



Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

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Ralph Taggart (WB8DQT) To Visit CMARC



Mark your calendars to be at our next CMARC meeting, on Friday, September 11 as we welcome MSU Biology Professor, Ralph Taggart (WB8DQT). Taggart is also one of the American Radio Relay League's Technical Advisors and was one of the 'founding fathers' of Slow-Scan Television, as well as

a pioneer in digital and weather satellites.

Taggart has penned several books for the ARRL, including, "Digital Slow-Scan Television", "The ARRL Image Communications Handbook" and "The Weather Satellite Handbook". He has also authored and co-authored nearly 40 books in the Field of Biology!

His program, "An Amateur's Life in Image Communications" is slated to begin immediately following the CMARC business meeting. We encourage you to come early, in order to assure a good seat, as we expect a full house at this meeting.

TIME RUNNING OUT: CMARC Life Memberships Available Until 12/31/09

After our historic discussion and vote just a couple short months ago, the 'limited edition Life Memberships' were adopted. Well, that window of opportunity is closing rapidly and those wishing to take part in the offering must do so by December 31, 2009.

If you are interested in buying into the *modified* Life Membership program, all you need to do is take your age and subtract it from 65, which is the normal age you can apply for this membership normally. You must have at least 10 consecutive years as a member of the Club.

Here are two examples of this formula:
a.) Louie is 63, but has only been a member of CMARC for three years. He must pay \$70 (\$10/year times 7 years) in order to satisfy the Bylaw requirement. b.) John is 45, so he would only need to pay \$200 to meet the requirements for Life Membership.

It's an easy formula to negotiate, but if you have ANY questions, please contact Erv (W8ERV) and he can help you get the process started. He will also print out the fancy Certificate you will receive, once your Life Membership has been voted upon.

Time is running out, so please take action now, before it's too late. Thanks!

Inside This Edition of The SCOPE

Page 2-3	For Your Consideration What's My Sign?
Page 4-5	BitsNBytes 1, CMARC Meeting Min.
Page 6-7	BitsNBytes 2
Page 8-9	Ladies' News/Teen Talk
Page 10-11	BitsNBytes 3
Page 12-13	VE Testing & Announcements

For Your Consideration

Where did our Summer go? I'm not sure, but here we are, staring Labor Day in the face already and the last time I looked, it was only July! Maybe what they say about getting older is true. The days sure seem to rush by you in a hurry and with school starting for the kids, it will only go faster, I am sure.

It's time to finish up those last minute projects, before winter seals us into our homes and before our snowbirds flock up and depart the Great Lakes for warmer areas of the country. Man, I am almost jealous now. hi hi But before we know it, spring will visit once again and we can start enjoying the warm weather again. Oh, wait! I almost forgot the most incredibly spectacular color tour in the U.S. and it's right here in our fair state.

How many times have we heard the commercial, narrated by Tim Allen, extolling the virtues of Pure Michigan? Maybe it's time that we take a short drive north to take in the brilliance of our fall season. We can put the thoughts of winter, blistering cold and knee-deep snow on hold for the moment and enjoy the experience of fall.

Once that color tour is out of the way, we have college football (GO BLUE!) and then hockey season (GO WINGS!), which lightens the burden of winter-at least for this Family. Now, that's not so bad, is it?

Let me encourage you to go out and enjoy the rest of this glorious weather we've had. If you can go for a walk, do so. And if you have never experienced a Lake Michigan sunset, take one in. My last one was a few years back and I had forgotten just how magnificent they can be.....until a couple weeks ago, near Onekama. WOW!

So there you have it. My very own Pure Michigan commercial, written for your enjoyment. I sure hope you have, because it's been a lot of fun writing it for you. No, I am not Tim Allen and I don't play him on TV, but I DO enjoy the fun that our state has to offer. Now where did I put my iced tea?

73, ERV



CERT CLASS FORMING NOW!

September 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24 6pm-9:30pm

September 26 9am-Noon

Lansing Emergency Management

815 Marshall Street

Lansing, MI 48912

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training involves approx. 20 hours of free training that will better prepare individuals to deal with disasters and emergencies when local first responders may be overwhelmed. Training includes Disaster Preparedness, Disaster Psychology, CERT Organization, Terrorism, Light Search & Rescue, Medical 1 & 2, Fire Safety, Review and Final Simulation. CERTs then become part of the emergency response capability for their area as a team member. All segments are required for certification. Background checks are also required.

Registration: www.cityoflansingmi.com/fire/emerg_mngt/c_e_r_t.jsp

What's My Sign?

by Julie McLain KB8ZXR

I was born in 1995 at Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas, Nevada and will be 14 years old on September 11th of this year. I go to Faith High School and my favorite subject there is Science. I also like Martial Arts and Radio Controlled cars and planes. I live with my Mom and Dad and have two brothers, one who is two years old and the other one who is an infant. I live near my Grandpa and Grandma in Fenton and share a very close relationship with them.

My interest in Amateur Radio began after I had been involved with Citizen's Band Radio. My Grandpa recognized that I displayed an interest in radio and electronics and suggested one day that we try to get our Technician Amateur Radio licenses. I was all for it! I was only 12 years old when Grandpa and I started studying together. We set a deadline to test on June 21, 2008 and both passed our Technician exams at Mott Community College in Fenton. We went home, set another deadline to take our General exams, and less than two months later, on August 16th at a Flint VE site, we tested and passed. We are now studying, once again, so we can upgrade to Extra class. There are a few other Hams in our family besides my Grandpa and me. They are my Dad, Marshall Colley/KD8KAD and two Uncles.

I don't have a lot of equipment right now, because I'm just getting my Radio Shack started, but just wait until I get a little older and I have been in the Hobby for a few more years!! Right now, I have a Kenwood TM-VF71-A radio. For antennas, I have a copper piping J-Pole and a Jetstream Mobile. You can usually find me on 2 meters and HF. One of these days, I would like to get involved with Single Sideband Television, and although it is no longer required for exams, I want to eventually learn Morse Code, as well. Since being licensed, I have been able to use my Amateur Radio skills by working Parade Communications and I really enjoyed myself.

My Grandpa and I are both members of the Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club and attend the meetings as much as possible, in spite of the fact that we live in Fenton and it's a bit of a drive! I am also involved with the Michigan Radio Amateur Youth Net (MRAY) on the I.R.A. link system, and really enjoy that a lot. When asked if I had any words of wisdom regarding Amateur Radio or life in general I responded by saying, "Its not what's on the outside of a person that counts, It's Who is inside."

There, now that we have become a little better acquainted, "What's My Sign?" My Callsign is KD8IWT and my name is Morgan Mosher. My Grandpa is Curt Mosher/KD8IWS.

If you know of someone who would make a good What's My Sign Candidate, contact Julie McLain (KB8ZXR) at 517-694-0812 or email kb8zxr@aol.com

Bits N Bytes...First Look

Birthdays & Anniversaries

9/1 - Matthew Taylor (KD8JIA)

9/12 – Bob & Leota Strobel Anniv.

9/14 –Kay Clark (KD8BDJ)

9/15 – Lowell & Connie Hoyland Anniv.

9/17 – Jeremiah Sevrey (KC8EIA)

9/29 – Scott Tickner (W8ATT)

9/30 – John Hosford (KC8QZB)

9/11 – Morgan Mosher (KD8IWT)

9/14 – Tom Shaver (KC8NJK)

9/14 - Jason Every (KD8KCP)

9/16 – Tom Rocheleau & Wife Anniv.

9/28 – Chris Reusch (AB8ZL)

9/30 – Robert Lindberg (WA8ZWR)



Memories of Mom Cookbooks on Sale Reduced to Only \$5.00

We still have more than 100 copies of the 'Memories of Mom' cookbook to sell, and we are asking for your help. If we *all* chip in to sell them, the money raised will benefit CMARC for the next couple years...so it really is worth the effort, even at the reduced price!

If you are a member of a local Church, or other organization, please consider taking a few and offer them to your friends. With all the good recipes in there, these cookbooks really do sell themselves. If you don't believe me, just start telling someone about Gloria Cote's Peanut Butter Sheetcake and see if you don't sell one...or two....or five!

For more information, contact Erv at 517-202-6229, or email him at w8erv@acd.net. If copies need to be mailed, please add \$4.95 to cover postage and handling.

Items For Sale

Astron RS-35 Power Supply. Brand New, never hooked up and ready for use. I have the box and everything that came with it. Paid \$200 new, selling for \$160 Firm, please. Contact Richard (KD8HLR) at 517-712-9133 or by email: maddogbfv@hotmail.com

Mobile 2m magnetic mount antenna. Perfect for new hams who just need a good starting antenna. I believe the make is a Tram. The antenna is in excellent shape and price is \$25. Call Erv (W8ERV) at 517-908-6739

CMARC Meeting Notes

CMARC BOARD MEETING

August 7, 2009

President Sharon Waite/KD8HHK brought the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. with the following Board members in attendance: Secretary John Hosford/KC8QZB, Under 22 Director Corey Bulock/KD8BOQ, Director Don McClain/KB8RAD. Excused were: Treasurer Ron Harger/WD8BCS and Vice President Bob Berger/K8RDN, Director Jane Hosford KC8FSK.

Sharon/KD8HHK said that we still need a couple programs for this year and we also need to start thinking about next year. Sharon/KD8HHK asked that we start thinking about presenters. possible presenters were discussed. Corey/KD8BOQ asked about the status of project 2000. Sharon/KD8HHK said she would call Erv/W8ERV later in the month and ask.

With all business concluded, The Board meeting closed at 7:32 pm.

John Hosford/KC8QZB – Secretary

CMARC MEETING MINUTES

August 7, 2009

President Sharon Waite/KD8HHK called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and welcomed both our members and those visiting with us tonight. We had a moment of silence in memory of our "Silent Keys".

ATTENDANCE: There were 32 people in attendance (27 members and 5 visitors). Our guests were: Mary Tillitson, Ken McGuire/KC8LTL, Jean Devendorf, Jim Byers/N8GNN, Bob Lindberg/WA8ZWR. our speaker for the evening; Lynn Cambell from CERT.

NEW LICENSES, UPGRADES

and VANITY CALLS: no new licenses or upgrades this month.

CARDS AND FLOWERS REPORT: Sharon/KD8HHK reported that Jane Hosford/KC8FSK submitted a cards and flowers report and it would be on the table.

INTERESTING DX CONTACTS: Curt/KD8IWS made contact with an aircraft on 146.520. the plane was flying from Detroit to Grand Haven, Greg/WB8LZG reported that he got some cards from the bureau. He explained that is how we get cards to and from a dx station cheaply. Morgan/KD8IWT made contact with someone in the UK.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next CMARC meeting will be on Friday, September 11th at 7:30 pm, Bob Lindberg/WA8ZWR has some equipment for sale a TS440S Kenwood, SB-200 Heathkit, towers cables etc.

OLD BUSINESS: Greg/WB8LZG thanked everyone that helped with field day. The two phone stations had over 500 contacts, the cw station had 380 contacts, and the vhf station had 24 contacts. Greg said that there were a lot of comments about the transmitter hunt that several people liked. Greg thought we should do a transmitter hunt again next year. He thought we could concentrate on keeping the stations manned next year.

We had a lot of participation with the club picnic. We had a lot of good comment on our publicity and how smooth everything went. Ken/W8AAX thought that if we could possibly run high power (100 watts) on the cw station during field day that we could get a lot more contacts. Greg/WB8LZG said he had an at length conversation with Steve Rentzler that Steve wanted to participate but at 100 watts and Greg/WB8LZG said ok. Don/KD8BD thought that we had a respectable

score and that people that were there had a good time, Don/KD8BD thought that we had a good field day.

Ken/W8AAX reported that MFJ has purchased Cushcraft.

NEW BUSINESS: no new business this month.

UNDER 22 REPORT: there was no under 22 report this month.

50/50 DRAWING: Bill/WD8NYW won \$6.50 in tonight's drawing and donated the winnings to the club.

BREAK: [Sec. Note: Thank you to all who helped with the goodies—your contributions are always GREATLY appreciated!]

MAIN PROGRAM AND/OR SPEAKER: Lynn Cambell from CERT was our speaker for the evening. She put on an interesting program on emergency preparedness.

Jerry/KD8GLN moved to adjourn, Don/KB8RAD seconded and approved. With all business being concluded, we adjourned at 8:48 pm.

John Hosford/KC8QZB – Secretary

**It's Time To Get
Radio Active...**

**Bring a Friend and
Show Them What**

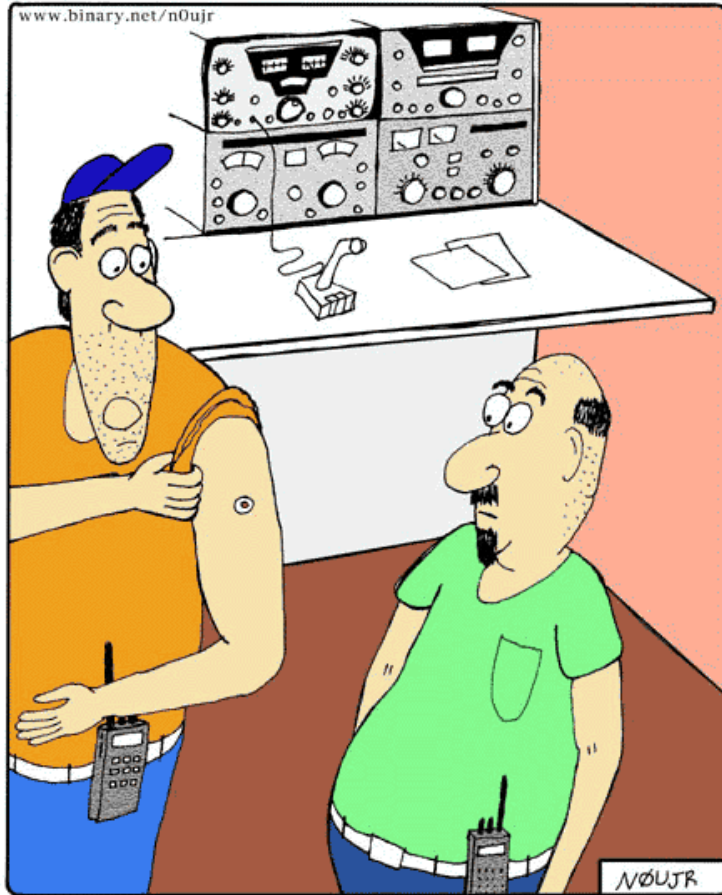
**Amateur Radio
Is All About!**

*Ham Radio...it's not just
for grown-ups anymore!*

Bits N Bytes...Second Look

Copyright © 1999 by Greg Trook

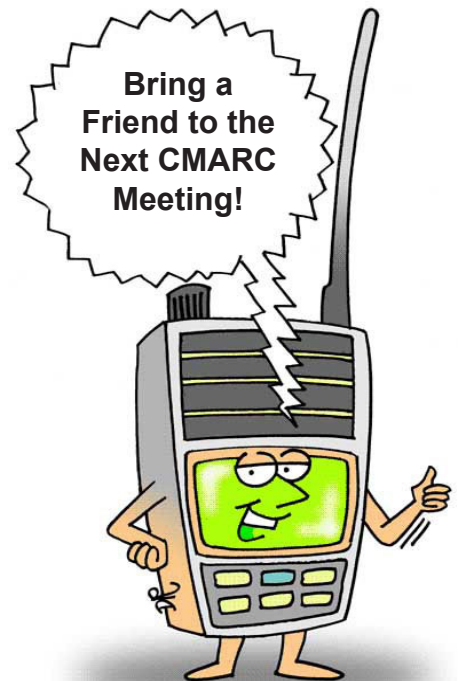
www.binary.net/n0ujr



"This is the new RF exposure monitor device I came up with. When you reach the maximum cumulative exposure, the red center pops out. My wife says it's perfect for a turkey like me."

N0UJR

**The Central Michigan
Amateur Radio Club
Welcomes ALL of
Our New Members
And Visitors!**



Amateur Radio is NOT On Life Support

New amateur licenses seem to be overcoming the blip in licensing figures brought on by the onset of the 10-year license. There are about 14,000 more licensees now than a year ago.

Last year's increase brings the number of ham licensees in the US to over 674,000. This total is just under the all-time high for US licensees. If we add another 14,000 this year, we will have exceeded the all-time high for ham licensees.

Therefore, current facts do not support the contention being spread by many amateurs that ham radio is a dying avocation. We may not be in a teen-age growth spurt, but we are growing. Don't count Amateur radio out.

For further details see <http://www.ah0a.org/AH0A.html>.

Bits N Bytes...Second Look

Happy Birthday OM Maxim

The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday celebration is back! This year, we will honor the 140th birth date of the League's first president and cofounder. Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW. HPM was born September 2, 1869 and died February 17, 1936.

The Maxim operating event is open to all amateurs. The goal is to work as many stations that have "/140" added to their call signs as possible. Contacts must be made during the period from 0000 UTC September 2 until 2400 UTC September 9.

Amateurs eligible to add /140 to their call signs include ARRL elected volunteers (e.g. Directors, Vice Directors and Section Managers), ARRL appointees (e.g. ASM, SEC, ARRL Life Members, ARRL Headquarters staff and DECs, ECs, VEs, QSL bureau workers and awards managers who are ARRL members). Complete rules and a list of eligible positions can be found on page 20 of the September 2009 issue of QST.

Operators who work at least 25, "/140" stations, are eligible to receive an attractive certificate. The certificate can be endorsed in increments of 25 QSOs, up to 100.

Exchange: All stations signing /140 send RS(T), their appointment and their name. Stations not eligible to use /140 stations send RS(T) and name.

To receive the award, send in a log extract with the date, time, band, call sign worked and exchange for each /140 contact made. Include your name, call sign and address. Mail to HPM/140 Celebration, c/o W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. You can also send in your entry on a disk or CD in regular text

format. All entries must include a check or money order for \$5 (US) payable to ARRL. Please make sure your entry is postmarked by October 9, 2009.

GET SET FOR THE 2009 SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

It's time to get ready for the 2009 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test! ARRL Field Organization leaders are planning an event that will actively involve members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES), the ARRL National Traffic System (NTS) and many other related groups that prepare for and respond to emergencies. Public service agencies and organizations in your community, ARRL Section or state will also be invited to participate. You, too, are invited to be a part of this ARRL sponsored nationwide exercise on October 3-4, 2009, or whenever it is held in your area.

Although October 3-4 is the focal point weekend, ARRL Sections, ARES teams and nets may conduct their exercises anytime -- and especially during September through December. If you don't know who to contact, please touch base with your ARRL Section Manager and/or Section Emergency Coordinator or Section Traffic Manager for assistance. See page 16 of QST for Section Manager contact information or check the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/sections/>>. From there, you'll find links to ARRL section pages with appropriate contact information. There can be a role for you no matter what your level of experience. After all, it is a train-

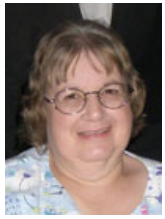
ing opportunity to try out something new under simulated emergency conditions, learn or practice useful skills in traffic handling and net operation, and observe emergency communications protocols and management.

ARRL Field Organization officials in your area and Section are planning the simulated emergency scenarios that will be used during the SET event. These scenarios are designed to help you gain valuable operating experience, or to practice what you have learned previously or to put your Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course training into action. In any emergency -- real or simulated -- a number of public service or public safety agencies and organizations are often also involved in the response.

ARRL Section Leaders and local or district-level leaders are encouraged to work closely with these served agencies, and the SET is a great chance to demonstrate the capabilities of Amateur Radio in the community and beyond. For more information on whom the ARRL maintains a National Memoranda of Understanding with, check this page <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/mou/>>. Guidelines and specific SET reporting forms for ARRL Section and Field Leaders will be posted online <<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/>>. Please report your SET activities to your Section Leaders and to HQ.

Spread the Word...
*the SCOPE is your source
for Ham Radio News!*

Ladies of CMARC News



Tea Time Luncheon Wrap-Up

by Julie McLain, KB8ZXR
kb8zxr@aol.com
517-694-0812

We had a great time Saturday, August 22nd when 8 Ladies showed up at “Bob Evan’s Restaurant” for our monthly Luncheon. As usual, the food was delicious and the time together was so enjoyable that, before we knew it, it was time for us to leave. If you missed this luncheon and would like to join us next time, be sure to circle Saturday, September 19th on your calendar, because that’s the date of our next Ladies Tea Time Luncheon—this time at Cheddar’s Restaurant, 5719 W. Saginaw Hwy. in Lansing (Near the Lansing Mall).

Remember, you DON’T have to be a Ham to join us. . .you only need to enjoy food, fellowship and fun!! If you’re not on our mailing list and would Like to be, just contact Julie McLain, KB8ZXR at: (517) 694-0812 or KB8ZXR@aol.com. For more information on any Ladies Tea Time Luncheons be sure to check out the “SCOPE” or the CMARC Website at: www.centralmiarc.com.



SEPTEMBER LADIES TEA TIME LUNCHEON

*Please Plan On Coming Out And Joining Us For Our
September Ladies Tea Time Luncheon.*

*When: Saturday, September 19, 2009
At 12:30 p.m.*

*Where: Cheddar’s Restaurant
5719 W. Saginaw Hwy. in Lansing
(Near the Lansing Mall)*

*To Make Sure We Have a Seat For YOU,
Please RSVP By Calling Julie McLain at: (517) 694-0812 or
E-Mail me at KB8ZXR@AOL.COM*

*I Must Hear Back by Friday, September 18, 2009.
Hope to See YOU There!!*



Teen Talk

by Corey Bullock, KD8BQ
CMARC Under 22 Director
c.jamesbullock@gmail.com
517-930-2372



I'M BACK! I missed writing a monthly edition of Teen Talk for the summer but I did enjoy a nice break. But now it's about time to get my back-pack geared up and head back to school and back to writing Teen Talk every month.

I enjoyed the summer, with a week long vacation and a week of band camp, and I really have enjoyed going to work every day (it has kept me from sleeping in until 2 in the afternoon LOL). I've had a lot of fun in Amateur Radio as well, and been I've trying to get on the air a lot more.

This summer it was my goal to take my general test, pass, and upgrade. I was studying for quite a while and ready to take a test. I was ready to go to a VE session and just finally go for it. Unfortunately, that was put on hold when my Grandpa passed away in late June. He will be missed, and already is every day. But that was put on hold because I'm starting to learn that there are other things that DO have to come before Amateur Radio (lol) this is only a hobby.

So, this year when I find time between school, work until 6:30, friends, a girlfriend, homework, the MRAY Net, and many more things I have going on, I plan to take my test and pass to finally upgrade to General. I appreciate everyone's support and understand that most are anxious for me to enjoy the world of HF. However, nobody is more excited than I am! I just can't let studying get in the way of things that come first. So whenever I have a free moment you will find me with my head buried in a General book.

In August, I was excited to get the chance to give a presentation for the Jackson radio group, CARS. It was a lot of fun and I gave the presentation about youth in ham radio, how to get them in and keep them in, and everything that I'm trying to do to accomplish this. They were very welcoming and I'll probably be going back for visits. In general, I was just excited that they wanted me to come give a talk!

For an update on the club at Holt High School: The club is ready to go. We have people who are interested in joining and getting their license (this is AWESOME), as well as a teacher who is willing to supervise and communicate with the school. We also have great equipment that was generously donated by the family of a now Silent Key. This will help get young potential hams out on the air at the school club before they get licensed (as third party) so they can get that Amateur Radio bug and study. The only road block that I have hit, is a VERY frustrating one. As some of you may know, this process has been a very long frustrating one dating back to March of 2008! As you can probably sense the frustration building, and my fingers are furiously typing away (trying not to damage my keyboard.....or at least to bad) I'll explain what's going on. I've had to jump through the various hoops of simply getting a club started that will HELP the school, but it's the paperwork that's holding me back. Unfortunately, I was never told that a proposal had to be written! I didn't know this until the last DAY of school. I was at the peak of frustration then, but I've put that behind me to finish this and get the proposal in and get this club started by October. I know at the meeting I have said, "We've had some issues along the way that are frustrating..." and things like this. Well this is what I've been talking about. Please stick with me and pray!

I'm excited to get back to school and get more students licensed. Until then, everyone have a fantastic remainder of the summer and I look forward to seeing everyone at the September meeting!

73, Corey

Bits N Bytes...Third Look

Hey! It's Not Always the Repeater!

By Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG

There are new ham radio amateurs entering the hobby every week, and that's good! Many of them got their license by observing someone who operates on repeaters, so they are prone to become repeater operators too, and that's good! They will either buy a dual-band handie-talkie or a mobile radio as their first rig, sometimes a used one, and that's good! They are anxious to get on the air and use their new privilege, and that's good! Now let's talk about what typically happens with some real situations recently heard on repeaters. The names are fictitious but the situations are true.

New ham Joe sets his newly acquired dual-band radio on the front seat of his car and plugs it into the cigarette lighter using a dual adapter (he's got a GPS too). He runs the RG-58 coax from his dual band mag-mount antenna in through the rear car door where it won't be pinched (???) but he forgets that his wife always loads the groceries through that door. Now Joe is happy hamming on the repeater as he drives to and from work, and that's good! But oh, oh! About a month or so later someone tells Joe that his signal is noisy into the repeater. He doesn't know why so he says, "There must be something wrong with the repeater." But in reality, Joe's cigarette lighter connections have oxidized and burned from the overdrawn current, which is now lowering the voltage to the radio reducing its power output considerably, and the mag-mount antenna coax cable is shorted from being

continually slammed in the door by Joe's wife getting groceries. If Joe's radio is putting out any power, it's only heat, and that's not good, but it's not the repeater!

Al lives across the state and has a terrific base station, several radios, a big tower with beam antennas, and even an amplifier that will run over 100 watts. He likes to talk to a friend on the other side of the state using the link repeater system run by the Independent Repeater Association. His signal is always impeccable but one time, he had trouble getting into the link system from his base station. He said that he was running over 100 watts with his beam pointed right at the repeater, and he still could not make the trip. There must be something wrong with the repeater! Well now, that link repeater had three different input receivers and Al tried all of them, but his signal was noisy and broken into all three. He took offense to the suggestion that it might be something in his station. In his mind, it was the repeater! The three receivers were checked for sensitivity and verified as working correctly. Eventually Al's signal was heard clearly once again on the link repeater system, and that's good, but nothing was ever changed or fixed on the repeater system that improved Al's signal. It's not always the repeater!

Bob worked hard to get his ham license taking the test over and over for several years. Finally he passed his Technician Test and that's good! He acquired a used HT with an old stubby-duck antenna and an extra battery but the seller was not sure

if both batteries were good. They didn't seem to hold the charge very long or the radio just used lots of power and rapidly depleted them. Bob was excited to talk on the repeater from his basement apartment in the city using his new (old) HT. He was only about 12 miles from the repeater so it should work well, so he thought. In just about every QSO Bob's signal was noisy, wavering, and dropping out of the repeater (12 miles away). He says that it must be a repeater problem because he has absolutely no problem getting into the downtown repeater (with its antenna on the next building from him). Also, Bob has been monitoring the repeater all day and his battery has run down almost to the cutoff voltage. When he keys his HT, it blinks at him and there is no output. He tries the other battery but it doesn't hold a charge very well and the high power HT sucks the voltage down making Bob's signal weaker, even though he is operating on a rubber duck from his basement 12 miles from the repeater. Using the second battery, Bob making it in just barely says, "See I told you it was the repeater!"

Recently, a new ham visiting the area north of Grand Rapids from across the state was having trouble getting into the Big Rapids link repeater with his mobile radio. He was located approximately midway between Grand Rapids and Big Rapids, 40 miles away from either repeater, but using the Big Rapids link repeater. During his transmission, his signal would get noisy

Continued Next Page...

Bits N Bytes...Third Look

Continued From Last Page...

(like it drifted off frequency) and his audio became distorted (like it was drifting off frequency). Each time he transmitted, it would do the same thing. The friend that he was talking with commented that it must be a repeater problem. Just then another station checked in on the Big Rapids link repeater and he sounded normal, no problem, but the comments went on, it must be a repeater problem! No one figured that the visiting ham's radio could have been programmed for the wrong frequency 5 -kHz off, or decreasing in power output due to a bad power connection, or drifting off frequency, or had an antenna problem, or a loose connection, or was in a poor location relative to the repeater. No, it had to be a repeater problem!

Charlie is somewhat confined to his home and he operates a base station from his bedroom. His antenna is mounted on a pole outside his bedroom window. He likes to talk on the link repeater system because he can speak with many different people around the state. One day his signal was very noisy. People were saying that it was hard to understand what he was saying. Charlie said that there must be a problem with the repeater because he had no such report using the "local repeater." Then, later that day, Charlie found that his antenna coax cable was very loose on the back of the radio. He had moved the radio and forgot to tighten it back up. He tested after tightening it and everything was fine, his signal sounded excellent once again, and that's good! It wasn't a repeater problem!

The following example is the pinnacle of all "repeater problem stories," the epitome of "it's the repeater," the

crescendo in the expertise of analyzing problems with repeaters. Tom got a vanity ham call having passed his Extra Test and his mobile installation was excellent. He was a fussy-budget with his radio equipment. His radio was mounted under the dash with power leads run thru the firewall to the battery, the speaker was mounted along side the driver's head so that passengers wouldn't be bombarded with loud audio, and Tom even used a permanent hanger for the microphone to avoid someone sitting on the microphone and keying the rig inadvertently. Tom's antenna was a removable mag-mount, again with the coax cable coming in thru the rear car door. One day when Tom was talking on the repeater, his signal was very weak and it was fluttering in and out of the noise level. People were telling him that they were having problems with the repeater, so it must be the repeater. When Tom got to his work place, he came back on the air and called in with a full-quieting signal commenting that he found the problem. He forgot to put the antenna on the car roof, it was lying on the back seat of the car when he was talking before. He said that he removes it to drive into his garage and forgot to set it up that morning. That's not good, but then it wasn't a repeater problem!

Think about if you ever had an "it's a repeater problem" like those described here. Maybe these examples can help you with your "repeater problems" or at least give you a laugh because it's not always a problem with the repeater! It could be a problem with, or in your station equipment, i.e., the frequency, tone, and offset are not set correctly, the squelch is set too tight, the microphone gain is set too high, there's

a poor power connection (too many splices, too light a wire, loose fuse clip, cheap cigarette lighter adapter), there's a poor antenna connection (corroded, loose connector, pinched-shortened-open coax, or water in the coax or in the antenna base), a weak or low HT battery (needs to be charged), intermittent radio problem (low power output, high SWR shutdown), and last but not least, make sure that your mag-mount antenna is on the vehicle roof and not inside on the back seat (or in the trunk).

I hope that you enjoy the intended humor and the simple helpful technical suggestions provided in this article. Comments? Send them to abra@i2k.com – W8HVG.

(Editor's Note:) Abe operates the IRA Link System, based in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This network of linked repeaters covers 80% of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and 20% of the Upper. It involves 14 sites (repeaters and aux. links), 47 antennas (28 beams, 15 four bay colinears and 4 verticals), 27 transmitters and 29 receivers.

There is over 2 miles of antenna cables (hardline), with over 225 connectors. When you 'kerchunk' the link system, a minimum of 16 transmitters get keyed up, so please ID. You might just start a conversation.

All signals are routed through Grand Rapids before being broadcast. The farthest driving distance between repeaters is 260 miles (St. Joseph and Vanderbilt)

The Independent Repeater Association is NOT a club and there are no dues, but donations are accepted and appreciated.

Please visit: <http://www.w8hvg.org> for more information.

Local & Special Interest News

CMARC Treasurer's Report

Primary Share Acct. (Humphries Fund) \$ 54.95
Business Checking \$ 927.80
NuUnion Certificate of Deposit (2/12/09) \$1001.75

Net Worth as of 7/31/09 \$1984.50
Youth Fund Balance* (as of 7/31/09) \$ 148.00

*separate from CMARC Funds

Submitted,
Ron Harger, WD8BCS
CMARC Treasurer



Upcoming Events

MSU WWW Walk September 13, 2009 8:30am,
meeting at Hawk Island Park. Talk-In 146.940

Hospice Walk October 4, 2009 Time to be determined,
meeting at Hawk Island Park. Talk-In 146.940

Thank you for all your help this year!
-Jeremiah Sevrey (KC8EIA)

The 2009 CMARC & LCDRA Boards

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

Our CMARC Officers:

President: Sharon Waite-KD8HHK	ph: (517) 882-5406
Vice President: Bob Berger-K8RDN	ph: (517) 882-0370
Secretary: John Hosford-KC8QZB	ph: (517) 699-2540
Treasurer: Ron Harger-WD8BCS	ph: (517) 676-3031
Director: Donald McLain-KB8RAD	ph: (517) 694-0812
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Mem. Chmn.: John Ingraham-NG8L	ph: (517) 230-9445
Photographer: J. Ervin Bates-W8ERV	ph: (517) 908-6739
Club Contact: Donald McLain-KB8RAD	ph: (517) 694-0812

Meetings: 1st. Friday of every month at the Red Cross, Lansing Chapter,
1800 E. Grand River at 7:30pm. Board Meeting begins at 7:00pm.
Club Calls: W8MAA & W8PLP

QSL/ Awards Mgr.: Don DeFeyer-KC8CY ph: (517) 641-4533
Scope Editor: J. Ervin Bates-W8ERV ph: (517) 908-6739
email address: w8erv@acd.net

Deadline for articles: 20th. of month.

The 2009 LCDRA Board

Our LCDRA Officers:

Pres: Daniel Harger-W8BCI	ph: (517) 882-8784
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Treasurer/Memb. Chair-Jeff Oberg-KB8SXX	ph: (517) 712-1302
Repeater Trustee: Dennis Boone-KB8ZQZ	email: drb@msu.edu

LCDRA Call: WB8CQM

Meetings: Quarterly on the third Thursday of the month, beginning at 7:00pm. Meetings are held at Fire Station #8, corner of Marshall and Grand River, in Lansing, MI.

Weekly Nets in the Greater Lansing Area

Nets are a great way to learn organized communication, as well as to meet and get to know your fellow Hams. The Lansing area offers many Nets and they are listed below. Please feel free to check into one, or ALL of them...and everyone is welcome!

Sunday 7:00pm - Central Michigan Slow scan Net. This NET has been cancelled until Fall, per Carl (K8YHH). Enjoy the Summer, guys and gals!

Sunday 8:30pm - Central Michigan Information Net. Join Bob (K8RDN) for this weekly gathering on the 145.390 repeater. All are welcome to attend.

Monday 7:00pm - ARPSC Net. Don (KB8RAD) welcomes one and all for this weekly Net on the 145.390 repeater. The purpose of the Net is to learn proper etiquette for a controlled Net. (NO NET ON MEETING NIGHT)

Tuesday 7:00pm - Ladies' Tea Time Net. Julie (KB8ZXR) is your hostess and all Lady Hams and Lady Non-Hams are encouraged to drop in. Of course, for the Lady Non-Hams, a licensed operator would need to check in with you, but it's lots of fun. Guys are welcome, too and we are on the 145.390 repeater. See you there!

Tuesday 8:00pm - QCWA Net. Your Net Control is Don (WB8NUS) and all licensed Amateurs are welcome to stop in to the 146.700 repeater and say hi.

Thursday 7:00pm - Michigan Radio Amateur Youth (MRAY) Net, with Corey (KD8BOQ). If you are Under 22, drop in to the 145.470 (-) (100hz PL) repeater and say hi. Corey promises LOTS of information and fun for the young people of Michigan. Sounds like a good Net to visit!

As with all Nets, 3rd party checkins must have Control Operator present at checkin time.

VE Testing & Special Announcements

Lansing V.E. Testing Session #1

Testing is held at the Lansing America Red Cross, in the Kropschot Room
at 1800 E. Grand River; Lansing, MI 48909

Pre-registration starts at 11:00am and testing starts at 11:30am for the following
date: **Saturday September 12, 2009**

Our VE Team's local contact is Donald McLain-KB8RAD at (517) 694-0812

Returnable Cans/Bottles Wanted!

As we've been doing, we are asking one and all to bring their returnable cans and bottles to the CMARC meeting for our Under 22 members.

The bottles and cans will be turned into cash and the money will be used for Youth activities during this year.

All we ask is that they be clean and bagged, so we can take them to Meijer. Your support for CMARC Youth is appreciated and we've already raised nearly \$150! Thanks!

Sunday Slow Scan Net Cancelled Until Fall 2009

Carl Canfield contacted me recently to inform me that, effective immediately, the Sunday evening Slow Scan Net has been put in mothballs, until Fall. Carl has had this Net since April of last year and he's decided that the Summer months should be enjoyed, so he has made this decision.

Frankly, I think he wants to ride his motorcycle, but who am I? 73, Carl and see you on the air-back at post in the Fall.

Lansing VE Session #2

Tuesday October 6th - 7pm
Lansing Police Dept., South Precinct,
3400 S. Cedar St., Lansing
Downstairs, Sm. Conf. Room
(Lansing VE Team)
Contact: Don McLain (KB8RAD)
phone: (517) 694-0812

Eaton Co. ARC

Saturday October 10th - 12pm
Eaton Co Sheriff Dept-EOC,
1025 Independence Blvd.
Charlotte, MI 48813
Contact: John A. Dewey (NY8Q)
phone: (517) 645-2378





Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 27321
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7321



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

THE SCOPE



Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

September, 2009

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> Joining <input type="checkbox"/> CMARC <input type="checkbox"/> LCDRA </div>		
Name	Callsign	
Address	City	State
ZIP	Phone	Lic. Class
ARRL Mem.?	Birthday	Wedding Anniversary
Year 1st Licensed	Email address	

CMARC Full Membership \$10 per calendar year (must be a licensed Amateur to obtain Full Membership) Associate Membership \$5 per calendar year

Mail Your Check or Money Order To:
John Ingraham-NG8L, CMARC Membership Chairman
2807 Greenbriar Ave., Lansing, MI 48912
 (Checks made payable to CMARC, please)

LCDRA Membership is \$15 per calendar year (add a Family member for only \$7.50 per person, per year)

Mail Your Check or Money Order To:
Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association
P.O. Box 26281, Lansing, MI 48909-6281