



THE LED

May 2012

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Howell, Michigan

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
Thursday, May 10, at 7:30PM
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way
Howell, MI**



BOARD MEMBERS

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

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

Repeater Trustee	Jim	WB8AZP
LED Editor	Michelle	KD8GWX
VE Coordinador	Jim	WB8AZP
PIO Officer	-----	Vacant
PIO Officer	-----	Vacant
Web Site	Jim	KB8DAD

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.

Jim's Jive

Wow! Hopefully, you all have started to work on those antennas to get ready for a great spring and summer of operating. I'm planning a couple of new bug catchers at the QTH...more about that later. I will also be making the annual trek to Dayton Hamvention this year as usual, and I'm sure I'll see a few new trinkets that need to follow me home.

We would like to get started on planning for the annual LARK radio raffle, and we still want your input....please!

There are a few important issues that the FCC has asked for comments on by radio amateurs, and the ARRL, our only lobbying group for the hobby, has taken up the challenge. Be sure to chime in with your input.

Elections for officers will take place at our May meeting, which will also be held away from our usual location at the EOC . We'll again provide dinner as a thank you for all those who still attend.

When we get back to our traditional meeting location, I've asked Michelle, KD8GWX, to give a short presentation on her recent relief callout in Kentucky. I don't think you'll want to miss that!

We also have some fun presentations planned by Mike N8MSA, and others that you won't want to miss.

The time will fly by, and Field Day will soon be upon us. Perhaps you'd like to plan now for this event?

Be sure and invite your fellow hams (LARK members or not) to a meeting!

73



DE WB8AZP

The K7RA Solar Update

Both the solar flux and sunspot numbers reached a short term low on April 8-11, but they are now rising again. For the past week -- April 12-18 -- the average daily sunspot numbers more than doubled, compared to the previous seven days, rising more than 39 points to 71.7. The average daily solar flux increased from 95.9 to 105.1. On April 19, the day following this period, the daily sunspot number rose dramatically from 96 to 122, as did solar flux values, from 121.5 to 137.8.

Sunspot numbers for April 12-18 were 50, 50, 65, 77, 86, 78 and 96, with a mean of 71.7. The 10.7 cm flux was 95.3, 97.7, 98.1, 101.7, 107.9, 113.8 and 121.5, with a mean of 105.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 13, 19, 9, 5, 5, 8 and 8, with a mean of 9.6. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 11, 13, 7, 5, 5, 8 and 7, with a mean of 8. Since April 10, there have been 11 new sunspot groups: One each on April 10-13, two on April 14, one on April 16, two on April 17 and one each on April 18-19.

The predicted solar flux for April 20-25 is 135, followed by 130 on April 26-27, 105 on April 28, 100 on April 29-30, 95 on May 1-9, then rising to 100 on May 10-12, 105 on May 13-18, and 110 on May 19-22. The predicted planetary A index is 8, 5, 5, 7, 12, and 12 on April 20-25, 5 on April 26-29, 8 on April 30, 5 on May 1-7, 8, 12, 15 and 10 on May 8-11, and 5 on May 12-20.

Alaska Dispatch ran an article with video on the solar flare that Carl mentions in his report below.

Toni Umlandt, DD3EO, mentioned another resource in response to our mention in last week's Solar Update of a public remotely controlled SDR radio receiver in Walla Walla, Washington that anyone can use via the Internet. This lists 36 SDR receivers, and I think all of them can be used simultaneously by multiple users.

K9LA's Report

Monday, April 16, we saw moderate solar activity, which was due to an M1.7 X-ray flare around 1745 UTC. But since then, solar activity has continued at low levels. There is an extremely small chance of X-class flares (1 percent) and a slightly greater chance of M-class flares (around 20 percent at most).

With solar activity continuing at low levels, the ascent of Solar Cycle 24 has slowed dramatically in the past couple months. For example, after a monthly mean 10.7 cm solar flux peak in November 2011 of 153, the next three months saw ever-decreasing monthly means (141, 133 and 107 for December, January and February, respectively). March (last month) recovered a bit, with a monthly mean 10.7 cm solar flux of 115, but April so far appears to be headed for another low 10.7 cm solar flux monthly mean (through April 17 the monthly mean is hovering around 100).

The K7RA Solar Update continued ...

These low monthly means have taken a toll on the smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux. Since early 2009, the smoothed 10.7 cm solar flux rose nicely. But the recent low monthly means have resulted in the smoothed value pretty much leveling off in the past two months at around 118. Does this mean we've reached Solar Cycle 24's peak? Not necessarily -- other solar cycles have had similar slow-downs, but then the solar activity picked up again to continue the increase of the smoothed value. The monthly means during the next several months will be interesting to observe, and may tell us how high Solar Cycle 24 will ultimately go.

Regardless of what happens, now is the time to get on the higher bands and take advantage of F2 region propagation. If Solar Cycle 24 performs to the nominal prediction from the Marshall Space Flight Center, we're pretty much there. If it performs more to the nominal prediction of the International Space Environment Service, then we still have better propagation in the next year or so.

All times listed are UTC, unless otherwise noted.

Iowa Hams Support Local Officials Before, After Tornado

On April 14, a string of tornados swept through the Central US and Great Lakes Region, including an EF2 tornado in Creston, Iowa, causing severe damage to the Greater Regional Medical Center and the Southwestern Community College campus. Prior to the tornado, radio amateurs in Creston reported storm observations directly to the National Weather Service. After the storm forced the evacuation of the hospital, hams provided communications support to local officials.

"Because most of the communication lines had been damaged in the storm, we were provided communication support to the local authorities," ARRL Iowa Section Official Emergency Station and Des Moines SKYWARN Coordinator Tom Reis, N0VPR, told the ARRL. "The efforts of the Creston hams once again proved the value of Amateur Radio in critical situations." Hams also were able to provide assistance in passing information back to the National Weather Service that they could not receive through their conventional methods. "The information provided about Creston was very valuable," said NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Johnson. "Thank you very much for your service"

The day following the storm, officials discovered that the local school district lost the 80 foot tower that is used for the school bus repeater. The Creston Amateur Radio Club offered up their antenna, coax and tower space to the school. On May 17, hams installed the school's repeater at the club's site and moved the Creston repeater to a temporary site. Creston is located in the Southwestern Iowa.

LARK General (4-12-2012) & Board (4-19-2012) Meeting Minutes

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

Finance Report

OPENING BALANCE OPERATIONS FUND

March 30, 2011 ----- \$1351.48

INCOME

50/50 ----- \$50.00

Dues ----- \$25.00

Check Img. Rev ----- \$3.90

ACCOUNT BALANCE ----- \$1430.38

EXPENSES

Account fee ----- (\$1.95)

Maintenance fee ----- (\$4.95)

Awards Exp ----- (\$60.00)

Gleaners Donation ----- (\$295.00)

April Meeting Dinner ----- (\$153.06)

NEW ACCOUNT BALANCE ----- \$915.42

1000 CD ----- \$1390.59

500 CD ----- \$668.91

TOTAL BALANCE May 7, 2012 ----- \$2974.91

OPENING BALANCE FROM EMG FUND AS OF:

March 30, 2012 ----- \$4448.54

INCOME

ACCOUNT BALANCE ----- \$4448.54

EXPENSES -----

TOTAL BALANCE as of May 7, 2012 ----- \$4448.54

Dayton Hamvention® 2012

May 18-20 2012

Counting Down to Dayton

Hamvention History

Where it all started...

Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world's largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe.

About 1950, John Willig, W8ACE, had asked the Dayton Amateur Radio Association to sponsor a HAM Convention but was turned down. John wanted to have a quality affair. Speakers and prizes would be a drawing point. John finally found a champion in Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), the newly elected president of the club. A meeting was held and the DARA Board allocated \$100 to get started. The first organizational meeting was held in January 1952.

The Southwestern Ohio Ham-vention was born. The first committee consisted of: John Willig, W8ACE, General Chairman Al Dinsmore, W8AUN, Arrangements Bob Siff, W8QDI (K4AMG), Prizes and Exhibits Frank Schwab, W8YCP (W8OK), Publicity Bob Montgomery, W8CUJ, Finance Clem Wolford, W8ENH, Program Ellie Haburton, W8GJP (W4ZVW), Women's Committee. The next year the name became "Dayton Hamvention®" and was registered as a trademark.

April was determined to be the best time but the Biltmore Hotel, in downtown Dayton was booked. March 22 was the chosen date, causing a short lead time. How far did \$100 go? Not far! A 12" TV was raffled off to help raise funds. The FCC agreed to give license exams and Phil Rand, W1BDM, a pioneer in TVI elimination was on the program. First prize, a Collins 75A2, was purchased locally.

Hoping for 300 visitors, the committee was amazed that over 600 showed up! There were 7 exhibitors and 6 forums. The ladies program was successful with a luncheon at the Biltmore and a trip to a local TV station. In 1955 the Awards Program began with the "Amateur of the Year." The Flea Market has grown from 200 to more than 2000 spaces. In 1964 the Hamvention® moved to Hara Arena. Shuttle buses and handicapped parking were added in 1969. In 1973 it became a 2 day event with Sundays added in 1974. The program has grown to a "Souvenir Program" and in 1976 the dimensions changed from 6"x 9" to the current 8-1/2"x11".

The growth of the Dayton Hamvention® can be attributed to caring, energetic people who enjoy being on a winning team.

Upcoming Hamfests

Nothing until June ... unless you count HAMVENTION!!!!

Who said it? ...

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone."

Thought for the day ...

Answer to "Who Said It?": Former President Ronald Reagan

Michelle Roderick, KD8GWX, michelle.roderick@redcross.org

734-717-5660 Cell 734-864-6623 ARC Cell 734-712-0133 FAX

Please bring any articles and or pictures you'd like to have in the LED to 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. If you have an idea for an article and need help writing it, feel free to contact me.

Thanks to everyone for the articles submitted to make the LED a success.

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
6	7	8 VE Testing 7 pm Howell EOC	9	10 LOCATION CHANGE! LARK Meeting 7:30 pm <i>Livingston EMS/ LETs Garage</i>	11	12
13	14	15	16	17 LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference	18 Dayton Hamvention	19 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill Dayton Hamvention
20 Dayton Hamvention	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Future events:

May meeting held at the Livingston EMS base location on Burkhardt road, co-located with the LETS garage.

Detroit Maker Faire, Saturday & Sunday, July 30th & 31st, 9:30 am – 6pm both days

June 2012

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

Future events:

Detroit Maker Faire, Saturday & Sunday, July 30th & 31st, 9:30 am – 6pm both days