



THE LED

July 2013

Published by the Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
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, July 11th, at 7:30PM
EOC, 300 S. Highlander Way
Howell, MI



BOARD MEMBERS

President	Jim	WB8AZP
Vice-President	Van	N8GVD
Secretary	Karen	KB8AKC
Treasurer	Patrick	W8LNO
Program Manager	Bob	K8VQC
Tech Director	Les	W8MSP
Director	John	KD8CCR

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON'S

Repeater Trustee	Jim	WB8AZP
LED Editor	Michelle	KD8GWX
VE Coordinador	Jim	WB8AZP
PIO Officer		
PIO Officer		
Web Site	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.

Jim's Jive

June has come and gone before I could barely recognize it happening. It sure has been a busy start to the summer. I hope all of you had a safe and enjoyable July 4th weekend, and I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the July LARK meeting.

FIELD DAY

Field Day was just a blast this year. In previous years, we have conducted our Field Day operations in conjunction with The Livingston county Balloon Challenge. This year, that event happened a weekend later than Field Day. We set up our Field Day operations for LARK in the parking lot of the EOC, and used the conference room there as our GOTA (Get On The Air) station and welcome center for guests. A spacious walled tent served as our operations center for our two big stations, and we erected two very nice antennas to support this operation. Additionally, we utilized resources from the CBRNE trailer to provide generator power, and other support services. Sprinkle in an outstanding picnic lunch prior to the start of Field Day, and you have just a killer weekend!

Of course, none of this happens without a large amount of help and commitment from many folks, and I personally thank all those who contributed to the event.

If you didn't make it out to the Field Day site for at least 30 minutes, you missed out on all the fun. As always, I love to hear from those who didn't participate - I always learn new and creative ways to rationalize things that way!

Special mention needs to be made to Pat, W8LNO, Bob, K8VQC, and Mike, N8MSA, who allowed us to use their equipment for Field Day. Counting the GOTA station, we had assembled 3 very impressive and powerful stations for people to use. It takes a very special breed of person to let strangers play with thousands of dollars of their personal equipment.

LARK RAFFLE

We're getting closer to our September 2013 LARK Radio Raffle, when some very lucky person will win a complete Elecraft KX3 transceiver. Just in case you haven't heard, this is only the coolest 160 through 6 meter all mode transceiver on the market today. The model we're raffling off includes every internal option you can buy today, as well as both the CW key and microphone. Remember that only 125 tickets will be sold, and ALL tickets will be sold prior to the drawing at the September meeting. Rather than ask our membership to host a hamswap each year, or pass out coffee and donuts at a roadside rest, we rely on the radio raffle as an income source for our group.

PROGRAMS? WE WANT PROGRAMS!

A radio club should support aspects of the hobby that might serve to educate and promote the interests of radio minded folks. One way to do that is to offer programs and training to help stimulate activities. Our new program director has picked up on the excellent job from our previous director in this space. If you have something you're just itching to talk about, step up! Or if you know of a good resource we might be able to nab for a session at LARK, make sure we know about it. Remember, real gain is as easy as PIE (Programs Involvement Engagement).

Jim's Jive continued

CERT

Many LARK members are also actively involved in the Livingston County CERT organization. If you're interested in giving back to the community, be sure to touch base with Bruce, N8WWX. We bring our expertise in communications to the forefront in times of need, and CERT events helps us maintain our readiness "edge".

VE EXAMS

We're still the only radio club in Michigan offering free amateur radio exams. In case you've missed it, all amateur radio exams offered by the LARK VE team are free! It's hard to beat that price. My personal thanks to the LARK VE team who make themselves available just about any time there are 3 or more examiners present to proctor test sessions. We're also one of the few clubs that offer a chance to get licensed or upgrade your ticket every month.

MENTORING

A very important part of amateur radio has always been mentoring folks new to the hobby. Many of you have fond memories of those hams who have taken folks under their wing to help them navigate through the hobby. It just might now be your turn to provide assistance to new amateurs in our ranks. Sure, you have to put forth a little extra effort, but the rewards are immeasurable. Besides, what better excuse can you have to play more radio?

VERY FINAL THOUGHTS

It has probably been too long for WB8AZP to be serving in this capacity here in Livingston County. I searched for a replacement within the existing board, and found that no one was willing to step up to the role of president. Parliamentary Procedure came to the rescue, in that I could simply nominate my replacement to the existing board, without having to vote on it. If the board approves, you'll have a replacement for WB8AZP by the August meeting.

With That, a very final 73 from WB8AZP



LARK General (6-13-2013) & Board (6-20-2013) Meeting Minutes

Members and guests present:

Jim Kvochick WB8AZP. Pat Shannon W8LNO. Michelle Roderick KD8GWX. Les Butler W8MSP. Karen Butler KB8AKC. Bob Hitchens K8VQC. Ralph Mc Christy N8RBA. Irene Mc Christy KA8MVW. Isaac Mc Christy. Charlie Mc Christy KB8OBJMark Sharef WQ8S. Ray Melosh N8CPO. Marge Melosh. N8EAJ. Mary O'DellBruce Pollack N8WWX. Bruce Van Dam N8GVD. Mike Alexander N8MSAKay Alexander. K8KAY. Nolan Rollo KD8VDP. John .Wirt. KD8SWT. Don Wirt KA8GOU. Dave Marble. KD8UCF. Tom Rozek AB8XU. Fred Lindberg KD8LNKJim Merrill. W8JPM. George Verciuc W8CO. Mark Goodwin. W8FSA

After the pledge of allegiance, President Jim Kvochick, WB8AZP, called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Treasurer's Report:

Published in the LED. Balance of \$4448.54, Emergency Fund \$1000.00, CD \$500, \$323.84 in Operational Fund. Bruce Pollack, N8WWX, moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as printed. Mark Sharef, W8QS, seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Minutes of the May meeting: not supplied.

Committee Reports:

ARES/Races/CERT: Bruce Pollack, N8WWX : Balloon fest Howell PD is requesting CERT and Amateur Radio members to help out on the launch field and at the baseball diamond with the lighting and securing the perimeter.

Brighton PD is interested in attending field day as well as Don Arbic and seeing what the members can offer in assistance to the community.

Public Health exercise June 19th at the Brighton High School. Volunteers needed, CERT as well as amateurs.

At this point the inner perimeter at the EOC is only accessible to county employees due to new HIPAA rules.

Program Director: Bob Hitchens, N8VQC, gave a presentation on how to hook up a radio to the battery correctly. Bob will be ordering kits to build SWR meters to be assembled sometime later this year. The price is approx \$30.

Repeater trustee: Jim Kvochick, no report.

Technical director: Les Butler. W8MSP, no report.

VE testing still doing exams each month on the second Tuesday or at breakfast Saturdays exams are free. Bob Hitchens K8VQC announced his daughter passed her tech exam this past Saturday. We also had two others pass exams taken this past Tuesday, one being newmember Nolan Rollo KD8VDP.

LARK General (6-13-2013)

LED editor Michelle Roderick KD8GWX: please note new email address for Michelle in the current edition of the LED, articles can be forwarded to her for future publication. Michelle raised a question regarding if we had a PEC for the club. At this time we have no one in the position and are looking for a volunteer.

Old Business: Field Day: starts at 2 p.m. on June 22, 2013, with lunch being served at noon. Our club picnic will be held this year at Field Day, June 22, 2013, a sign up sheet was passed around for those planning on attending. Each club member is welcome to bring one guest. We have extended an invitation to county officials to attend and witness first hand amateur capabilities. Operators are welcome to attend and we will be operating the 24 hour period. One o'clock on Friday for set up of shelters and antennas.

New Business: No new business. 50/50 raffle amount \$63 won by George Van Dam, N8GVD. Ralph Mc Christy, N8RBA, moved to adjourn, seconded by Charles Mc Christy, N8OBJ, meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Board (6-20-2013) Meeting Minutes

Minutes not included at this time.

Finance Report

No report at this time.

Thought for the day ...

Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love.

~Mother Teresa

From the Program Director ...

LARK PICNIC:

We had a lot of food, but unfortunately, not a lot of people at this year's Klub Picnic. Much like the recent Awards Banquet, only a very small percentage of our members attended the picnic. We had hoped that by combining it with Field Day we would see more of our members, but that did not prove to be the case. The pictures show that there was plenty of food and no bugs. All of this leaves us wondering about the future of the Picnic and the Awards Banquet. It seems that these days everyone is very busy with activities and obligations that take priority over Klub programs. That begs the question: Should we continue these programs, or cancel both of them altogether? We want to plan activities that will include most, if not all, of our members, so let me know your thoughts. Send me an E-mail (K8VQC@ARRL.net) or a note (1101 Kendra Lane, Howell, MI 48843-7162). If I don't hear from anyone, I will take that to mean we should discontinue the annual Awards Banquet and Picnic.



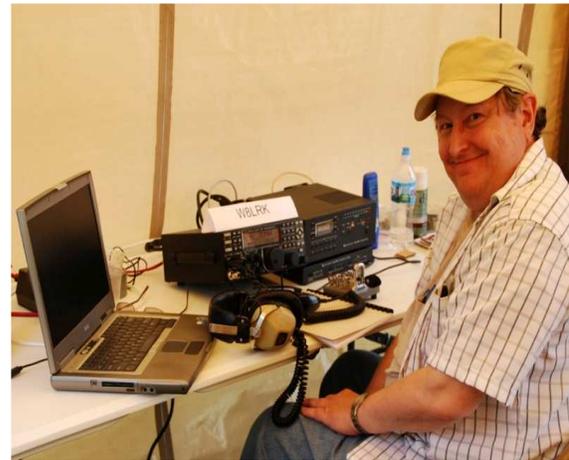
From the Program Director ...

FIELD DAY:

By all accounts Field Day was a big success. We had enough operators to keep all three stations on the air for almost the complete 24-hour period. The contact total has not been completed at this time, but it looks like we will be over 1,000 and we contacted 48 of the 50 states, missing only Alaska and Hawaii. We had several visitors stop by including some local government officials. We were able to maximize our “Extra Points” by running a GOTA station, issuing press releases, having served agency officials attend, and providing information about Amateur Radio. As a result of these efforts, we have established new contacts throughout the county and several of them have expressed interest in learning more about ARES, RACES, and CERT.

The GOTA station was very popular and the HF bug really bit a couple of our newer HAMs.

Next year Field Day and BalloonFest will again be on the same weekend, but because everyone had so much fun this year, there has been discussion about setting up the Field Day station at the EOC, in addition to supporting BalloonFest.



From the Program Director continued ...



From the Program Director continued ...

Thanks to all who loaned us equipment, came out on Friday to set up the equipment and on Sunday afternoon stayed around to help take everything down.

TECH TOPICS:

At the last Klub meeting we discussed our plan to build SWR meters at our November meeting. I commented that I had been able to negotiate a \$30.00 price from MFJ for kits of parts to assemble an HF SWR wattmeter (MFJ-816) and a VHF SWR Wattmeter (MFJ-812B). MFJ agreed to do this with the understanding that, because these were kits we were building ourselves, there would be no warranty and we would have to calibrate them ourselves. While discussing which model we would build, it became apparent that several members wanted to build both so it was decided that I would order 15 of each model. I was informed by MFJ on Friday (7/5/2013) that all 30 kits had been shipped so we will have them well before we need them.

At the September meeting (9/12) we will be discussing transmission lines (a.k.a. Feed Lines). We often don't pay much attention to this topic, but it is essential that we understand the role the transmission line plays in coupling our transmitter to the antenna. You can have a great antenna and a well-designed transmitter, but if the transmission line doesn't do its job well, you're not going to make many contacts. I promise to keep the explanations as simple as possible and keep the math at a minimum, but some simple formulas will help you better understand the topic.

In October, after we have learned about transmission lines, we'll take up the topic of matching our antenna system to the transmitter output. Modern transmitters are quite sensitive to load impedance and we'll discover that any mis-match can be measured with a meter called an SWR meter. Once we know how well our antenna system matches our transmitter output, we will discuss ways of fixing any mis-matches that may exist so our transmitter happily puts out its rated power.

Let me know if there are any topics you would like to learn about and I will try to incorporate them into future Klub meetings. We have a lot of talented people in our Klub with many years of experience and I'm sure they would be happy to share their knowledge with the Klub.

73,

Bob K8VQC

Upcoming Hamfests ...

Hamfest/Convention

07/20/2013 | NOARSFEST

Location: Elyria, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Ohio Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.noars.net>

Hamfest/Convention

07/21/2013 | Van Wert ARC Hamfest

Location: Van Wert, OH

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Van Wert Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://w8fy.org>

Hamfest/Convention

07/27/2013 | 2013 CMARC Outdoor Hamfest - Amateur Radio, Electronics & Computer Equipment

Location: Lansing, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.centralmiarc.com>

Hamfest/Convention

08/24/2013 | SARA Swap & Trunk Sale

Location: Owosso, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Shiawassee Amateur Radio Association

Website: <http://www.w8qqq.org>

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

734-717-5660 Cell 734-864-6623 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 LED a success.

July 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 Happy Independence Day!!!!	5	6 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
7	8	9 VE Testing 7 pm Howell EOC FREE!!!	10	11 LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference	19	20 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill NOARSFEST Hamfest
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 CMARC Hamfest
28 Van Wert ARC Hamfest	29	30	31			

August 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
4	5	6	7	8 LARK Meeting 7:30 pm Howell EOC	9	10
11	12	13 VE Testing 7 pm Howell EOC FREE!!!	14	15 LARK Board Mtg 7:00 pm Teleconference	16	17 LARK Breakfast 8 am The Grand River Grill
18	19	20	21	22	23	24 SARA Swap & Trunk Sale
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Future events: