



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

THE SCOPE



Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

www.qsl.net/cmarc Serving Our Community Since 1927 February 1999

Congratulations on the CMARC web site!

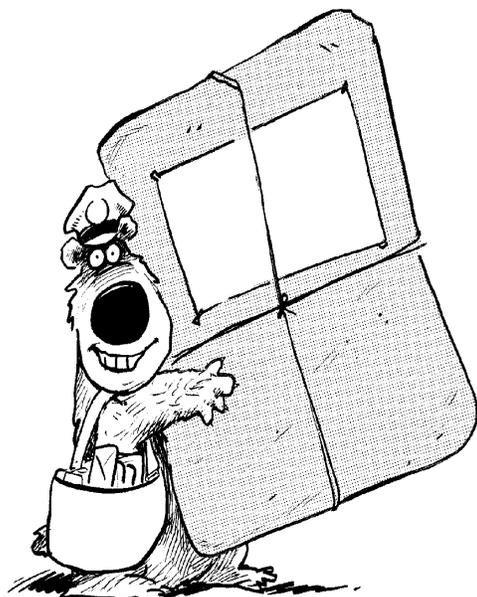
I'm looking forward to checking it on a regular basis ...I grew up in Lansing and became interested in amateur radio through attending meetings and getting connected with a fantastic group of Lansing Hams. In Junior High School a group of seven of us were regulars at CMARC meetings. Six of the seven 1950's kids are currently active in amateur radio. All of us went on to engage in vocations related to our interest in amateur radio. We all benefited from hours of time given us by CMARC members, especially W8VVR.

Currently I'm working as Executive Director of TeleCITY. TeleCITY is an Internet development project supported by the Department of Commerce and numerous private foundations.

Although no longer active with CMARC, I do maintain an active relationship with the MSU Amateur Radio Club and occasionally participate with the Michigan Chapter Ten Quarter Century Wireless Association (life member).

Best wishes to CMARC members...you can be proud of past accomplishments!

Dave Clark-W8DO (ex K8MPF), Kalamazoo, MI



Announcing "TECH TALK"

Beginning next month, the SCOPE is proud to announce the addition of a new feature to our publication. "Tech Talk" will aim to add some insight to the ever-changing world of Amateur Radio. Whether you are a newly licensed Amateur, or just interested in learning more about the Hobby, it is our sincere hope that this new feature will help.

If you have an idea for a topic we can cover in "Tech Talk", drop us a line. You can email your suggestion to Erv, W8ERV at: kb8tnq@voyager.net or send your suggestion via snail mail to him at: 1470 Harper Rd., #16, Mason, MI 48854.

In our "maiden voyage", we will discuss antennas. For the new Amateur, there are many different types of antennas, which are easily constructed, to get you on the VHF and UHF bands and we trust you can use this information to get started.

See you next month!



Your Ideas Are Welcome!

Our Clubs, Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club & Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association, are looking to you, our members for ideas to keep us strong and growing. We welcome your ideas on building more interest in Amateur Radio, ways on promoting our clubs and our community services.

Please feel free to email your ideas and comments to: Erv, The CMARC President at W8ERV@voyager.net; Clint, The LCDRA President at KC8EHR@juno.com; or Cary, The Scope Editor at KC8JKA@att.net (also don't forget - ideas and articles, etc. for the Scope are welcome too!)

National Ham News

ISS HAM GEAR INCHES CLOSER TO SPACE

The first Amateur Radio gear to be used on the International Space Station has moved a bit closer to its rocket ride into space. Although the inauguration of Amateur Radio aboard the International Space Station—ARISS—is at least a year away, the so-called Phase 1 ham gear is on a tight proveout and delivery schedule and is due at Kennedy Space Center in Florida by January 20.

Delays in the ISS program have put off the first crew deployment until next January. The first crew will consist of US astronaut William M. Shepherd, as the expedition commander. Shepherd is studying for his ham ticket. Accompanying him will be Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. All three have previous space flight experience. The crew has been training for their launch on a *Soyuz* vehicle and a planned five-month mission on the ISS.

The interim ISS ham gear package will consist of Ericsson 2-meter and 70-cm hand-held transceivers set up for FM voice and packet operation, plus power supplies, cables, and accessories. Ericsson donated the commercial transceivers for the project, while the Italian ARISS team is providing the external antennas.

At this point, the equipment and accessories have been checked out in an end-to-end integration. Additionally, the transceivers have undergone EMI testing to ensure that they will not cause problems for other ISS onboard equipment. The radios also still must be programmed and labeled in accordance with NASA procedures and protocols for space flight. AMSAT members who happen to work for NASA at Goddard Space Flight Center have been doing the EMI testing.

Preparing to carry Amateur Radio gear for use aboard the ISS involves careful attention to detail all along the way. Crew safety is the primary consideration, but cost and crew time—and aggravation—also are important. “Because of the high cost of space travel, it’s critical that hardware be thoroughly tested and documented,” said Will Marchant, KC6ROL, AMSAT’s human spaceflight hardware manager. “Flight crews frustrated by buggy hardware are also less likely to want to participate in Amateur Radio operations.”

The qualification process also requires multiple versions of the same equipment. In this case, six complete hardware systems will be fabricated and configured. The complement includes one flight system, a flight spare, systems for training both in the US and in Russia, one for development and testing, and one spare.

ARRL Educational Services Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, a member of the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX) Working Group, said she was pleased that NASA was taking no chances during the qualification testing of the ham gear. “I think it’s great that they’re taking the time to do a detailed examination,” she said.

Getting Amateur Radio a permanent berth in space aboard the ISS has involved efforts in several countries. The primary players include the US, Russia, the UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan. “The ARISS team is truly an international, democratic, organization and is cooperating to provide human spaceflight Amateur Radio operations to the entire ham community well into the next decade,” said Marchant.

Amateur Radio has been manifested aboard the ISS as “necessary crew equipment.” The cost of providing just the interim Phase 1 amateur gear for use aboard the ISS is expected to exceed \$60,000. The total cost of putting Amateur Radio aboard the ISS is expected to approach \$700,000, with funds coming from the ARRL and AMSAT as well as from NASA.

Still unclear at this point are the actual frequencies and the call signs the crew will use from the ISS. The ultimate ISS ham radio complement—Phase 3—will include equipment to operate from HF through the microwave bands with SSB, CW, FM, packet, ATV, compressed ATV, and SSTV capabilities. The German team will supply a digitalker and full duplex repeater. Once aboard the ISS, Amateur Radio will serve as an educational tool through worldwide school contacts and as an outreach to the general public. *ARRL Newsletter 1/8/99*

HAM HELPS NAB ROAD-RAGE SUSPECT

A California ham was instrumental in helping police to nab an angry motorist who had seriously injured another motorist after being cut off on the freeway in mid-December.

According to an account in *The Orange County Register*, the angry driver followed the other driver for miles “before confronting him on a busy city street, showing him under an accelerating big rig, and kicking him even after he had been run over.” The account says that the angry driver and his two co-workers drove off. But they were caught later in the morning when Ed Greany, KB6DOL, of Corona, heard a broadcast description of the vehicle and then saw the men pass by. He notified police via ham radio, and they arrested Richard Snyder, 28 and two others on suspicion of attempted murder.

The newspaper said Snyder had a string of previous convictions, and his license had been suspended. The injured motorist was reported in serious condition.

According to the FCC database, the Greany household includes three hams: Roberta Greany, KC6AEP, and Michael Greany, KE6RDT. All are ARRL members.—*thanks to Charlie Clifford Jr, W6QMY ARRL Newsletter 1/8/99*

FIELD SERVICES, EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES JOIN FORCES

The sound of moving furniture, books, and equipment punctuated the holiday season at League headquarters as two ARRL departments prepared to merge into one entity. Effective January 4, the Field Services and Educational Activities departments consolidated to become Field and Educational Services (F&ES).

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained that the new department brings together staff members with similar missions and functions—primarily supporting ARRL volunteers who, in turn, support ARRL objectives and promote ham radio on a local and regional level. Working within a single department, Sumner said, HQ staffers could more easily share expertise, ideas, and resources. The move also was designed to reduce expenses in the face of a decline in both ARRL membership and overall Amateur Radio licensing and activity over the past year or so.

“The primary reason is efficiency,” Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE, explained in a letter to ARRL section managers. Palm will continue as the main contact person for section managers. He will focus on representing the League to the outside agencies it serves and on promoting and supporting the field organization.

Former Educational Activities Department Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, has assumed the title of Educational Services Manager. She will oversee day-to-day operation of the combined department and will continue as the primary staff contact for Amateur Radio in space issues. “We expect the greater efficiency of the combined departments to benefit our members by putting related resources in the same place,” White said of the move.

To accommodate the change, employees from the former Educational Activities Department moved into quarters adjacent to the former Field Services Department, trading places with the ARRL Book Team headed by Joel Kleinman, N1BKE. Now that the two departments are in the same location, staff members have begun to settle in and work as a team. Telephone and e-mail addresses for individual staff members remain the same. *ARRL Newsletter 1/8/99*

SOLAR UPDATE

Sun watcher Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: Solar activity was down this week—no surprise, since on one day the previous week the solar flux reached a new high for the current cycle. But the drop in solar was quicker than expected. Our last bulletin projected flux values above 150 until January 12, but January 4-7 flux values were 146.9, 136.5, 125.8, and 115.1. This represents a drop in flux values of nearly 70 points in a little over a week.

For this weekend, the projected flux values for January 8-10 are 115, 120 and 120, with a planetary A index of 12, 12 and 8. At least while solar activity has been dropping, there haven't been any disturbed days from solar flares or coronal holes.

Beyond this weekend look for a rising solar flux, going above 130 by January 16 and to 150 around January 20. Conditions are currently expected to peak around January 24 or 25 with solar flux under 155. This will be 27 days, or one complete rotation of the sun after the recent high in solar flux for this cycle.

This week had some interesting VHF news. N5JHV in New Mexico worked several VK2 stations on 6 meters on January 2 after a long opening to the west coast of Mexico. On the same day CO2OJ worked a number of US stations on the same band.

Sunspot numbers for December 24 through 30 were 93, 84, 100, 156, 177, 136, and 186, with a mean of 133.1. The 10.7-cm flux was 139.4, 144.4, 144.9, 166.8, 184.4, 182.8, and 179, with a mean of 163.1. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 11, 16, 3, 5, 16 and 6, with a mean of 8.6.

Sunspot numbers for December 31 through January 6 were 135, 121,

107, 113, 94, 87 and 70 with a mean of 103.9. The 10.7-cm flux was 174.6, 167.2, 160.1, 154.5, 146.9, 136.5 and 125.8, with a mean of 152.2. The estimated planetary A indices were 3, 5, 7, 4, 7, 8 and 9, with a mean of 6.1.

Here are some path projections to Japan for the JA International DX CW Contest:

From Seattle: Check 80 meters around 0600-1800 UTC, with best conditions around 0830-1000 UTC. 40 meters should be good from 0600-1900 UTC. Check 20 meters from 2100-0130 UTC, and 15 meters from 2230-0030 UTC. The best bet for 10 meters is 2300-2330 UTC.

From Los Angeles: Check 80 meters around 0700-1600 UTC, 40 meters at 0530-1700, 20 meters at 2100-0300 UTC, 15 meters from 2200-0130 UTC, and 10 meters around 2230-0030 UTC.

From the mid-US: 80 meters looks good from 0730-1430 UTC, 40 meters around 0630-1530 UTC, 20 meters from 2100-0030 UTC, and 10 and 15 meters around 2230 UTC.

From Texas: 80 meters should open 0730-1400 UTC, 40 meters around 0700-1500 UTC, 20 meters at 2100-0100 UTC, and 15 meters around 2200-2330 UTC.

From Ohio: check 80 meters at 0700-1400 UTC, 40 meters at 0630-1500 UTC, 20 meters around 1530-1730 UTC and 2100-2300 UTC, and 15 meters around 2200 UTC.

From Boston: 80 meters should be open 0730-1300 UTC, 40 meters at 2030-2300 UTC and 0630-1430 UTC, and 20 meters around 1530-1700 UTC and 2100-2200 UTC. *ARRL Newsletter 1/8/99*

Fascination Of Radio Still A Lure For Walkie-Talkie Inventor

BY CRAIG E. ENGLER, Assistant Editor, The Institute

CHANDLER, Ariz., USA—As a nine-year-old boy aboard a steamboat cruising the Great Lakes in the early 1900s, Al Gross couldn't help but be fascinated by the ship he was on. While underway he set out to explore the boat and investigate its secrets, roaming its decks and poking into its rooms.

When he reached the top deck he heard an odd clacking noise coming from one of the rooms, a noise that he'd never heard before. It was a sound that would drive his life and career for the next 67 years.

"I got up to the top deck and I came near the radio room and I heard the noise of the spark transmitter," Gross recalled. "I looked in the door and I saw the radio operator and all his radio gear, and, boy, did that impress me."

The radio operator motioned Gross into the room and sat the young boy on his lap, placing the radio earphones on his head. "I heard the sound of wireless telegraphy," Gross said.

Long after the cruise was over, the clicking sounds he had heard fascinated Gross. He tried to learn as much about wireless telegraphy as he could, although there wasn't much published about the subject at the time. Soon, though, he'd convinced his father to buy him his first radio set.

"My father took me to a radio store and gave me just enough money to buy a crystal set," Gross said. "With the minor instructions I got from the man who ran the store, I put up an aerial and that's when I heard radio, and that hooked me. That got to me. I had to learn more about that technology."

Gross quickly discovered the amateur radio band and found other people with his same fascination actually broadcasting on the air. Listening in on the conversations, he tracked down a local operator, went to his house and asked the man to teach him about radio. The man was happy to discuss his hobby and introduced Gross to the world of amateur radio.

As his interest in radio grew, Gross began to frequent junkyards, scavenging equipment that he put together in his basement workshop. By the age of 12 he decided to learn radio code and become an amateur operator himself. Although he failed his operator's test the first time he took it, Gross said that only drove him to study harder.

He not only passed the test but began to learn more about the mechanics of radios as well. He took metalworking class and by age 15 was building his own radio chassis. At the time, he said, he knew more about radio than his teachers.

"Then I decided to make it not only a hobby but a career," Gross said.

Gross focused his career on creating a reliable method of two-way communication for people who were walking or traveling, envisioning a time when radio would be used for personal communication. He applied the same enthusiasm he had for his hobby to what had become his career, and between 1934-41 he successfully developed the hand-held "walkie-talkie."

His pioneering work with two-way personal radio paved the way for cordless and cellular phones as well as pocket pagers, items that have become ubiquitous in today's society. "If you have a cordless telephone or a cellular telephone or a walkie talkie or beeper, you've got one of my patents," Gross said.

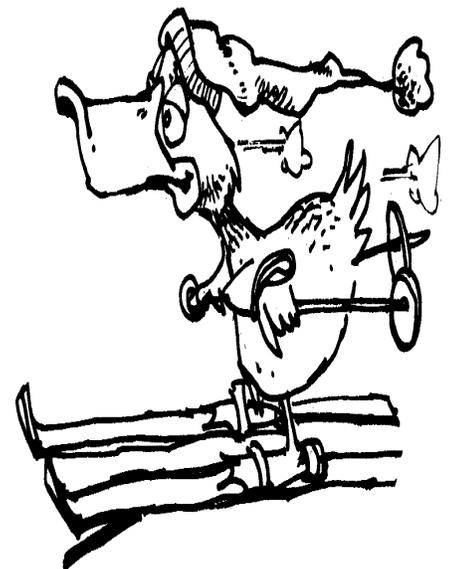
Gross added that if his patents on those technologies hadn't run out in 1971, he'd be a millionaire several times over by now.

During his career, Gross has received many awards and honors for his work, and at the IRE President's Luncheon in 1948 he received the first Federal Communications Commission approval for personal radio hand-held transceivers. He became an IEEE fellow in 1982, and before that he had even been granted a private audience with Pope John Paul in 1980.

Today Gross makes his home here where he works as a senior engineer for Orbital Sciences Corp. His goals have changed somewhat, and Gross said what he now enjoys most is sharing his knowledge with students and other people interested in the origins of radio. "People learn from the old guy who did it the hard way," he explained.

Now 77, Gross said he was no plans to retire and called himself "the guy that will die with his boots on." He is still fascinated by the sounds he first heard on the steamboat of his youth, and he enjoys the fact that ideas he was working on when he was 14 years old have become common technology.

"Even though I'm not Marconi, I did my thing the way he did his thing, and I'm having fun," Gross said. "I'm not going to retire, I'm going to have fun."



ARLB003 FCC

Warns Alleged Major Amateur Offenders.

The FCC has issued strong warnings to two amateurs in Indiana and a third in New York who are on the Commission's top ten list of alleged major amateur offenders. The FCC's amateur enforcement point man, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says the warning letters sent earlier this month are the last step before the FCC initiates formal enforcement proceedings. One case primarily involved malicious interference on VHF repeaters, while the other two involved interference to an HF net.

"We have been cutting bait a while, now it's time for us to fish," said Hollingsworth, the legal advisor for enforcement within the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau.

The FCC did not make the names or call signs public, but Hollingsworth said all those who received the letters were put on the FCC's Alert List with FCC field offices. "The Alert List is the

FCC equivalent of an all-points bulletin," Hollingsworth explained.

He said Field Office monitors would be making a special effort to listen for further violations by stations on the Alert List.

Since taking over Amateur Radio enforcement within the CIB last fall, Hollingsworth says he's sent out dozens of warning letters of a much milder nature. "Now, we're distilling that activity to the worst offenders," he said, adding that similar actions were imminent in other major cases.

The letters sent out January 7 and 8 spell out the agency's expectations in no uncertain terms. In the case of the alleged HF offenders, Hollingsworth's letters state that the Commission "has additional evidence that you have been deliberately and maliciously interfering with the operations of other licensed amateurs," primarily a 75-meter net. Both hams—whose cases are related—already had received official Notices of Violation last fall for similar conduct, and the FCC had imposed restricted operating hours on one of them. But the FCC says that the troublesome behavior has continued.

Hollingsworth said the alleged illegal activities not only put the hams' licenses in jeopardy but open them up to possible fines and even put transmitting equipment at risk of seizure. He said he also has cautioned the controllers of the net involved to not engage hecklers or those attempting to harass or interfere, nor to call up the net on a busy frequency. "One thing these nets have to understand is that the nets don't own the frequency," he said.

The case of the alleged VHF offender had a similar pattern. The amateur license of the ham in question already had been suspended at one point, but violations are said to have continued, even during the suspension period. Beyond amateur violations, Hollingsworth said that the FCC's evidence indicated the amateur had threatened FCC employees and others. He told the ARRL that additional warning letters went out to eight other individuals whom he described as "cohorts" to the alleged prime VHF offender.

Hollingsworth requested that all of the amateurs involved contact him immediately to discuss the allegations. *From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT January 14, 1999*

ARLD002 DX News

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, The 599Rpt, JA1CMD, ON5NT, The Daily DX and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

MONACO, 3A. Laura, 3A2MD, is active most days on 21225 and 21230 khz SSB and 21030 kHz CW after 1400z.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 3C. Ramon is QRV as 3C1GS on 15 meters SSB around 1500z. Try 3795 khz just after 2200z. QSL via EA5BYP.

QATAR, A7. Jabok, A71BY, is now QRV using SSTV. QSL via F5PYI.

TAIWAN, BV. Chung, BV4ME, is often QRV around 1900z on 160 meters.

CHINA, BY. BY4CJT is now QRV using SSTV.

BAHAMAS, C6. Don, KN4UG, is QRV from Great Abaco Island, IOTA NA-080, as KN4UG/C6A until January 19. He will also be active in the North American Phone QSO Party. QSL to home call.

EASTER ISLAND, CE0. Juan, HK5AJF, is QRV as XQ0/HK5AJF. He has been active on 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

LIBERIA, EL. Mark, ON4WW, will be QRV as EL2WW. Activity is expected on all bands, with attention paid to 160 meters. There may be some SSTV activity as well. QSL via ON5NT.

TURKMENISTAN, EZ. Alex, EZ8CQ, has been QRV on 80 meter SSB around 1900 to 0000z. QSL via W0FS.

CROZET ISLAND, FT5W. Gilles, F5AGL, is QRV as FT5WH and has been active mainly on 20 meters around 1915z. QSL via F6KDF.

GUERNSEY, GU. Colin, 2U0ARE, a novice operator, is often active around 10130 to 10135 khz between 1430 and 1600z.

BULGARIA, LZ. Special Event Station LZ100PV is active until December 31, 1999, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Bulgarian composer Pancho Vladigerov. QSL via bureau

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Dany is QRV as LZ0A. Check 17 meters CW and SSB just after 0000z. Look for 40 meter CW starting at 0700z. QSL via LZ1KDP.

LEBANON, OD. Samir, OD5KB, is QRV using SSTV during his holidays.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Brent, P29BW, is on 10 meters using SSB just before 2200z.

COCOS KEELING ISLAND, VK9C. Kazu, JA1CMD, will be QRV as VK9CA from January 16 to 20 on all bands, using mainly CW. QSL to home call. NNNN /EX Copyright © 1999, American Radio Relay League, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report

January 8, 1999

Account Balances as of January 8, 1999

ASSETS:

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Mich. Nat'l Bank Checking	\$879.75
USPS Postal Deposit	<u>80.54</u>
TOTAL Cash & Bank Accounts	\$960.29
Other Assets	
Comerica Bank CD	<u>\$1,232.34</u>

TOTAL ASSETS:

\$2,192.63

LIABILITIES:

\$0.00

TOTAL NET WORTH:

\$2,192.63

Income & Expenses

Dec. 4th, 1998 - Jan. 8th, 1999

INCOME

Coffee Fund	\$0.00
ARRL - Rebate	4.00
Dues	480.00
Sale of Directories	11.50
TOTAL INCOME:	\$495.50

EXPENSES:

SCOPE Mailing	\$58.17
J McClain - Food	12.46
ARRL - Bureau	4.00
D DeFeyer - QSL Postage	15.00
Service Charge	<u>15.72</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES \$105.35

TOTAL NET INCOME \$390.15

Respectfully Submitted,
Joseph Denomme-N8VYS, Treasurer

W8BCI. The problem began several months ago when Dan called the Board asking for approval to purchase coax at 51 cents a foot. Upon receiving their approval, he bought the coax and turned the bills in for reimbursement. The Treasurer, who was out of town for Dan's call, knew nothing about the approval, and made more phone calls to find out what was going on. During his investigation it was discovered that the bills were for coax on the Link repeater, which brought about more questions.

At the meeting, several Board members said they hadn't realized the coax was for the Link and others didn't remember even being called. Everyone, however, was under the impression that when we agreed to the

glad to help in any way he could, if we were hard pressed financially.

Dan also said he feels that we have spent very little on the Link, and for several reasons. Firstly, because WILX gave us the transmission line that was already up on the tower (at the 570-ft level and ground elevation of 991 ft.). Secondly, the transmission line bought for the control ends (430-ft. level) was used, and purchased at 50 cents a foot from Brian Monihan, resulting in two bills for coax (\$130 and \$110). He said he had told LCDRA previously that the total cost wouldn't be any more than \$500 for everything. He also told us that Glen, from Abe's group, did all the climbing. Glen is confident in what he does, as well as being bonded and insured. He is a one-man operation who only requires some assistance on the ground. He charges \$400 a day, and Dan said that by using him we could cut the cost of installation. With Glen coming out 3 times, however, his total discounted bill to IRA was only \$950. Dan said that he thought it would be a nice gesture to send IRA a donation of \$260 since we've only spent \$240. He said our group is known for it's friendliness, and he thought that helping to provide a Link in our area would go a long way to possibly increasing our membership.

Dan then told us that Abe has already put up the antennas and feed line for controlling the Link at the Onondaga tower, and has donated the new 145.47 Link repeater along with the cabinet and all the equipment in it to LCDRA. Dan said that Abe also donated to us the current 146.94 Link repeater (at the Ingham Medical site), and with a few modifications, it will be capable of being used as our 146.94 local repeater once the Onondaga Link is up and running. When everything is done, LCDRA will own and operate five local repeaters: three at the Ingham Medical site in Lansing (146.70, 146.94, 224.98), the 145.39 at the Dobie Rd. site in Okemos, and the new 145.47 Link in Onondaga.

Dan said that the IRA has donated every repeater in its western Michigan Link-System to the particular local area Amateur Radio club. In each case, the title had been transferred by a handshake and

LCDRA Special Board Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 29, 1998

President Clint/KC8EHR brought the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m. Those Board members in attendance were: Don/WB8NUS, Don/W8BQD, Don/KB8RAD, Julie/KB8ZXR, Dan/W8BCI, and Dennis/KB8ZQZ. Hal/WA8LAY was unable to attend due to back problems.

The meeting was called for the purpose of resolving some questions about a couple of bills the Treasurer, Don/WB8NUS, had received from Dan/

Link, Abe/W8HVG said it wouldn't cost LCDRA a cent, and were therefore hesitant to pay the bills. (This also resulted in agreeing not to make phone calls, but to call a special meeting if we need to discuss something.)

Dan reminded us that in his initial talks with WILX TV-10, he had told them we would be responsible for the antenna and feed line at the Onondaga site. Dan also said that it sounded like we hadn't understood, but once we have a link repeater from IRA, it is no longer their equipment, but ours! He said he felt that since it is our equipment, it was only right that we should be responsible for maintaining it. He did say that Abe would be more than

The '99 CMARC Board

The SCOPE is published by the CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB in association with the LANSING CIVIL DEFENSE REPEATER ASSOCIATION.

Our CMARC Officers:

Pres: Jim "Erv" Bates-W8ERV ph: (517) 676-2710
Vice Pres: John Crawford-N8LLC ph: (517) 393-2336
Sec: Julie McLain-KB8ZXR ph: (517) 694-0812
Treasurer: Bill Mathews-KB8TTS ph: (517) 394-1198
Dir: Don McLain-KB8RAD ph: (517) 694-0812
Dir: Joe Denomme-N8VYS ph: (517) 589-5263
Under 22: Jud Gunderson-KC8IRG ph: (517) 321-7759
Cards & Flowers Chmn.: ???
Membership Chmn.: John Ingraham-NG8L ph: (517) 484-8027
Meetings: 1st. Friday of every month at the Red Cross, Lansing Chapter, 1800 E. Grand River at 8pm.
Club Calls: W8MAA & W8PLP
QSL & Awards Mgr.: Don DeFeyer-KC8CY
Scope Editor: Cary M. Britten-KC8JKA email: KC8JKA@att.net; ph: (517) 482-8048
Deadline for articles: 15th. of month.

The LCDRA Board

Our LCDRA Officers:

Pres: Clint Hannahs-KC8EHR ph: (517) 882-1799
Vice Pres: Don Clark-N8XME ph: (517) 663-4586
Sec: Julie McLain-KB8ZXR ph: (517) 694-0812
Treasurer: Don Tillison-WB8NUS ph: (517) 321-2004
Assistant Treasurer: Dan Harger-W8BCI ph: (517) 882-8784
Dir: Hal Bell-W8LAY ph: (517) 484-0962
Dir: Don McLain-KB8RAD ph: (517) 694-0812
Repeater Trustee: Dennis Boone-KB8ZQZ
LCDRA Call: WB8CQM
Meetings: Bi-Monthly on the 3rd. Thursday at 7:30pm. at the Meridian Township Service Center, 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court; Okemos

became the sole property and responsibility of that club. Several members of the Board said that they didn't think the LCDRA membership was aware of the fact that the Link would become our responsibility (including repair and maintenance costs), and felt the matter should be brought to the group for a vote at the next meeting. It was also stated that in the future, any time money is to be spent (no matter for what repeater), it should be brought before the membership.

Other matters that were discussed at our special Board meeting were: putting a PL tone on all of our repeaters; a progress report on getting the remote controller for the 145.39; switching the SkyWarn net from the 146.70 to the 145.39 in the Spring; and getting battery backup for the 145.39. Also, Don/WB8NUS said he has been having trouble making contact by telephone with ARES members for Ham-related functions. He said that he usually ends up spending hours talking to answer-

ing machines. It was suggested that we start a "Ham Tree", where Don would call 5 people on a list and they in turn would call 5 more, until everyone was contacted. We will try to get something like this going for 1999. A motion was made to adjourn and the meeting came to a close at 3:20 p.m

Julie McLain/KB8ZXR-Secretary

LCDRA Meeting Dec. 17, 1998

President Clint/KC8EHR brought the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. with 26 in attendance. The Secretary/KB8ZXR read the minutes from the October meeting. A motion was made by Jeff/KB8SXX to accept the minutes. It was seconded by Bill/KB8TTS and approved. The Treasurer, Don/WB8NUS read his report. A motion was made by Bernie/N8PVZ to accept the report and it was seconded by Jeff and approved. Dan/W8BCI brought us up to date on the remote control for the 145.39 repeater. He said he had all the equipment together but was waiting for the information necessary to get it up and

running from Jan/KC8BFBK. He also said he was hoping to have it completed by the end of January or sometime in February.

Clint opened the floor to a discussion of putting a PL tone on the 145.39 repeater. John/N8ZMT (trustee for the Portland repeater) said we were in violation of FCC rules if we do not clean up the unidentified interference coming across the 145.39. He said if we can't solve the problem any other way, we have to shut the repeater down. Someone stated that nothing short of putting a PL tone on the repeater would keep out all of the interference and especially that from the aircraft. Dan said there has been opposition for years to using a PL tone because many people have older equipment incapable of that function. That problem, however, was not hard to solve. He has about 14 little tone encoder boards that he will just give to those needing them. He and others will even donate their time and install

them free of charge.

Jim/KA8DDQ said we currently have a super sensitive pre-amp on the 145.39 and suggested that we take it off and put the Micor back on. Dan said he agreed, but in the meantime we should get 100 Hz. PL encoders. It was then reiterated, to clear up any confusion, that the pre-amp will definitely be changed. Bob/N8TNT then made a motion to PL the input on the 145.39 (there is already one on the output). It was seconded by Bill/KB8TTS and approved by a vote of 15 to 6.

Jeff/KB8SXX said we have a Cat 300 controller that's just going to be used for the remote control on the 145.39. He wondered why we couldn't use it instead, as the actual repeater controller since it was a waste to use such a fine multi-function machine for just remote control. This way we could have voice capability for announcing severe weather, and we could also have a courtesy tone and PL function. Many agreed and said it's time we get into the 21st century. Bill/KB8TTS then made a motion to use the Cat 300 controller (\$306), which was purchased for remotely controlling the 145.39, to be used to run the repeater and not just as remote control. It was seconded by Scott/KC8IIL and approved by a vote of 14 to 1. Also, Bob/N8TNT made a motion to purchase another Cat 300 DX for the 146.94 and a PL board for the input and output. It was seconded by Bill and approved by 19 votes.

Concern was expressed by some over the possibility of it taking years to see these motions implemented, based on past history. With the winter upon us, Dan/W8BCI set a tentative deadline of 6 months to have the work completed. Dan also said now that we're using the Cat 300 for the repeater controller, we need to buy a UHF receiver for remote control and therefore made a motion to buy one for \$200. Forrest/N8PWD seconded the motion and it was approved by 21 votes.

Dennis/KB8ZQZ, the LCDRA repeater Trustee, will file the necessary paperwork apprising the Michigan Area Repeater Council of our new PL tones. He will also send in the information for the ARRL

LCDRA Meeting Con't

Repeater Directory.

We discussed moving the SkyWarn net from the 146.70 to the 145.39 in the Spring. Dan/W8BCI said he thought it was a good move because the high static emissions make it difficult to get into the 146.70 during severe weather. Don/KB8RAD agreed, saying that people to the south always have trouble hitting the 146.70 anyway, and storms just make it worse. Clint added that with the increased coverage of the 145.39, people with ht's or in the county outskirts would still be able to get in with their SkyWarn reports. Jeff/KB8SXX then made a motion to move the SkyWarn net to the 145.39. It was seconded by Scott/KC8IIL and approved.

There was a suggestion made of possibly going back to quarterly meetings. The majority of the members seemed to like the bimonthly meetings, however, and said they would like to keep them. Jeff made a motion to table the idea of going back to quarterly meetings until February. It was seconded by Bernie/N8PVZ and approved.

Elections: President Clint/KC8EHR, Secretary Julie/KB8ZXR, Directors Don/KB8RAD and Hal/WA8LAY all said they would stay on for another year if no one else wanted the positions. Dan/W8BCI said he would run as Treasurer if Don/WB8NUS didn't want the job. Don said

he was willing to stay on as Treasurer if he had someone to help him out, so Dan said he would assist Don. Don/W8BQD previously stated that he would step down if someone else were willing to be the Vice President. Don/N8XME said he would take the job, so Jeff nominated him for the position. It was seconded by Forrest/N8PWD and approved. The 1999 Board of LCDRA will be the same as last year with the exception that Don/N8XME will now be the new Vice President and Dan/W8BCI will assist Don/WB8NUS with the books.

Clint discussed his interest in getting an ATV repeater set-up like they have in Genesee County, which they use in working with FEMA and the local Sheriff Department. The Flint ARC (some of whose members put on an ATV demonstration for CMARC in the past year) has developed a good rapport with the local police. They are helping the authorities there by using ATV communications for monitoring Devils Night activities, severe weather, etc. He said he's really interested in getting us some good Amateur Radio PR with our local police and helping the community at the same time. Jeff made a motion that Clint investigate what is required to get us involved in ATV and report back to us at the next meeting. It was seconded by Cary/KC8JKA and approved. Cary also suggested that Clint type up his ideas and have it published in

the Scope.

Dan/W8BCI gave an update on the Link and told the members he thought it would be nice, in light of all the things Abe has donated to our Association, if we could help him in return by making a small donation. (Please refer to the Special LCDRA Meeting, Nov. 29th minutes for complete details.) Jeff/KB8SXX said that with a total bill of \$1,455 for IRA to get the Lansing Link up and running, he would like to make a proposal that we donate \$500 to IRA to help defray their costs. This was in addition to the \$245 we have already spent on coax. After all, Abe was donating two repeaters to our group, so it seems only right that we help out a little. It was seconded by Don/N8XME and approved unanimously.

Don/WB8NUS said he was almost out of membership cards, and before he ordered new ones, wanted to know if we wanted to stay with the same kind. Jeff made a motion to have Don take care of getting new membership cards printed and that he have them made approximately the size of a business card. It was seconded by Bob/N8TNT and approved. The 50/50 drawing winner was Jeff. He won the pot of \$17 and generously donated \$3 back to LCDRA. After the drawing, Don/KB8RAD made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded and we adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Julie McLain/KB8ZXR-Secretary

HAM RADIO NUMBERS DECLINING

The numbers for 1998 are in, the trend is downward and the outlook is not very good for the future of Amateur Radio. This is the gist of recently released FCC figures on the number of Amateur Radio operators licensed by the agency. And if the figures hold, 1998 will have been the first year of actual decline of the total number of United States radio amateurs in the past two decades. A year ago there was a total of 719331 licensed radio amateurs listed in the FCC's database. Twelve months later that figure has dropped to 718241. That's a drop of 1090 hams or a .2% annual rate of attrition. And while it might not seem very significant, 1090 is more hams lost in the United States than are licensed in some other nations.

Looking at the percentage rates gives even more reason for alarm. Since 1992 when the annual growth rate was a healthy 8.4% a year the trend has been steadily downward. In 1993 it had dropped to 7.3%. By 1994 to 6.7%. 1996 had the most dramatic drop to a minuscule .8% growth and now as we begin 1999 we are into negative numbers.

And negative numbers means that the ham radio bands are more vulnerable to attack from the corporate raiders in the telecommunications industry. These are people who envision millions of dollars of profit by evicting hams from the bands above 50 MHz and having that valuable spectrum reallocated to their use.

It also means that the government itself might begin to think in terms of the millions or billions of dollars that it might garner by auctioning off some of our bands.

Finally, on another level it means that there will be less interest by companies in introducing new equipment. As any manufacturer will tell you, it makes no sense to put money into research for new products for a market that may soon die away. (*W5YI Report, Newsline*)

Local & Special Interest News

VE SESSION: 2 OUTA 3 AIN'T BAD!

On Saturday, January 9th, CMARC'S Volunteer Examiner team hosted their first testing session of the NEW year at an all NEW location. The familiar Lansing American Red Cross (in the Kropschot Room) served as the new site for administering Amateur Radio examinations by our local VE's.

Due to the erratic testing schedule of the past year, and the recent change in location, it wasn't much of a surprise that only three candidates showed up to test, but 2 of the 3 walked away with smiles on their faces! Of the two successful testees, one became a newly licensed Ham as a Technician, and the second (none other than our own President Erv/W8ERV) upgraded to Technician Plus. Way to go, Erv!!

The 5 VE's who donated their time to administer the examinations were: Larry Nordeen/N8VEN (Liaison), Roy Uchigashima/N8GAQ, Gus Kouklis/K8KU, Joe Denomme/N8VYS, and our brand new team member, Don McLain/KB8RAD. Good job Guys, and thanks for volunteering your time and effort to bring new Hams into our ranks, and help existing Amateurs climb to new heights!

Our new VE testing schedule is as follows: we will be testing the second Saturday of the odd months of the year at 10 a.m. (please be there at 9:30 a.m. for registration, walk-ins welcome). The Red Cross is reserved for the next 2 examination dates which are March 13th and May 8th. For further information please contact Joe Denomme/N8VYS at (517) 589-5263. SPREAD THE WORD!

Julie McLain/KB8ZXR-Secretary

APPARENT SOFTWARE HOAX AFFECTS SOME HAMS

UPDATE: JANUARY 17, 1999

Yesterday, we released a brief warning, explaining that a file is being emailed to certain amateur radio operators. The recipients are being told that it is an amateur radio screensaver, yet when they run the file, it resets, or destroys, their CMOS data.

Mark-N8DEF, has now informed me that when executed, this program is writing files to the hard drive of the person who runs it. Mark's computer was affected by this, and he apparently lost a lot of data in the process. He also discovered that a bunch of "garbage" files were written to his drives.

If you happen to encounter this file, called hamss.com, or hamss.zip, DO NOT RUN IT! Simply delete the program. If you have already run the program, and been affected by it, I would suggest that you run a good antivirus program, such as Norton AntiVirus, or McAfee VirusScan. If the program is writing files to your hard drive, then it is possible that those files could contain viruses, or other harmful code.

We will have more information on this as it develops. Again, there is still no word on where the file came from, or who is distributing it.

APPARENT SOFTWARE HOAX AFFECTS SOME HAMS - JANUARY 16, 1999

A number of individuals, mostly hams, have contacted us, explaining that they had received a file via email that, when executed, erased their computer's CMOS settings.

The recipients are told that the file, called hamss.com, is an amateur radio screen saver. The file is relatively small, only a few kilobytes, but it effectively erases, or destroys, all CMOS data. Users must manually re-enter this information.

If you should receive this file via email, or see it posted on the internet somewhere, simply avoid it; do not run it on your computer. There is no word on who has been distributing this file, or where it came from.

Alton Wilson - For the W8MMQ Wire, alton@excite.co.uk

73 de, Dan/W8MMQ, w8mmq@voyager.net



Classifieds & Special Announcements

Lansing V.E. Test Dates

Larry Nordeen our new *CMARC* V.E. Coordinator

At the Lansing America Red Cross, in the Kropschot Room

Pre-registration starts at 9:30am and testing starts at 10:00am for the following dates: Jan 9,
Mar 13 and May 8, 1999

Contact Joe Denommee-N8VYS at (517) 589-5263

1999 CMARC MEETING DATES

Febuary 5th, March 5th, April 9th - Sky Warn Class, **May 7th** - No meeting at the Red Cross. As usual, we will be holding the Ladies Night/Awards Banquet. **June 4th** - Field Day discussion, **July 9th, August 6th, September 10th, October 1st, November 5th** - Nominations, **December 3rd** - Election of officers

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS AND CHANGES

e-mail Addresses:

1. N8PVZ@qsl.net

April 9th will be the *CMARC* meeting due to Good Friday being April 2, 1999 this will also be a Skywarn Meeting.

March 28, 1999 thorough April 3, 1999 is Severe Weather Week

Corunna VE Testing

On the 4th Thursday of the month at the Red Cross in Corunna, MI (except for July, Nov. & Dec.)
Call in frequency is 147.020 +

FOR SALE

Computer Monitor \$100.00: 15.5"x11" (19" Diag.) w/9 pin connector (@ PC), 4 BNC connectors (@ Monitor). I was informed that this could be modified to a 24 pin connector.

HF Radio \$200.00: Ten-Tec HF transceiver, 5 bands (10,15,20,40, & 80 mtrs.) SWR protector, 2 CW filters, power supply, & mic.

Call Clint KC8EHR @ (517) 882-1799.

FOR SALE

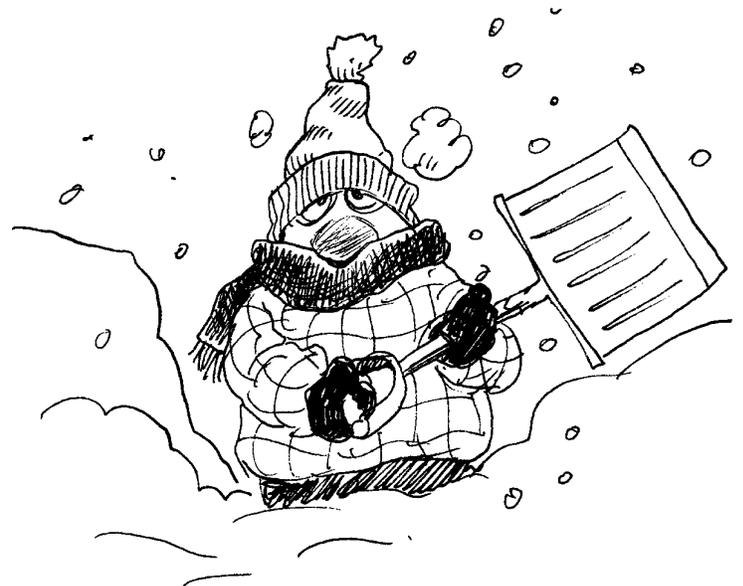
AEA Isoloop 10-30 HF Antenna with LC-2 loop Controller and manual. Excellent condition.

For pricing and info call Marc Rosenthal-WB2GFV @ (517) 347-1872 evenings.

FOR SALE

Kenwood TMV-7A w/ Voice Module, original packaging and manuals. Asking: \$380.00

Call Bill Mathews-KB8TTS, Ph.: (517) 394-1198



COMPUTER WORDS

BY WA8LAY

Word list



BOOT	MODEM
DATA	MOUSE
DELETE	PRINTER
DISKS	PROGRAM
DOS	REFORMAT
ERRORS	ROM
FILES	SOFTWARE
FLOPPY	SYNTAX
HARDWARE	UTILITIES
KEYS	VIDEO
LASER	VIRUS
MEMORY	WINDOWS

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T P O O T R O F L O P P Y J G
P R O G R A M V I R U S S F F
R O M U E H F S I L W K H N W
I E E B F L S I Y D E V F B W
N Q M Z O P O J C Y E S O B O
T D O S R R L E S K M O D E M
E E R I M Z I X J P T O R F O
R L Y H A R D W A R E R B L J
B E A A T O W I N D O W S B D
O T S S O F T W A R E L O N D
N E M Y E V D I S K S M X J X
T X O N A R A Y T T J R O X K
M U U T I L T I E S L M K P Q
J S S A C C A U I T W A X N G
B S E X R F K N E N C M I G V
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NEXT LCDRA MEETING

The next bimonthly meeting of the Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association will be held on Thursday, February 18th at 7:30 p.m. It will be held at the usual location which is the Meridian Charter Township Service Center at 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court, in Okemos. Gaylord C. Smith Court runs east off Okemos road, three streets north of Grand River Avenue.

With the MANY changes planned for 1999, we know you won't want to miss out on a single thing. So EVERYONE be sure to attend!!

Julie McLain/KB8ZXR-Secretary

OOOOPS...

In last months Scope and the artical "*The Antennas and Lines Instillation Story at WILX-TV in Onondaga*"... Well I, your Scope Editor kinda messed up... One of the helpers, *Brent Kleinfelder-Boy Observer* - Should have read, *Brent Kleinfelder-Boy Scout Observer*.

Sorry Brent. Thanks again for your help
Cary M. Britten - Your Scope Editor

Up And Coming

QCWA Net 8pm each Tuesday at 146.700MHz (Negative Offset) (Lansing's 70 Repeater)

2/6 - CMARC Meeting 8pm at the Lansing Red Cross

Central Michingan Info Net every Sunday Night at 8:30pm on 145.390MHz (Negative Offset) (Okemos's 39 Repeater)

2/27 - QCWA Breakfast at 8am Theo's Lake Lansing & N. East St. (Bus. N. US-27)

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1st - Ellis Whitehead/W8YB

14th - Don McLain/KB8RAD

14th - Marlene Harger/KC8GXO

18th - Darlena McDaniel/KB8YYM

26th - Julie McLain/KB8ZXR

145.390 Net Format

Preamble: *Welcome to the Central Michigan Information Net. This net is held each Sunday evening at 8:30pm on this frequency and is held for the purpose of sharing information and to promote goodwill between Amateurs. This is _____, and I will be your Net Control Operator for this evening. All Amateurs are welcome to join in and we ask that all comments and questions be directed to Net Control. Also, please bring your callsign slowly so we may accurately copy them.*

At this time, we are accepting check-ins which are mobile or short time. Mobile and Short Timers, please call Net Control. (note calls here)

At this time, we are accepting all regular check-ins... please call Net Control. (note calls here)

Announcements: * (check current Scope for announcements & QST for upcoming swaps, Contesting & Other Amateur interests.)

* Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club meetings are held the first Friday of each month at the Red Cross, located on Grand River in Lansing. If you need directions, contact any Club member on this repeater.

*The 5.39 breakfast is held on the first Saturday of each month at Theio's on N. East St. at Lake Lansing Rd. in Lansing. Breakfast starts between 7:30am and 8am.

* QCWA net is held on Tuesday evenings on the 146.700 machine, beginning at 8pm. and they hold their breakfast on the last Saturday of each month at Theio's on N. East St. at Lake Lansing Rd. in Lansing, beginning at 8am.

Closing: At this time, we would like to thank all who took part in the Central Michigan Information Net and invite you back for the next week's as well. We will now return the repeater to general Amateur radio use and Good Night.

This is _____ now signing clear.

Show Your Support in Amateur Radio And Join Today! CMARC & LCDRA

Join Today!

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

As a licensed Amateur, you can **sign up today** as a 'Full Member'. As a full member of 'CMARC', you will receive voting rights and yearly subscription to "The Scope". "The Scope" is filled with club news, special interests and events.

Sign up today as an 'Associate Member' your membership includes a yearly subscription to the "The Scope" (*No voting rights as an 'Associate Member'*).

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone No.: _____ Class: _____

ARRL: _____ Your Birthday _____ Your Wedding Anniversary _____

Full Membership* - \$10. per year Associate Membership - \$5. per year
* You MUST be a licensed 'Amateur' to obtain 'Full Membership'

Mail your check or money order to:
John Ingraham-NG8L, Membership Chairman
2807 Greenbrair Ave.; Lansing, MI 48912

Join Today!

LANSING CIVIL DEFENCE REPEATER ASSOCIATION

As a licensed Amateur, you can **sign up today** for only \$15. As a member of 'LCDRA', you will receive a yearly subscription to "The Scope". "The Scope" is filled with club news, special interests and events.

Sign up today! Use of the repeaters does not require a membership, but your support will be greatly appreciated.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone No.: _____ Class: _____

ARRL: _____ Your Birthday _____ Your Wedding Anniversary _____

LCDRA Membership - \$15. per year (add a family member at \$7.50 per person)
(Dues cover your annual membership from January to January)

Mail your check or money order to:
LCDRA
P.O. Box 80106; Lansing, MI 48908

Happy Valentines
from all
of us at
CMARC & LCDRA



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P.O. Box 27321
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7321

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THE SCOPE

Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

Serving Our Community Since 1927

