



# THE LED

## November 2009

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Howell, Michigan

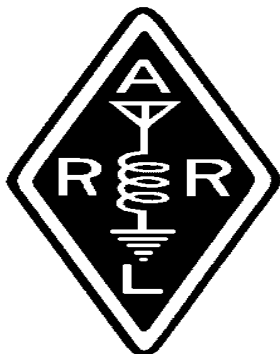
**Livingston Amateur Radio Klub**  
**PO Box 283**  
**Howell, Michigan 48844**

[www.W8LRK.org](http://www.W8LRK.org)

NET 146.680  
SUNDAY 9PM

CLUB CALL IS: W8LRK

NEXT KLUB MEETING  
Thursday, December 10th, at 7:30PM  
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way  
Howell, MI



### BOARD MEMBERS

<b>President</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Van</b>	<b>N8GVD</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary</b>	<b>KC8SER</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Patrick</b>	<b>W8LNO</b>
<b>Program Manager</b>	<b>Jon</b>	<b>KC8VAB</b>
<b>Tech Director</b>	<b>Les</b>	<b>W8MSP</b>
<b>Director</b>	<b>John</b>	<b>KD8CCR</b>

### COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

<b>Repeater Trustee</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>LED Editor</b>	<b>Michelle</b>	<b>KD8GWX</b>
<b>VE Coordinador</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>WB8AZP</b>
<b>PIO Officer</b>	<b>Brandon</b>	<b>KC8YHE</b>
<b>PIO Officer</b>	<b>Jim</b>	<b>N8ENX</b>
<b>Web Site</b>	<b>Les</b>	<b>W8MSP</b>

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.

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## **Jim's Jive ....**

It's hard for me to believe that November is here already! For a change, I'm actually caught up with the outside work, already have the tractor changed over to the winter configuration, checked all the antennas and made a few repairs, serviced the generator and should be ready for whatever winter has in store for us. Hopefully, you are all caught up as well.

### **Mailing Newsletters**

There are a dozen or so members who do not have email accounts or prefer to receive a hardcopy newsletter. I can appreciate the desire, but there are a few simple facts to consider:

- Postage rates will continue to increase
- It takes a fair amount of time to print and mail newsletters
- Most of us still actively in the workforce are facing less free time
- We're running out of options to satisfy this request

If you're not active in the workforce right now, with all due respect, you might not have any perspective on what's happening today relative to staying employed. Your LARK Board is mostly composed of people still very much among those folks who must still maintain gainful employment.. This requires a fair amount of their time. Even if we could afford printing and mailing, there just isn't anyone with spare cycles to take on the task. I strongly suggest that each person who wants a hardcopy newsletter find another member who will be willing to print them a copy. You could meet up with that person to receive your newsletter in a timely fashion. We're fortunate that we have a newsletter editor at all, so let's try and be understanding about this. Many other radio clubs have done away with hardcopy mailing completely.

### **Repeater Work**

It shouldn't be any big surprise that our technical team has had a great deal of difficulty getting time to invest as a group to conquer some of the challenges with our repeater system.. The good news is that the basic repeater is working quite well, thanks to our investment in state of the art equipment many years ago. The bad news is that some frills and refinements still haven't made it into operation yet. Les, W8MSP, tells me that no one has thrown a big pile of money at us to pay to have these things accomplished and very few volunteers have stepped forward to assist. I'm a little cranky about this topic, so before you begin to complain, be warned!

### **New Vice President**

Sadly, Pete, W1LBR, had to step down as your Vice President. Fortunately, Van, N8GVD, volunteered to serve out the remainder of Pete's term. I personally thank Van for taking on the assignment, even though I question his sanity for volunteering!

### **Klub Construction Projects**

We've had a couple of good ideas for some group construction projects. The Board would love to hear your opinions. Failing any commentary, we'll do what we think makes sense.

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## **Jive continued ....**

### **Klub Construction Projects**

We've had a couple of good ideas for some group construction projects. The Board would love to hear your opinions. Failing any commentary, we'll do what we think makes sense.

### **Programs**

We're also still interested in your comments around programs for the meeting. Clearly, some of you have opinions or comments to offer?

### **Free Food Compliments of LARK**

Because of the extra challenges around having a meeting at a different location than the EOC, the Board thought that a free meal might be enjoyable. Those who made it to the meeting were able to dine on the Klub dime. Do we want to do this a few times during the year and invite our amateur friends throughout Livingston County to join us?

### **CERT Training**

I'm confident there will be another CERT class being scheduled. Be sure and consider getting involved with this program. Amateur Radio and CERT fit together very well.

### **Volunteer Exams**

**LARK** sponsors volunteer exam sessions each and every month. Keep this in mind when you run across someone who is looking to take an exam for a new license or upgrade.

### **Holiday Dinner**

Les and his wife (who has assumed the nickname of "workin' on it"), have done an excellent job laying down some of the plans for our December holiday dinner. Be sure to check in for details.

### **LARK Breakfast**

We moved the location of the LARK breakfast on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month to the Grand River Grill. The food is better, the service is better, and the restaurant is much more comfortable. Drop in for breakfast.

See you at the meeting.

73



Jim WB8AZP

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## Thought for the day ...

"This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something that you have left behind...let it be something good."

-Unknown Author

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## Finance Report ...

### OPENING BALANCE OPERATIONS FUND

September 30, 2009 -----	\$1927.20
INCOME -----	\$ 0
ACCOUNT BALANCE -----	\$1927.20
EXPENSES	
Food for Meeting -----	\$182.01
Picnic Expenses -----	\$136.00
Funding Shiawassee D-Star -----	\$100.00
ACCOUNT BALANCE -----	\$1509.19
1000 CD -----	\$1390.59
500 CD -----	\$667.34
TOTAL BALANCES OCTOBER 29, 2009 -----	<u>\$3567.12</u>

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BAL. FROM EMG FUND AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2009 -----	\$5660.45
INCOME -----	\$0
ACCOUNT BALANCE -----	\$5660.45
EXPENSES -----	\$0
TOTAL BAL as of OCTOBER 29, 2009 -----	<u>\$5660.45</u>

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## **LARK General Meeting Minutes 10-8-2009**

No minutes submitted at this time for the October LED Newsletter.

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## **LARK Board Meeting Minutes 10-15-2009**

No minutes submitted at this time for the October LED Newsletter.

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## **We Have a Michigan PRB-1 Bill! HB #5556**

House Bill # 5556, the “Michigan Zoning Enabling Act,” was recently forwarded to House Committee. If passed, this Bill will help codify the aspects of PRB-1 into Michigan zoning laws.

The Bill also includes a “height clause” (i.e. if we stay below the specified height, local governments are not allowed to challenge us except in unusual circumstances, etc.). For more information and a link to the Bill, please take a moment to review the attached MI PRB-1 Project Status Report.

There is a snag, with a Senate version of the Bill. We may need your help getting this Bill sponsored in the Senate.

Now is the time to contact your Representatives to ask them to Co-Sponsor the Bill. Their contact information and a sample Contact Letter template can be found at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/index.htm>.

## **PRB-1 Project Status Report November 2, 2009**

There are several reasons that you received this PRB-1 Project Status Report.

- 1 You were on the Project’s Mailing List which was developed by registering on the <http://www.prb1michigan.org> website. If you do not want to be on the mailing list please send an email to [N8AGS@arri.net](mailto:N8AGS@arri.net).
  - 2 There has been significant progress toward codifying PRB-1 in Michigan. Most of the progress has going on behind the scenes, but we feel that it is time to update you.
  - 3 In order for the project to continue, we need to raise some new funding. Until now, the cost has been donated by a few key Team Members and a few clubs that have offered monetary support. To continue to communicate with the critical stakeholders requires additional funds and we need to communicate with several groups through-out the process, including numerous government officials. Travel to meetings with legislative contacts will also be required, which again costs money. If we are going to continue this effort in Michigan, and we all agree that this needs to be done, we need to acquire some additional funding.
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**PRB-1 Project Status Report November 2, 2009 (continued)**

- 4 The time has come to begin a Letter Writing Campaign in support of our legislation, and we need to locate some key volunteers to organize the effort. We have the Bill initiated in the Michigan House, and are working on sponsorship in the Senate. Our legislative representatives need to hear from the Amateur community. They need to hear you asking them to Co-Sponsor House Bill #5556, "The Michigan Zoning Enabling Act." If coordinating this kind of effort is your strong suit, we need you.
- 5 We need the Amateur clubs and other Amateur Organizations to develop club resolutions in support of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act and send them to us. Tangible evidence of the Amateur Radio community's concern in this matter will carry weight in Lansing and help get this legislation enacted.

So, as you can see there is a lot of activity, but a great deal of work still lies before us.

## **What Can You Personally Do To Help?**

We need some new Hams to offer up what they can. To volunteer to help organize the "Letter Writing Campaigns," a simple email to me at [N8AGS@arrl.net](mailto:N8AGS@arrl.net) will do the trick.

We are currently about \$500 overspent. Individual monetary donations can be sent to Dale, WA8EFK at the following address:

Michigan ARRL PRB-1 Committee  
291 Outer Drive  
Dundee, MI 48131

Representative Steve Lindberg is sponsoring the Bill in the House of Representatives. I am sure he would appreciate hearing a "thank you" from you.

Please take a moment to contact your Representative to ask to him/her co-sponsor the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act, HB #5556.

## **What Can Your Club Do To Help?**

A sample Club Resolution Template can be obtained from our website at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id18.html>. Please ask your club to make a donation and prepare a club Resolution in support of the Bill. For those clubs that have already completed this, thank you.

More remains to be done. Waiting until someone has a tower problem with the local government to do something will only prove to be more difficult and more expensive for all involved, and for the most part, too late to do much good. We need your club's support now. There are many ways to contribute. One of them is to help lead your club's efforts. So please take a few moments and support the Project.

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# PRB-1 Project Status Report November 2, 2009 (continued)

## House Bill – Status

The House version of our Bill is being sponsored by Representative Steve Lindberg. Raoul Rivard, W8RDR initiated his sponsorship and continues to be our single Point of Contact to Rep. Lindberg. Rep. Lindberg is a Ham, N8UZP. This connection made acquiring his sponsorship relatively easy. However, the politics of the State Budget has delayed this process beyond expectations. Consequently, our Bill had been in an apparent holding pattern for a while.

The House version (HB #5556) has been drafted by the Legislative Services Bureau and is currently in the Committee for Inter-Governmental and Regional Affairs. Rep. Lindberg is currently seeking Co-Sponsors. A copy of the Draft Bill can be found at

<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-HB-5556>

## Senate Bill – Status

We have not been able to get a firm commitment of support from a Michigan Senator. Unfortunately, there is no Senator that is a Ham. We are seeking support from several potential Sponsors, but thus far the response has been somewhat cold. It could be that Michigan's budget issues are also precluding this body of government from considering our Bill. However, we continue to press our contacts.

If you have a solid connection with your Senator, we ask you to consider working directly with us to contact that Senator and solicit the Senator's support for our Bill. If you would like to tackle this approach, please contact me for some sample letters and other supporting documents.

## Funding

To date we have received \$425 from the following Clubs; Adrian ARC, Branch County ARC, Hiawatha ARA, L'Anse Creuse ARC and Monroe County RCA. The Team Thanks you for these contributions to our efforts!

Our past expenses (postage, office supplies, meeting services, etc.) currently exceed what has been donated. I urge each of you to have your club send a donation. We can no longer continue to fund this effort out of a few Team Members' pockets.

Club donations can be sent to Dale, WA8EFK at the following address:

Michigan ARRL PRB-1 Committee  
291 Outer Drive  
Dundee, MI 48131

If you are a leader of an Emergency Services organization, donations toward our effort can also be sent to the same address.

## Legislative Letter Writing Campaign

It is time to initiate our legislative letter writing campaign. Please take a moment to contact your House Representative and urge him or her to Co-Sponsor HB #5556, the "Michigan Zoning Enabling Act." The addresses for your Representatives and Senators and a letter template can be found at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/id18.html>.

Also, it would help greatly to contact your Senator asking him/her to sponsor a Senate Bill comparable with HB #5556, the "Michigan Zoning Enablement Act." If you need assistance with letter formats, supporting documents (e.g. Frequently Asked Questions, Samples of provided emergency services, etc.) Please feel free to contact me at [N8AGS@arrl.net](mailto:N8AGS@arrl.net) or Pat at [KC8RTW@arrl.net](mailto:KC8RTW@arrl.net)

## How Did The Bill Become A Zoning Act?

Representative Lindberg felt that our Bill was in fact a Zoning Act versus a Communications Act. His idea is to modify an existing law to incorporate the wording of the Michigan Zoning Enablement Act. We discussed this within the Team and with Rep Lindberg and after all the discussion, it was determined that we would support Rep. Lindberg's strategy. Wording of the Michigan Zoning Enabling Act can be found at <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?2009-HB-5556>. If you have any questions you can contact the Project Team at [N8AGS@arrl.net](mailto:N8AGS@arrl.net).

## Schedule

We are well behind our original schedule. There are many contributors to this dilemma. This effort is still recoverable. However, we will need to increase available funding to recover from lost schedule. When you have no funds available for conferencing services it is hard to confer with the Team. When you have no funds for postage, it is hard to send out hardcopy correspondence. You need face-to-face meetings and/or hardcopy correspondence. Except for the most committed, Email does not work. Without new funding, the initiative could be lost.



Please Copy Us On Your Correspondence

Please send us a copy of your correspondence to you legislators. We need to understand your perspectives and indentify the volume of mail being sent.

Len Todd, N8AGS

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Michelle Roderick, KD8GWX, [michelle.Roderick@wc-redcross.org](mailto:michelle.Roderick@wc-redcross.org)  
734-717-5660 Cell 734-260-7893 ARC Cell 734-712-0133 FAX

Please bring any articles you'd like to have in the next meeting. If you are unable to attend, have a friend bring the information to the meeting for you, email it to me at the above address or feel free to fax it to my work at the above number.

Thanks to everyone for the articles submitted to make the September 2009 LED a success!

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## December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5  LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
6	7	8	9	10  LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC	11	12  6PM Christmas Party Clearys Pub Downtown Howell
13	14	15	16	17  LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference	18	19  LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	Christmas	

## January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill</b>
3	4	5	6	7  <b>LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Livingston County Services - Transportation Complex</b>	8	9
10	11	12	13	14  <b>LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference</b>	15	16  <b>LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill</b>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

