am at the Crossroads Grill M-59 at Michigan Ave/Oak Grove Road (west end of the Kroger Plaza in Howell).

May 3 – LARK Breakfast, 8 am at the Crossroads Grill M-59 at Michigan Ave/Oak Grove Road (west end of the Kroger Plaza in Howell).

May 8 – LARK Monthly Meeting, 7 pm at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. The Program will be a presentation on the use of ATV in support of the Crim Race in Flint each year. There will be a live ATV station set up. Speaker will be Jerry Baker the (PIO) Public Information Officer of GCARES.



May 13 – VE Amateur License testing, 7 pm at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. Including W5YI FCC Amateur License, Code Proficiency and ARECC testing. Contact Jim WB8AZP at 810-220-2134 or e-mail [wb8azp@arrl.net](mailto:wb8azp@arrl.net) . Walk-ins are welcome.

May 17 – LARK Breakfast, 8 am at the Crossroads Grill M-59 at Michigan Ave/Oak Grove Road (west end of the Kroger Plaza in Howell).

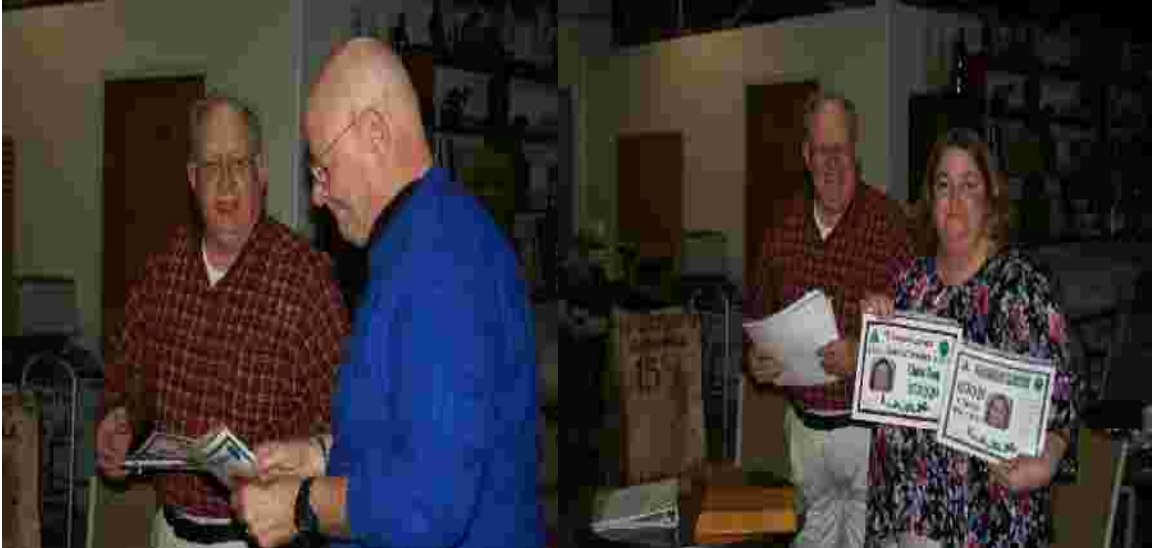
June - LARK Breakfast

June – MEETING

June - FIELD DAY WEEKEND – BAND CAPTAINS NEEDED!  
(Editor's Note: Let's get competitive for a change!)

June - BALLOON FESTIVAL WEEKEND – HELP NEEDED!  
(Contact: John Waters if you can help)





**THANKS RICK, W8RCM FOR THE PICTURES!**

## Radio Box Project

**KD8CCR**

I had been looking for a way to be able to quickly pack up my station for a long time. What I wanted was in my head, but finding it was another thing! I had thought about building something, but the problem with that is it would be pretty heavy once I was done. I finally found the perfect box at Meijers. It is called the “Game Keeper” and is designed to hold the PS2, Nintendo Wii or X-Box.



I began by making the connection panel. I needed 3 mounting connectors for the antennas and a DB 25 pin female/female block for the packet modem. I soldered the connectors and mounted the DB 25 block.

Here is the back side of the mounting block showing the side inside the box



Here you can see the ICOM 718 on top. The packet modem is mounted just below on the left. I removed a piece of the divider and then removed the foam that was inside to make room for the modem. Below the packet modem is the Alinco 2m for packet. The computer connection for the packet modem goes through the bottom of the divider and connects to the DB 25 block on the connection panel. The DB 9 connection goes to the Alinco radio. The Kenwood V-708 is beneath that. The head for the Kenwood is mounted on the divider on the right and the power supply is under that. The tuner on the top does need to be moved to close the box. It sits inside the lid when everything is packed up. Just to the right of the ICOM is a power inverter that plugs into the cigarette lighter plug of the power supply so I can supply power to the computer.



I mounted a power distribution block inside the lid for power.



Here is the back of the box showing the connections for the antennas and to the computer and the access to plug in the power supply.





Here is the completed box, showing the computer. It is an Explorer tablet computer running Windows 2000. It has a touch screen or I can use a keyboard and mouse. I use a Belkin USB wireless adapter for my network connection. I run AGW packet software and Winlink. I also run Ham Radio Deluxe to control the ICOM radio. The computer is packed in a separate bag.



Here is a side view showing where the tuner packs inside the lid.



The last thing I did was replace the hinges for the lid with ones that make it easy to remove the lid when the box is on top of my desk.



Breakdown of the costs:

The box:	\$60.00
SO 239 connector blocks:	3 @ \$3.39 ea.
DB 25 connector:	\$1.79
Hinges:	\$2.89
DB 25 RS232 cable:	\$6.79

I already had the Anderson power pole box, coax and PL 259 connectors.

## LED FUN!

### LAST MONTHS MYSTERY

What is the object on the right?

What is it used for?

Who invented it?



The **Wouff-Hong** is used to enforce **law and order** in Amateur Radio operating work.

"The Old Man" (T.O.M.), originator of the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch, is known to be the one and only Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, founder of the American Radio Relay League ([ARRL](#)) in 1914. T.O.M. wrote his first mention of a Wouff-Hong and a Rettysnitch in 1917. In 1919, the league received an actual Wouff-Hong specimen directly from T.O.M. The first photo of the Wouff-Hong was published in July 1919 *QST*.



## The Rettysnitch

The **Rettysnitch** is used to enforce **decency** in Amateur Radio operating work.

In 1921, the Washington DC Radio Club presented the Rettysnitch to the league's traffic manager. According to legend, the club received the Rettysnitch specimen from "The Old Man" himself. Cebik stated that "Even at its first public appearance, two of its teeth were missing, suggesting a long history of necessary and effective use. However, to this day, the Rettysnitch has lost no further teeth. It was ordered to be displayed by its mate." The Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch stories were retold by Rufus P. Turner, when he wrote "Hamdom's Traditions: A Bedtime Story for Young Squirts" in May 1934 *QST*. According to Cebik, "In 1930, *The ARRL Handbook* had pictures of both instruments of enforcement. By 1936, only the Wouff-Hong appeared. By 1947 the *Handbook* had deleted both photos." An editorial on the Wouff-Hong (without the hyphen) appeared many years later in February 1961 *QST*. Presently, both of these legendary instruments are on display at the ARRL museum in Newington, CT.

Do the Wouff-Hong and Rettysnitch still hold their mystical power over us today?

L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, answered this question well, when he asked "Why were the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch so powerful to those early hams? Because those hams cared about Amateur Radio in their hearts. They desired that which they knew they could never have: A perfectly law-abiding, decent radio service that would inspire young and old alike to become hams or, lacking the inclination to electronics, to become admirers of hams. Every minute of on-the-air

time was a chance to show how noble a pursuit Amateur Radio was and should always be. They feared the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch as instruments of their own consciences, as they strove to meet the standards they set for themselves. And that is where you will find the Wouff-Hong and the Rettysnitch today - deep in your own conscience. If they seem to hold no power, then you know it's time once more to elevate your standards a notch higher, and then to strive to achieve them perfectly." He added, "May you never deserve their sting."

<sup>1</sup>Rob L. Dey, KA2BEO, P.O. Box 1849, Point Pleasant, NJ 08742-1849, e-mail: [rdey@natradioco.com](mailto:rdey@natradioco.com).

<sup>2</sup>L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, 1434 High Mesa Dr., Knoxville, TN 37938-4443, e-mail: [cebik@utk.edu](mailto:cebik@utk.edu).

<sup>3</sup>This article originally appeared in the *New England QRP Newsletter*, edited by Dennis Marandos, K1LGQ.

## MARCH 2008 CAN YOU DO-IT?

All entries must be submitted to <mailto:k8it@cac.net>

Entries must be received by Thursday March 20, 2008

I am the Judge!

The winner gets printed!

The object is to write a minimum of 500 words to a maximum of 1000 words with some tie in to April 1<sup>st</sup> (The next publication date of the LARK LED)Keep the content family rated.

FEBRUARY 2008

PUZZLE

