



# THE LED

Published by the  
Livingston Amateur Radio Klub  
Howell, Michigan



**JULY 2008**



**Livingston Amateur  
Radio Klub**  
PO B0x 283  
Howell, MI 48844  
[www.w8lrk.org](http://www.w8lrk.org)

**NET SUNDAY 9 PM**  
146.68 Mhz pl 162.2

**KLUB CONTACT**  
**DICK RENAUD W8KDR**  
[w8kdr@arrl.net](mailto:w8kdr@arrl.net)  
Phone: 810-923-3600



### **LARK BOARD MEMBERS**

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- Vice President— Dick W8KDR**
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- VE Coordinator ARRL— Van N8GVD**
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The Klub maintains the 146.68- Mhz (PL 162.20) and the 444.525+ Mhz (PL 100) repeaters in Livingston County

*Feel Free to use the content of this newsletter with good Amateur Practices and don't forget to attend meetings.*

## **PREZ SAYS**

I would like to thank all those that contributed their time, effort, equipment and positive attitude to help make the 2008 LARK/ARRL Field Day at the Michigan Challenge Balloonfest an outstanding success. You have played an important part in making a very positive impact on the community, the Balloonfest Committee, Howell Chamber of Commerce and all of the First Responder community that got a chance to see up close what we do.

We were able to fulfill all the missions that ARRL laid out for Field Day.

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 and 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.

**.Looking forward to seeing you  
at the next Klub event.**

**Van N8GVD**

### **LARK ACTIVITIES**

**LARK Dinner before the meeting—** Check in on the 146.68 repeater for time and location.

**LARK Saturday Morning Breakfast—** Join us for Saturday morning breakfast, the first and third Saturday of each month, at the Crossroads Grill at the West end of the Kroger plaza at the intersection of M-59, Michigan Ave and Oak Grove Road. Breakfast starts at 8am and the fun with fellow hams and visitors lasts as long as you like. Hams and non hams are welcome. Bring a friend.

**LARK Monthly Meetings—** held the second Thursday of each month at the EOC/911 center, 300 South Highlander Way in Howell, at 7:30 pm. Come at 7pm for the social period. There are great speakers or projects each month. Don't miss all the fun.

**VE License Testing—** held the second Tuesday of each month at the EOC/911 center, 300 South Highlander way in Howell. ARRL and W5YI test and ARECC tests are available.



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## EDITOR'S NOTE

### LARK GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

**JUNE 12, 2008**

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED , INTRODUCTIONS WERE MADE.

THE PROGRAM WAS PRESENTED BY JOHN WATERS KD8CCR,LIVINGSTON COUNTY EMS. , HIS PROGRAM WAS ON FIRST AID.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES AS IN THE LED.

TREASURES REPORT AS HANDED OUT.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MANY GOOD PROGRAMS COMING UP.

TECH DIRECTOR, A LOT OF PROJECTS ARE GOING ON.

MEMBER AT LARGE , NOTHING AT THIS TIME.

VICE PRES, DICK,W8KDR, REPORTED ON FIELD DAY---BALLOON FEST

CLASS ON DISASTER COMMUNICATIONS.

BRUCE'S NOTES: REINFORCE FIELD--BALLOON FEST.

TRUSTEE REPORT--REPEATERS STILL WORKING GOOD.

LED REPORT, DICK W8KDR WILL DO THE LED UNTIL SOME ONE VOLUNTEERS FOR THE JOB.

VE WORKING VERY WELL, TESTING ONCE A MONTH.

WEB MASTER WORKING ON THE D STAR PROJECT.

OPERATION CARE: WENT VERY WELL IN THE NEW SPOT, WE MADE 705.67 FOR EMERGENCY FUND. WE MUST REMEMBER TO GREET THE PEOPLE AND TALK TO THEM . MAKE THEM FEEL GOOD.

OLD BUSINESS. NOTHING

NEW BUSINESS, NOTHING

PICNIC IN THE PARK 7-23-08 AND 8-20-08. AT THE PAVILION). BRING A BIG DISH AND DESSERT TO PASS.

CLAIRUS KC8QQN AND MARY KC8SER ARE WORKING ON THIS PROJECT, CHARLIE WILL BE THE COOK.MEAT, AND BUNS WILL BE FURNISHED ALSO PLATES SILVERWARE.

DICK W8KDR AND JIM WB8AZP GOT SOME RADIO PARTS DONATED TO KLUB, THEY WOULD LIKE TO LIQUDATE THEM, SEE DICK OR JIM. DICKW8KDR MADE MOTION TO ADJOURN AND JIMWB8AZP SECONDED.

MOTION PASSED 5 OPOSED.

**SUBMITTED BY**  
**MARY KC8SER**

**As I sit here at 3:25 AM finishing the LED I have been reflecting back over the last couple of week of preparation for the Field Day at the Michigan Challenge Balloonfest. I must admit that I was totally exhausted every night during those weeks and got less than three hours sleep each night. My exhaustion was even greater the three nights of the actual Field Day. Many things didn't go according to plan, the insurance company dragged their heals on getting the binder, various preparation didn't come off the way I intended, people didn't sign up to work, others were just negative toward the entire idea, the Balloonfest Committee kept changing the location that we would be able to use, I had some major problems with my prosthetic legs, scheduling a loaner off road power chair was not going well, my wife was getting a little upset with me and I just generally felt like crap. It was one of those periods when you just want to say "to heck with it" and walk away. But, as always, the feeling of responsibility to finish what I have committed to, no matter what, prevailed. You just have to cling to the satisfaction you get from doing all you can and having it work out. Because we, as a group, have committed to big things, we will always have to overcome a large amount of crap.**

**Our marching cry should be:**

**LET THE DOGS BARK, BUT THE CARAVAN MOVES ON!**

**73, Dick W8KDR**



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# LARK Coming Events



ALL AMATEURS AND NON AMATEURS ARE WELCOME

July 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.

**TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FOR THE LARK RAFFLE FOR THREE D-STAR RADIOS.**

July 8 – 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.

**TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FOR THE LARK RAFFLE FOR THREE D-STAR RADIOS.**

July 10– LARK Monthly Meeting, 7 pm at the EOC, 300 South Highlander Way, Howell. **THIS WILL BE BADGE NIGHT. COME AND AND GET YOUR LARK ID BADGE WITH PICTURE.**

**TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FOR THE LARK RAFFLE FOR THREE D-STAR RADIOS.**

July 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. M-59 at Michigan Ave/Oak Grove Road (west end of the Kroger Plaza in Howell.

**TICKETS WILL BE ON SALE FOR THE LARK RAFFLE FOR THREE D-STAR RADIOS.**

July 23—Lark Picnic 5 PM at the Howell City Park. Lark furnishes the meat. & buns. Bring a dish and dessert to pass and your drinks. Tell them at the gate you are with the Radio Klub. We will be in the pavilion on the hill on the left.



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# WIN A D-Star RADIO

1<sup>st</sup> Prize



2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize



## ICOM ID-800H & IC-91ADs

CLICK for INFO on RADIOS:

[http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/fm\\_txvrs/1800.html](http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/fm_txvrs/1800.html)

<http://www.universal-radio.com/catalog/ht/0091.html>

**Value – ID-800H - \$748. IC-91Ads \$484. each**

The DRAWING will be held at 9pm September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008

at the LARK Meeting 300 S Highlander Way, Howell, MI

*You need not be present to win*

Michigan Lottery License # R97389 TICKETS ARE NON REFUNDABLE

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LARK EMERGENCY EQUIPMENT FUND

**Tickets will be available at \$20 each**

**(only 150 will be sold)**

**from any LARK Board member at any LARK function.**

**Order by mail: LARK, PO Box 283, Howell, MI 48844.**

**Make checks payable to: LARK**

**For additional information call Dick at 810-923-3600**

**Or visit our web site at [www.w8lrk.org](http://www.w8lrk.org)**



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## Weaver's Words



### What is Amateur Radio?

At the risk of boring you to tears, let's start at the very beginning (this ought to make a good song title).

**Ama-ture** -- from the Latin, amo. Loosely means love. An amateur does something for the love of doing it. An amateur may be paid well, poorly or not at all. The key is that the task is done for the love of doing it.

**Ra-dio** -- from radiate. In Amateur Radio, this refers to radiating an electronic signal from what has become known as a station. There is commercial radio, military radio, government radio, public radio and, best of all, Amateur Radio -- i.e. radio for the love of doing it.

Let's clear up a great misimpression. This is that all workers are either "professional" or "non-professional," and that Amateur Radio operators are non-professional. This misconception resulted from the corruption of the English language largely during the last half or so of the 20th century. The confusion and corruption has not cleared since the enlightened days of the early 21st century.

It has been said that the French don't care what they say so long as it sounds good (the French language is beautiful). It can also be said that we Americans don't care what we say so long as we know what we (the speaker) intends to say. Neither position helps ensure accuracy of communication.

In times past, calling a person a "professional" had nothing or at most, little to do with money. For example, even though we call paid baseball, football and other athletes "professional," none of them are "professional" in the true sense of the word. They are paid, skilled commercial athletes.

Although we now call highly skilled craftsmen professional, this use of the word also differs from its true meaning. Craftsmen can be referred to as Master, Journeyman or Apprentice plumbers, carpenters, etc. Each term is a legitimate and appropriately complimentary title.

Back in my rural, northwestern Indiana community, we didn't have Master or Journeymen craftsman. In our simplicity, we referred to appropriately-skilled people as being highly skilled, did good work or hire-"him"-if you needed something thrown together. The worker's skill level was well known, appreciated and rewarded. But, he was not a professional.

One could also add the term "artisan" to our list of categories. Artisans include good sculptors, real life or abstract art painters and musicians. They aren't professional. You know the people to whom I refer.

The term "Professional" was limited to people who obtained special education that permitted them to perform at a different plane from those in the trades or crafts. Professionals included teachers, physicians, dentists, scientists, attorneys, ministers. This does not at all mean that highly skilled or trained non-professionals are slouches. They deserve great respect also.

Where does this take me? Right back to Amateur Radio (hams).

In my book, a radio amateur is a person who recognizes the value of the Amateur Service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service. This especially includes providing emergency communication for no charge to the public or served agencies.

As a body, Amateur Radio operators strive to continue and extend their proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art and science. They encourage and improve the Amateur Radio Service through programs that facilitate advancing skills in both the communications and technical phases of the art. Their effort to expand the existing reservoir of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts is a continuation and extension of their unique ability to foster international goodwill.

All this is what makes Amateur Radio operators true professionals.

Fabled newscaster and commentator Walter Cronkite, who narrates the CD "Amateur Radio Today," also states that hams are professionals. This statement is accurate in the true meaning of the word. We are professionals not because we are paid, but because of the education and training we have put ourselves through. Just as physicians, teachers and others I refer to as true professionals, every ham operator who holds an FCC license has what might be called a Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts in Amateur Radio.

Many amateurs have Ph.D.s in Amateur Radio not merely because they are licensed, but because they have become self-educated to the degree at which they can out-perform a number of college-educated engineers.

Amateur Radio -- a hobby? Yes, it is this and much more. It is a service; a service to the public, thanks to the discoveries, innovation and disaster relief activities we have performed and continue to perform.

This line of thinking leads me to believe you and I are Professional Amateur Radio Operators in the Amateur Radio Service. We are not merely amateur radio operators. Many Professional Amateur Radio Operators have sub-training in Morse code, Digital Communication, Emergency Communication, Systems Design and Development and other facets of the degree. All of us are Professional, regardless of which, if any, sub-specialties we pursued or continue to pursue.

Don't let anyone try to tell you otherwise. To borrow a phrase, we are the proud, the few, the Professional Amateur Radio Operators.

73,

Jim Weaver, K8JE, Director  
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Mason, OH 45040  
E-mail: [k8je@arrl.org](mailto:k8je@arrl.org); Tel.: 513-459-0142  
ARRL - The Reason Amateur Radio Is!  
Members - The Reason ARRL Is!



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## 2008 LARK/ARRL FIELD DAY AT THE MICHIGAN CHALLENGE BALLOONFEST WAS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF WHAT A FIELD DAY IS SUPPOSED TO BE.

Wes AB8VB brought his trailer and generator, others brought three desktop HF rigs and one portable HF rig. We had a VHF, UHF and two D-Star repeaters operating including operations through a gateway to nationwide coverage. HF contacts were made in several modes and contact were made through the D-Star gateway to California, Missouri, Texas and Georgia.

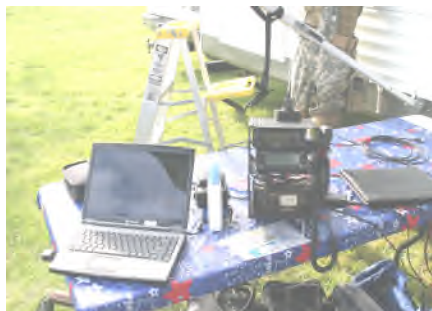
There were Skydivers, a group of Yankee Air Force Planes, National Guard Climbing Wall, NASCAR Simulator (our generator provided their power), Arts & Crafts Vendors, lots and lots of Food (health, RIGHT), carnival rides till midnight and BALLOONS.

We assisted John KD8CCR in setting up and operating the CBRNE trailer, the ATV cameras and some technical support to the MCC and others.

We had 500+ people sitting in front of our trailer for the launches and landings and lots of visitors to our Field Day Station.

It was great fun for all who participated and we are already making plans to do it bigger and better next year. Check out the pictures that follow for a flavor.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time, equipment and excitement to the event.





73 Dick W8KDR

Photos by Les W8MSP & Dick W8KDR

