



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

# *THE SCOPE*



Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

www.qsl.net/cmarc Serving Our Community Since 1927 December 1998

## **DON'T MISS IT!!!**

### **December 4th.**



**The CMARC Meeting - Erv In A Tutu, Election Night  
and Our Annual Christmas Party!**

## **IT'S A GIRL!!!!!!**

*"Congratulations"* to Jim (Erv)-W8ERV and Laurie on the birth of their new daughter, Michelle Elizabeth Bates. "Mickey" came into this world on Sunday evening, October 18, 1998 at 8pm. She weighed in at 7lb, 7oz and measured 20 1/2 inches in length. With a full head of jet black hair and long eyelashes.

Both Mom and Michelle are doing well, and returned home on Tuesday the 20th. Erv says he'll have a small page added to his web site soon with a few pictures.

Jim (Erv) and Laurie also have another daughter, Amanda who is nine years old.

# National Ham News

## Sunspot cycle closely following prediction

### Maximum expected in the year 2000

Oct. 19, 1998: Scientists at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center appear to have done a good job of predicting Cycle 23 of the sunspot cycle.

"Except for the last few days, it's followed our curve very closely," said Dr. David Hathaway, head of the solar physics branch at NASA/Marshall. "Last week there was one day when the sunspot number dropped to 20 as compared to an average of 90 for the past few weeks. But the sun normally does that sort of thing during any cycle."

Indeed, a plot of actual vs. predicted sunspot numbers for Cycle 23 shows a few peaks and valleys, but the sun is staying close to what was predicted by Hathaway, Robert M. Wilson, and Edwin J. Reichmann, also at NASA/Marshall, in September 1996. "We can say with a little more confidence, now, that this prediction is right," Hathaway said.

"When we made the prediction in September 1996, we were stepping out in front of things."

The explanation of the prediction was published in the May 1998 issue of the *Journal of Geophysical Research* (Space Physics).

"That it seems to be following our line as if it knows it was there is heartening," Hathaway said. But, he cautioned that the sun often defies predictions.

In their May article, Hathaway and his colleagues said that Cycle 23 will be above average but no record setter. The sun now is on the upswing of its 23rd activity cycle, a numbering scheme that dates from the mid-19th century, although the sunspot cycle may have lasted as long as the sun has burned. The "relative sunspot number" was introduced by Rudolf Wolf of the Zurich Observatory in 1848.

What is now called the International sunspot number or the Zurich number is a blend of actual numbers of individual spots and numbers of groups of spots on the sun. On average, the sunspot number varies from a minimum through a maximum to the next minimum in about 11 years. Because the solar magnetic fields reverse at the peak of each 11-year cycle, solar activity cycle actually spans a 22-year "Hale cycle." Cycle 23 is the last half of the current Hale cycle (composed of Cycles 22 and 23) that began in 1986. Predicting the solar cycle is more than a matter of scientific curiosity.

An active sun can cause geomagnetic storms that endanger satellites and disrupt communications and power systems on Earth. It also heats the Earth's outer atmosphere so that spacecraft are exposed to more atmospheric drag and to greater erosion by atomic oxygen.

The NASA/Marshall team's predictions are based variations in geomagnetic indices, the occurrences of high-latitude spots, the inferred strengths of the sun's polar fields, and the number of geomagnetically disturbed days over the course of the preceding cycle.

To get the latest sunspot numbers, check the sunspot predictions page. For the latest sunspot images, check the Current Solar Images page of the Solar Data Analysis Center at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Based on various precursor techniques, Hathaway, Wilson, and Reichmann predicted that Cycle 23 will rise faster than normal to its peak, attaining maximum amplitude sometime during the latter half of 1999 to the first half of 2000, and that it will measure about 170 plus or minus 20 units (yearly sunspot number). They expect Cycle 23 to continue until sometime in 2006 when the next cycle, Cycle 24, should begin.

Author: Dave Dooling

Curator: Linda Porter

NASA Official: Gregory S. Wilson

*From Ham Radio On Line*

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## FCC SHUTS DOWN FOUR HF PIRATES

The FCC has shut down four unauthorized HF broadcasters in Massachusetts, Illinois, Texas, and California. The stations all transmitted on 6955 kHz. Two of the operators are radio amateurs, according to an FCC spokesperson, who said the ham licenses "are definitely in jeopardy." The two hams were identified as 41-year-old Richard F. Jurens, KC5RGK, a Technician licensee who lives in Katy, Texas, and 46-year-old Henry Lee "Hank" Landsberg, WB6MEU, an Advanced class licensee who lives in Sierra Madre, California. The names of the others cited were being withheld pending further official action.

In making the busts, the FCC's Columbia, Maryland, Operations Center coordinated and provided information to FCC agents from the Boston, Chicago, Houston and Los Angeles offices. FCC inspectors from those offices then performed on-site visits to the unauthorized stations.

With the exception of certain low-power Part 15 devices, broadcasting on the HF bands is not authorized without a station license. Under the Communications Act, violators may be subject to penalties up to \$11,000 and the equipment used may be seized and forfeited by court order. Unlicensed operators also face criminal fines of up to \$100,000 and/or imprisonment for up to one year, or both, for a first time offense. *From ARRL Letter On-Line 11/13/98*

## FCC LEVIES HEFTY FINE ON JERSEY HAM

The FCC has levied a \$7500 fine on a New Jersey ham who interfered with a net operation on 40 meter SSB. James C. Thompson, KA2YBP, of Waretown also was ordered off 40 meters until further notice after the October 18 incident. The case against Thompson, 58, stemmed from interference complaints from other amateurs, including the Association of North American Radio Clubs (ANARC), which conducts a Sunday morning net on 7240 kHz.

The FCC charged Thompson with illegally retransmitting programs from a Standard Broadcast (AM) station on 40 meters and willfully interfering with the net. The FCC also said Thompson failed to properly identify.

The FCC issued an Official Notice of Violation October 21. In replying to the NOV, Thompson admitted the violations, the FCC said November 9. "Applying the Forfeiture Policy Statement and statutory factors to the instant case, we have determined that a monetary forfeiture in the amount of \$7,500 is warranted," the FCC's notice said. Thompson has 30 days to pay the fine or appeal it.

The Thompson case marked the Commission's first amateur enforcement action since the FCC announced it would consolidate amateur enforcement within the Compliance and Information Bureau. The CIB's legal advisor for enforcement, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says he's spoken with nearly 100 individuals about enforcement complaints or issues since the FCC's latest enforcement initiative began. The FCC expects additional amateur enforcement cases to develop as a result of calls to the Amateur Enforcement Line, 202-418-1184. *From ARRL Letter On-Line 11/13/98*

**Idaho Society of Radio Amateurs** operates a "tube bank" - if you need an old vacuum tube - or have one to donate, check this out. U.S. Coast Guard Net

The U.S. Coast Guard net meets on Saturday at 1700 UTC on 14.300 or if QRM then on 14.313 MHz, (also known as the Maritime net). Our purpose is to re-acquaint with former friends, active, retired, and those with ties and/or interest in the peace time service. Our net control is KE7A (e\_mail ke7a@aol.com) in Houston, Texas. We also have available a roster with over 300 ham members from Don AD4PT (ad4pt@aol.com). Or contact W4EG garvideo@iccas.com or phone at 805-499-5398. (From Ham Radio On Line)



## Emergency Net Established for Hurricane Mitch

From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT October 28, 1998

To all radio amateurs

Since activating October 24, the Hurricane Watch Net on 14.325 MHz has been tracking Hurricane Mitch—still an extremely dangerous Category 5 storm—as it moves toward landfall either in Belize or in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. "Our operation is proceeding well," Hurricane Watch Net Manager Jerry Herman, N3BDW, said Tuesday. He said the net has had very good response from Honduras and Belize. "We have some stations that we have been working with that are in harms way."

Herman said the main concern was to ensure that stations—and residents—had sufficient information about storm surges and winds so they can seek shelter. The storm has sustained winds in excess of 155 MPH. Guatemala, to the south, also was bracing for possible storm effects.

Some Hurricane Watch Net participants in the US and Caribbean have had less than a month to recover from the marathon Hurricane Georges operation, but Herman says all the regulars are "refreshed and ready to go."

For much of the day, the slow-moving storm's center has remained over water. "The one exception was Swan Island—of DX fame—where the eye passed directly overhead," Herman said. "We were able to relay the warnings through VE3MCM/HR who, in turn, relayed them to the people on the island via nonamateur SSB radio."

Herman reports that Balta Sanchez, XE1UNR, has established the Mexican Hurricane Net on 7055 kHz and has been forwarding reports from the Yucatan to the Hurricane Watch Net via radio and e-mail. "We also have had good support from a number of Cuban stations who have acted as interpreters from English to Spanish for us," Herman added.

"This looks like it will be another prolonged operation."

During the past weekend, Herman said, the net had good participation from Jamaica, the Caymans, and Cuba. He reports that most operators during the CQ WW SSB contest were very cooperative and made room for the net. (c) Ham Radio On Line

Happy Thanksgiving



# Russian Cosmonauts

launched a second mini-Sputnik satellite November 10 during a spacewalk from the Mir space station. The launch of Sputnik 41—also being called RS-18—comes just over a year after the launch of Sputnik 40, which commemorated the launch of the first artificial Earth satellite by the USSR in 1957.

Among the first in the US to report hearing the new satellite was Ken Carlstrom, N1WED, in New Hampshire. He reported hearing Sputnik 41 from approximately 0604 to 0609 UTC November 11 on 145.8145 MHz. The newest Sputnik was tossed by hand at the start of the spacewalk by cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Avdeyev. According to an AP report, Padalka told Avdeyev to “toss it gently toward the moon.”

Sputnik 41, which arrived on Mir aboard a Progress supply rocket late last month, was financed by the Aeroclub de France to mark its centennial. Two Sputnik 40 models were transported to Mir last year, but only one was launched. The other remains aboard the space station.

Like its predecessor, Sputnik 41 is just under 8 inches in diameter and weighs almost 9 pounds. It carries a 200 mW transmitter that transmits on or about 145.812 MHz ( $\pm 5$  kHz and Doppler shift). The spacecraft has no solar cells. Its expected operational lifetime is approximately 30 days.

Sputnik 41 broadcasts pre-recorded voice greetings in three languages, French, English, and Russian. The Russian-accented English greetings say “1998 was the International Year of Air and Space” and “International Space School Sputnik Program.” The French and Russian messages convey the same greetings. The new spacecraft provides a “bip-bip” beacon. The frequency of the audio tone indicates the satellite’s internal temperature (see chart). The tone is transmitted every 90 seconds.

Sputnik 41 reception reports go to AMSAT-France, QSL Spoutnik 41, 14 bis rue des Gourlis, F-92500 Rueil-Malmaison, FRANCE. The 1998 International Year of Air and Space page is at <http://www.ccr.jussieu.fr/physio/Satedu/sputnik41.html>. From ARRL Letter On-Line 11/18/98

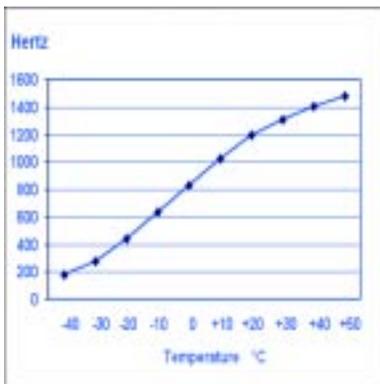
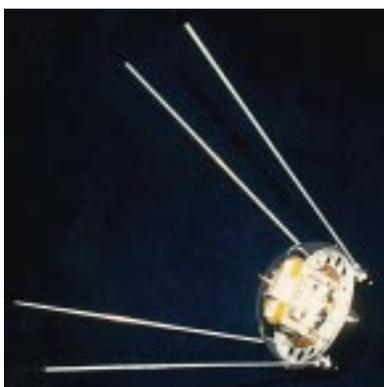


Chart showing relationship between Sputnik 41 beacon tone and internal temperature.



The Sputnik 41 transmitter (bottom) and digital voice module (top), designed by F6FAO. [Photos by Gerard Auvray, F6FAO]

# Local & Special Interest News

## Fox Hunting News

I was just reading the new Proposed ARDF Technical Class Rules for Region 3. This is a proposal originating in China, for a new kind of on-foot hunt they are doing there. I believe it fits well with the American culture too.

For those who are unfamiliar with it, here is a summary:

**TECHNICAL CLASS ARDF:** The objective of this type of hunt is to put heavier weight on technical DFing competition and give very little or no advantage to running ability. The total course size is shrunken considerably, between 1 and 3km (about a half mile to 1-1/2mile). Totally camouflaged hidden (or invisible) Ts are used. The course can be any environment such as a school campus, open area, park, suburb, etc. The point is that it doesn't need to be in the woods like the ARDF orienteering-style hunts. So this opens up a lot more possibilities for those who are accurate and skilled DFers to have the advantage, as well as turning it into more of a walking hunt.

**SCORING:** Small signs (called Control Marks) about the size of post cards with the logo of the sponsoring club are placed on the course near the hidden Ts with numbers from 000 to 999. There are 2 to 5 times as many decoy Marks also placed near the “Real T” Control Marks. Only the Control Mark closest to the real T should be written on the Log Card that the contestant carries. High score is based on number of real Control Marks minus decoy Marks.

There is a time limit. The large number of Ts make it easier for multiple contestants to start at about the same time or to be on the course simultaneously without interfering with each other's progress. The smaller size of the “playing field” makes it more of a spectator sport.

One other aspect of this type of hunt that is different from standard ARDF, and adds another twist to weight it heavily on technical prowess, is the transmitters themselves...

**TRANSMITTERS:** Transmitter power is limited: 100 to 200mW only.

All the transmitters are on the same frequency. Any given T is only transmitting for about 7% to 20% of the time. Short ID transmissions, with an ON:OFF duty cycle of 5:1 to 15:1. Not synchronized! Each one is identified with a unique audio sound or Morse letter of the alphabet. (Note: this could easily be done with voice ICAO phonetics ID and a voice-chip).

So, you can see that a careful and skilled Dfer could easily win over a less-skilled contestant that is running all over the place, missing crucial transmitters that are transmitting randomly on short duty-cycles.

This seems like the perfect style of hunt to run concurrently at hamfests or flea markets on 2m.

To read the China proposal via Chen Ping-BA1HAM, Chairman of IARU Reg.3 ARDF Committee, in more detail see the draft proposal on the web site of Ron-VK4BRG:

<http://www.mackay.net.au/~ron/rulesnew.htm> Bonnie Crystal-KQ6XA

# WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED “HAMS”

From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called “HAMS”? Well, it goes like this: The word “HAM” as applied to 1908 was the station CALL of the first amateur wireless station operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY and POOGIE MURRAY.

At first they called their station “HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY”. Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision.

They changed it to “HY-AL-MY”, using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1901 some confusion resulted between signal from amateur wireless station “HY-ALMU” and a Mexican ship named “HYALMO”. They then decided to use only the first letter of each name and the station CALL became “HAM”.

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. In 1911, ALBERT HYMAN chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for the Thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator DAVID L. WALSH, a member of one of the committee shearing the Bill. The Senator was so impressed with the Thesis that he asked HYMAN to appear before the committee. ALBERT HYMAN took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the BILL went through they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fee and all the other requirements which the BILL imposed on amateur stations.

Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and little station “HAM” became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn’t want them around. The BILL finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the “...poor little station HAM.” That’s how it all started. You can find the whole story in the Congressional Record.

Nation-wide publicity associated station “HAM” with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably until the end of time in radio; and amateur is a “HAM.” *Submitted by Erv-W8ERV*

## ***CMARC and LCDRA,***

For several months, the Radio Society of Central Michigan has been allowed to use the 146.70 repeater to host its weekly News and Information net. We would like to express our thanks and appreciation to the Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association for this generosity.

The Society has now been changed to the Radio History Society of Central Michigan, whose primary focus is no longer amateur radio news and information distribution. It is because of this change that we have decided to no longer host our net. The final net will be held on Wednesday, November 11, 1998.

Again, we appreciate the use of the repeater these last several months.

73 de,  
Dan-W8MMQ  
President, Founder

## **The Amateur’s Code**

### **The Radio Amateur is:**

**CONSIDERATE...** never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasures of others.

**LOYAL...** offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, loyal clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**PROGRESSIVE...** with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**FRIENDLY...** Slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**BALANCED...** radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.

**PATRIOTIC...** station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

- The original Amateur’s code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928. -

# More Local & Special Interest News

## **JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (J.O.T.A.)**

Greetings fellow operators. Tis me, Clint. Okay, it sounds a little silly, but I'm having fun doing something I haven't done before. Writing an article for the SCOPE. I again would like to mention an event that was as fun as it was rewarding... J.O.T.A. Some of you know how it began but others may not, so please bear with me.

A couple of years ago a woman (Sue) asked that I help her organize the J.O.T.A. event. I had never heard of such a thing. She proceeded to explain what it was. Simply put, it is similar to field day (not a contest), using conventional power. The idea is to allow Scouts to talk to other Scouts throughout the world. Her brother (who is also a Ham) was to organize it for her. Near to the last minute he had to cancel, due to work flying him out of state. She was talking to her father (also a ham) about this situation. He suggested she get in touch with a Ham club, but she didn't

know how. He said "find a Radio Operator, and you'll probably find a club." The first person she (Sue) thought of was me (her husband is our mechanic, and we talk frequently).

Well I accepted, and what a blast. With help from John Kelly, Dennis Boone, & John Seaver it was a success. I think there may have been a few other operators I can't think of, but all were appreciated and important.

This year she called again. We had three operators. Chris Raines-KC8CAJ, James Kenyon-KC8DJH, and myself. I felt it was a challenge on our part because it was the "first" time we had to string antennas in trees, match antennas, & set up the stations within about 1 1/2 hours without the expertise or our climbs veterans (this is good. It means we are learning). It was a great experience and confidence builder on my part.

In each event the children's eyes glowed with excitement. They enjoyed the contacts and teaching they received. During this event, Sue mentioned doing this event district wide. Now, I am not quite certain

how many children make up the district, but I am sure it is many. Not all of the Scouts would be able to attend, of course. Nevertheless, we will be in NEED of more than 3 operators. Sue is going to talk to the Scout's council at the round table. This event will require the assistance from the clubs within the Scout's district. Sue will inform me later with an approximate number of children that are going to attend. I then would need to give her a number of operators that will be there to assist. I'll need to give her names & phone numbers.

Last year the actual event was October 18-19, 1997. This year it was October 17-18, 1998. Next year I believe it will be October 16-17, 1999. What we have done in the past is to hold the event approximately 4 hours on Saturday. Next year we would like to do it both days (with the help of other clubs of course).

Please feel free to give me a call with any questions, comments, or suggestions. Thank-you.

Clint-KC8EHR

## ***From The CMARC Prez:***

As 1998 comes to a close, I wanted to take a moment to say Thank You for allowing me to serve you these last 12 months. It's moved along rather quickly, we've lost some members and we've added new members. Once again, it's time marching on.

It's been a great honor to serve the Board this year and I can tell you it's been a learning experience, too. I have a greater appreciation for the "behind the scenes" work that goes on and, during 1999, we have great anticipation for the future of our Club. We are blessed to have so many new members who are willing to get their feet wet, but this is just the beginning. We have a chance to close out a century, leading the way for new Hams and showing them how much fun this Hobby can be.

I want to say thank you to the outgoing Board members. It's been a pleasure to work with you and I've had a blast! We have to remember that nobody can possibly get along with everyone ALL THE TIME, but I've been pleased that our Board has completed 12 months together without much trouble....quite a tribute, indeed.

May the Joy and Peace of the Christmas Season be with each and every one of you this Holiday

# Top signs that you may need an elmer...

By Jeffrey S. King, N1DJS, jeff.king@cbis.com

An elmer is the guy you go to, to ask questions about topics in Ham Radio that you don't understand. In that vein, you know it's time for you to find an Elmer if...

\* Your friend tells you he has a new two meter radio and you figure one of the meters must be for swr and the other for power out.

\* You hear a conversation on the low bands about CW and you think they're referring to the cold war.

\* You hear someone sign this is N8XXX mobile 4 and you think it's because he has three other radios

\* You hear that someone won a 40 meter radio at a hamfest and you wonder how they're going to get something that large in their house.

\* You build a morse code key out of plexiglass and can't figure out why it won't key your radio.

\* You think the difference between short wave and long wave is the speed at which you move your wrist back and forth.

\* You're thinking about joining your other ham friends in the local ATV group because

you own a four wheel drive vehicle that will go just about anywhere.

\* You won't use a repeater because you've heard that using a repeater could be dangerous. You've heard an alligator could get you.

\* You think a colinear antenna can only be used with two amplifiers.

\* You think fm is the modulation type that came after em, dm, cm, bm and am.

\* You wouldn't mind getting into packet radio but no matter how much you practice you can't get the hang of sending those beeps and braps with your keyer.

\* You wonder what sound a short wave makes and why anyone would want to listen to one.

\* You think the repeater owner would

be a lot happier if instead of talking about his cavities he just went to the dentist and got them filled.

\* You think a CW ID is the number the army gave you on your dog tags during the cold war.

## I'm A Ham

**B**y the flip of a switch I can call into my home friends from far and near, and engage them in stimulating conversation whenever I choose.

**E**xecutives, students, business and professional friends are all embraced by this alluring hobby, and willingly share their experiences with me.

**C**ongenial fellow-Hams can be found at the turn of the road when I'm traveling, all eager to smooth my path, and make my trips pleasant.

**A**mateur licenses have been held by hundreds of top men in the radio industry, and have often proved to be the first step to their success.

**U**nderstanding and good will are strengthened through free speech among these hobbyists in all lands exerting a broadening influence on all.

**S**ince ours is the only hobby in the world that requires a government license, this factor gives us a feeling of accomplishment and of belonging.

**E**arthquakes, floods, or fires have found the Ham eager to act in emergency so this hobby we share has even been used to save lives.

*Author Unknown*

## The 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: Clint Hannahs-KC8EHR ph: (517) 882-1799  
Sec: Julie McLain-KB8ZXR ph: (517) 694-0812  
Treasurer: Joe Denomme-N8VYS ph: (517) 589-5263  
Dir: Don McLain-KB8RAD ph: (517) 694-0812  
Dir: Dave Humphreys-N8WTH ph: (517) 626-2221  
Under 22: Jaymes Kenyon-KC8DJH ph: (517) 646-0558  
Cards & Flowers Chmn.: Rowena Elrod-KA8OBS ph: (517) 482-9650  
Membership Chmn.: John Ingraham-NG8L  
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 Rickerd-W8BQD ph: (517) 339-8496  
Sec: Julie McLain-KB8ZXR ph: (517) 694-0812  
Treasurer: Don Tillitson-WB8NUS ph: (517) 321-2004  
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

## CMARC Board Meeting Nov. 6, 1998

Pres. Erv/W8ERV brought the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. All Board members were present and Cary/KC8JKA was invited to sit in on the meeting.

Erv said that nominations would be taken in the evening meeting for 3 director spots and for the Under 22 position. Jaymes/KC8DJH said he will not be running again for the Under 22 position, as he's very busy with various school activities. He said he would still be attending the meetings when he could. Erv thanked Jaymes for all the work he has done with JOTA, in working with Clint and in getting the ball rolling for the younger generation. Erv also praised him for the way he handled the SkyWarn nets earlier this year and said that he will be greatly missed. Jaymes told the Board that he contacted Samuel/KC8HGG and Judd/KC8IRG about running for the Under 22 position and that they were both interested.

Erv read the Ham Fair report submitted by LCDRA's Treas., Don/WB8NUS. Don's report showed that even with a 30% reduction

in attendance, we still made a profit of \$709.30 per club (last year's was \$818.24). When asked why attendance was down, Erv said there were several reasons ...the fog, general apathy (in all clubs and Swaps), not enough advertising, and there were many complaints about the narrow aisles.

Because of the complaints regarding the size of the building, and after talking with Don/WB8NUS, Erv contacted Alaiedon Elementary School on Okemos Rd. (5 miles south of interstate 96) as a possible site for Ham Fair '99. Don/W8BQD, LCDRA's V. Pres; Julie/KB8ZXR, Sec. of both Boards; and Erv all went in for a cursory glance of the building and talked with the necessary people. The School, with a mandatory custodian (estimated 12 hrs.) and cook (estimated 5 hrs.) would cost us \$600.43. We could use the gym (43' x 60'), 2 halls, a separate room for VE testing or DX Forum, a stage, free P/A system, and some tables. There is easy access to the gym for the dealers and plenty of electrical outlets. We can tape on the walls and because the floors are vinyl, they can't be easily damaged. There is plenty of space for parking and trunk sales. They also told us that we wouldn't have to purchase liability insurance or a food permit and no down payment required! For the Ing. Co. Fairgrounds building, liability insurance, and the food permit the cost is \$650 (next year it will cost \$50 more for the bldg. and at least \$25 more for the insurance).

After discussing the pros and cons, Clint made a motion to relocate the Swap to the Alaiedon Elementary School. It was seconded by Jaymes and approved. Erv said that even though CMARC's Board approved the move, it still needed to be brought before CMARC's membership and then to LCDRA's in December.

Erv said that once CMARC's new Board gets situated in January, several committees (such as: security, food, tickets, etc.) should be formed, with 2 or 3 people per committee, to start planning for the Oct. 10th, 1999 Ham Fair. Erv told the Board that Hal/WA8LAY had resigned as head VE and Larry Nordeen/N8VEN had volunteered to take over the responsibilities. Larry will be in contact with Mike Perez/N8OUN regarding holding the testing at the Sheriff Dept. in Mason. He is also interested in having VE testing on the odd months, and as Charlotte has theirs on the even months it would be great for the area.

Joe/N8VYS made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Don/KB8RAD and approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m.

Julie McLain/KB8ZXR-Secretary

## CMARC Meeting Nov. 6, 1998

Erv brought the meeting to order at 8:10 p.m. There were 34 members in attendance and 10 visitors. OUR VISITORS WERE: Betty Gee; Mark Austin; John LaRock/K8XD; Paul Gundersen; Kim Carpenter; Reza Beha/N8LNU; Paul/KB8YQW and his fiancée Tammy; and from the Howell ARC, Dave/W8MFR and Ray/N8CPO, .

NEW LICENSES, UPGRADES, OR VANITY CALLS: Don/KB8RAD reported that as of Oct. 14th he is an Amateur Extra. He gave God all the credit for this, as he has been in poor health for quite some time, which had frustrated his efforts to upgrade. Congratulations, Don!!

CARDS AND FLOWERS: The Secretary sent Marion Stoner/W8VWY a card for his recent hospital stay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The Red Cross is having a Simulated Emergency Test on Sat. (Nov. 7th) from 8-5p.m. They would like as many Hams as possible to help in this drill. If interested contact Joe/N8VYS.

OLD BUSINESS: The first Races meeting saw only 7 out of the 26 that signed up, in attendance. Deb Kirkbride said a minimum of 6 people are needed for the State EOC at the State Police Post. Once you have your Races certificate, make two copies and get both of them to Scott Waldron/WD8SDW. They will then be given to Mike Perez/N8OUN to be filed at the Ing. Co. Sheriff Dept. Erv said that Mike had shown very plainly (at the Races meeting) what would happen if there were a major air disaster at our Airport, and if it happened now, we do not have ample people certified to handle this kind of a situation.

The Ing. Co. Sheriff Dept. would like to have a list of the names of Races members so, if needed, they could work 3 people at a time on 8 hr. shifts. They are also working on equipping their Emergency Operations van so we can work 2 and 6 meters, 70 centimeters, and packet. They said whatever we need, we will have access to it. Again, if you signed up, please take the open book test and get certified so you can help when needed.

NEW BUSINESS: Erv read the Ham Fair report submitted by LCDRA's Treasurer, Don/WB8NUS. Don reported that even with a 30% reduction in attendance, we still made a profit of \$709.30 per club (compared to last year's profit of \$818.24 per club). Erv also told the membership about the possibility of a new location for the '99 Ham Fair (see CMARC Board and LCDRA's minutes for more details). After a discussion, Currin/W8FSZ made a

## Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report

Account Balances as of October 3, 1998

**ASSETS:**

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Mich. Nat'l Bank Checking	\$366.47
USPS Postal Deposit	<u>\$247.56</u>
TOTAL Cash & Bank Accounts	\$614.03
Other Assets	
Comerica Bank CD	<u>\$1,232.34</u>
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$1,846.37
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	
	\$0.00
TOTAL NET WORTH:	\$1,846.37

Income & Expenses: Sept 11th - Oct 3rd, 1998

**INCOME**

Coffee Fund	\$8.09
Dues	\$15.00
BSA Field Day Refund	\$25.00
Sale of Directories	\$24.50
TOTAL INCOME:	\$72.59

**EXPENSES:**

SCOPE Mailing	\$0.00
Resident Agent Fee	\$10.00
Ziegenbier Plaque	\$64.08
Rick Anthony-Flowers	\$27.71
Polack Corp.-Repairs	\$62.66
Polack Corp.-Supplies	\$205.45
Jane Keep-Food	\$14.59
Service Charge	<u>\$13.48</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$397.97
TOTAL NET INCOME	(\$325.38)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph Denomme-N8VYS, Treasurer

motion to move the Swap to the new location. It was seconded by Don/W8BQD and approved by all. Erv said that it will be brought before the LCDRA membership on Dec. 17th before a final decision is made.

Erv said that he had an extra mile award to give to Rowena/KA8OBS in Aug., but she had a stroke and shortly thereafter passed away without receiving it. In her memory, then, he has changed the name of the award to the "KA8OBS Memorial Extra Mile Award". He then presented 5 new awards which went to Don DeFeyer/KC8CY, Don Rickerd/W8BQD, Ken Faiver/W8HNI, Mary Lu Tillison, and Cary Britten/KC8JKA.

Hal Bell/WA8LAY has resigned as head VE and Larry Nordeen/N8VEN will now be in charge of VE testing (see CMARC Board minutes).

Erv discussed the inappropriateness of the obscene and vulgar language used on the frequencies lately, especially with all the women and children who are coming into the hobby.

certain set of standards. The membership, seasoned Hams as well as newer ones, all gave their support to Erv by their comments as well as a round of applause. Ellis/W8YB made a motion that we make a commitment to use clean and decent language on the frequencies, and to be kind and polite to one another as well. It was seconded by Don/KB8RAD and approved wholeheartedly by all present. Erv asked that if anyone hears this going on, to please call LCDRA's or CMARC's Pres. and they would call the violator privately. After all, we should all be communicating in a manner that doesn't offend other listeners!

**DRAWING WINNERS WERE:** Joe/N8VYS won a First Alert fire extinguisher and Ben/W8VPC won a 5-piece salad bowl set.

We took a 15 minute break and enjoyed cider, assorted donut holes, and some friendly bantering.

When the meeting resumed, Erv addressed the problem of the unintentional electronic interference on the 145.39 repeater lately,

## Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club Treasurer's Report

Account Balances as of November 6, 1998

**ASSETS:**

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Mich. Nat'l Bank Checking	\$354.83
USPS Postal Deposit	<u>\$247.56</u>
TOTAL Cash & Bank Accounts	\$602.39
Other Assets	
Comerica Bank CD	<u>\$1,232.34</u>
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$1,834.73
<b>LIABILITIES:</b>	
	\$0.00
TOTAL NET WORTH:	\$1,834.73

Income & Expenses: Oct 4th - Nov 6th, 1998

**INCOME**

Coffee Fund	\$0.00
Dues	\$0.00
Sale of Directories	\$0.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$0.00

**EXPENSES:**

SCOPE Mailing	\$0.00
Service Charge	\$11.64
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$11.64
TOTAL NET INCOME	(\$11.64)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joseph Denomme-N8VYS, Treasurer

He admitted that when he was in CB he was a "potty mouth", but once he took his Ham test and signed his CSCE (as we all did) he agreed to abide by a

which keeps timing it out. He said he fully realized CMARC was not a governing body of the repeaters, but because of the dual membership of those attending, he felt it was appropriate to bring the issue up. The situation could be easily solved by adding a PL tone on the input. Erv also told the Club that at an LCDRA meeting earlier this year, Dan/W8BCI (their Pres. at the time) brought the tone proposal up, but because many veteran Hams had older radios without tone encoding capability (and didn't want to buy new equipment), the issue had been dropped. However, Dan now has some single tone boards for about \$10 that he and others are willing to install for those needing them. Dan said we would need a new controller to implement the tone, but with the new controller would come other added benefits such as a voice synthesizer which could notify travelers of the tone as well as other informational tidbits. Erv wanted everyone to be aware of this problem because it will possibly come before a vote at the Dec. LCDRA mtg.

**NOMINATIONS OF OFFICERS:** Nominations were taken for 3 Directorships: Don/W8BQD nominated Don/KB8RAD, seconded by Bernie/N8PVZ. Don/KB8RAD nominated Bill/KB8TTS, seconded by Erv/W8ERV. Erv nominated Clint/KC8EHR, seconded by Chuck/

## CMARC Meeting Con't.

W8CLK. Pam/KB8PSF nominated Cary/KC8JKA, but he declined saying he had his hands full being the editor of the Scope.

For the Under 22 position, Cary nominated Judd/KC8IRG, seconded by Erv. Jaymes/KC8DJH nominated Samuel/KC8HGG, seconded by Bernie/N8PVZ. Pam made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Bill/KB8TTS and it was approved.

A motion to adjourn was made by Bernie/N8PVZ which was seconded by Ed/KC8DQC and approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Julie McLain/KB8ZXR-Secretary

## LCDRA Meeting Oct. 15, 1998

Pres. Clint/KC8EHR brought the meeting to order at 7:56 p.m. We were late starting because of problems getting the key. All Board members were present except Don/W8BQD, and Hal/WA8LAY (who has been having severe back problems). Intro's were made with 21 in attendance. Clint asked if there were any new licenses, upgrades, or vanity calls and Don/KB8RAD mentioned that he had upgraded to Amateur Extra on October 14th. The Sec. read the minutes from the Aug. meeting. A motion was made by Cary/KC8JKA to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Doug/N8OBZ, and then approved. Don/WB8NUS read the Treas.'s report which was seconded and approved. Don said all the figures weren't in yet, but a rough Ham Fair estimate was: 32 trunk sale spots, 405 tickets (down 160 from '97), and 49 tables sold.

From there, a lengthy Ham Fair discussion ensued. Don/WB8NUS suggested that with the \$82.52 food permit cutting into our profit, and all the work involved with getting, storing, and preparing the food on site, and then having to deal with all the leftovers, maybe we should have the food catered. Several members remarked that if we followed Don's suggestion, we wouldn't have the work of doing our own food or the cost of the food permit, but we wouldn't have any profit either. They said that in the past 4 years since we've been doing our own food, we have always made a profit (no matter how small), and when it was catered we never made a cent!

Several members suggested that we hold the Swap on Saturday instead of Sunday. They said that on Sunday they attend church, and with the Swap getting over at 1 p.m., they don't have time to attend the Swap let alone help with it. It was also mentioned that if the Swap was on Saturday, we could have the annual Club picnic on Sunday and eat any

leftover food. A question was then asked if the Dealers could attend on Saturday and Don/WB8NUS said he would check with them. The question of finding another location for the Swap was raised. Two chief complaints about the present facility are: 1. the aisles are too narrow, and 2. we've had to "clean up" after the Saturday night wedding receptions for the past 2 yrs. We will have to do this again in '99 since the cleaning lady doesn't come in until 8 a.m. or later and we set up at 5 a.m. It was also mentioned that in '99 the rent on the Community Bldg. will be going up from \$400 to \$450, and our liability insurance will go up at least \$25.

With these complaints in mind and other locations already looked into and dismissed, CMARC's Pres. Erv/W8ERV contacted the Alaiedon Elementary School on Okemos Rd. They were very open to our inquiry and would like us to come in for a visit. They have a gym (43' x 60'), 2 halls, a separate room for VE testing or DX Forum, a stage, free P/A system, some tables w/benches, a janitor, and a cook. There is easy access to the gym for the dealers, along with plenty of electrical outlets. We can tape on the walls, and with the floors being vinyl they can't be easily damaged. There is also plenty of space for parking and trunk sales. Another big plus is that we wouldn't have to purchase liability insurance or a food permit, and a down payment is not required either! Bil/W8EB suggested we give them something for a down payment anyway, just to make sure that "if" something else comes up, we have first priority.

Other suggestions for a better Ham Fair were: to promote it as a "Ham and Computer Fair"; do more advertising (Shopping Guide, TV, Radio, etc., and announce it via the 146.70 repeater); print flyers earlier in the year and hand them out at other Swaps; send area clubs a flyer with two complimentary admission tickets; and have a planning committee that would start working on the Swap as soon as February.

Dan/W8BCI reported that a controller is needed for the Micor receiver so it can be used to remotely control the 145.39. Dan/N8VKV made a motion that we give Dan/W8BCI authorization to do whatever it takes and costs (up to \$500) to get the Micor remote control receiver up and running. It was seconded by Bil/W8EB and approved.

Dan/W8BCI said a tentative date of Oct. 31st has been set for doing some preparatory work for the Link on WILX's TV-10 tower in Onondaga. He also said that Abe/W8HVG will be down with his group and they will be helping to put up an antenna and run feedline. When completed (weeks or months from

now), the Link will be on Jackson's old frequency of 145.47 and its maintenance will be the responsibility of LCDRA. At that time, the 146.94 repeater will revert back to local use.

Don/KB8RAD reminded the members that the proposal Jeff/KB8SXX made (earlier this year) to move the Link to the TV-10 tower, stated that the move be made only if the coverage at the new location would be just as good as at the old one. Dan/W8BCI said that Abe had some concerns also (about HT coverage in Lansing), as the antenna in Onondaga is on the SE corner of the tower. Dan reassured us that, if necessary, a remote receiver could be installed at our Ingham Medical site so that everyone could access the Link just as well as they do now.

John/AA8LF inquired as to whether the 145.39 repeater had battery backup in the event that we had a power outage. After a brief discussion, John made a motion that we do whatever it takes to make sure we do have battery backup. The motion was seconded by Don/N8XME and approved.

Clint reported on his investigation into 911 access for the 146.70 auto patch. His findings were discussed and a suggestion was made that we make an appointment with Sgt. Bauer, the 911 Director, so we could meet with him, present our concerns, and familiarize him with Amateur Radio. Clint also said he will contact the Jackson, Chicago, Detroit, and Grand Rapids A.R.C.'s about their 911 capabilities and report back to us at the next meeting.

In anticipation of the possible future capability of 911 access, a motion was made by Don/N8XME to set the timeout timer for 10 minutes. This way, 911 calls would not be timed out if the dispatcher put the caller on hold. Bob/N8TNT seconded the motion and it was approved. Dennis/KB8ZQZ said that when we get 911, he will adjust the timer and set the controller to announce that 911 calls can now be made on the patch. In the mean time, he will check into the reason why the announcement on the 146.70 blanks out the signal of those transmitting when it comes on.

Bil/W8EB spoke to the group about the intentional antenna damage done at his QTH on three separate occasions this year. He informed the members of the details of the incidents, and how they could help the Police with their investigation. Bil thanked everyone for any and all help they could provide. If you have any information, please contact Sgt. Jon Wilson at the Shiawassee Co. Sheriff Dept. at (517) 743-3411, ext. 2231. Their fax # is (517) 743-6423. Refer to case #7033-98. (For further details see the CMARC meeting min-

## LCDRA Meeting Con't.

utes in the Oct./Nov. Scope.)

Clint thanked Jim/KA8DDQ for getting the 145.39 up and running again (one night, a week ago) on his way into work. Jim said mice had built a nest in the repeater and chewed through several wires. There was so much damage he just switched machines and took the "nest-packed" one with him, to be worked on later in the warmth and comfort of his home.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Dan/W8BCI said that if the current Board had no objections, he would make a motion to keep them all on for another year. Don/WB8NUS strongly declined as he has been doing it for years and would like a rest. Don said he had talked with Hal/WA8LAY who said he would stay on for another year as a Director. Clint/KC8EHR, Julie/KB8ZXR and Don/KB8RAD said that since no one volunteered to fill their positions, they would stay on for another term. Since Don/W8BQD was not there to give us his answer, Don/N8XME said he would be willing to take the V. Pres. position if it was eventually found that W8BQD declined. Since no final decisions could be made without further information or volunteers, Bil/W8EB made a motion to keep the current officers, by acclamation, for another term and to make any other adjustments at the Dec. meeting. It was seconded by Dennis/KB8ZQZ and approved.

50/50 WINNER: Doug/N8OBZ won the drawing of \$10.

Clint made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Bil and approved. The meeting adjourned at 9:55p.m.

Julie McLain/KB8ZXR-Secretary

# Classifieds & Special Announcements

## There are no more...

test sessions scheduled for 1998 in Corunna.

Tests in Corunna will start up again in January 1999, on the fourth Thursday of most months, at 7:00 PM. Tentative test dates are: 1/28; 2/25; 3/25; 4/22; 5/27; 6/24; 8/26; 9/23; 10/28; and 12/23. No tests will be given in July (VE's on vacation) or November (Thanksgiving Day). Test fee for 1999 is increased to \$6.45. Walk-ins are welcome, no pre-registration is needed, unless the candidate requires special test accommodations. If the candidate is hearing or sight impaired and will require special test procedures they should contact me as far in advance as possible so we can work out the details beforehand.

We ask that all applicants bring the following items with them:

- 1) Some form of I.D., usually a driver's license.
- 2) The original and a COPY of their current license, if any. We don't always have access to the copy room at the Red Cross.
- 3) The original and a COPY of any CSCE's that we need to give the applicant credit for in order for them to upgrade. Example: if the applicant has passed their General written exam at a previous session and passes the 13 WPM code at our session, we need the original and a copy of the CSCE for the General written exam in order for them to be able to get their new General license.
- 4) Exact change for the license fee, if possible, or at least no large bills. Personal checks are always welcome, and in fact, preferred.

Also, we ask that they arrive early enough to complete their paperwork and get checked in before the 7:00 start time. A half hour is plenty of time, but I'm usually there around 6:00 or so to open the doors. If anyone has any questions, or needs directions they can contact me via e-mail or by phone at (517) 743-6176. .

Mark AA8TC

"A ham and his quad - it's a beautiful thing."

## CMARC's New VE Coordinator

Larry Nordeen-N8VEN

Testing will begin January '99 at the Mason Sheriff's Office.

More details to be announced later.

Contact person is Joe Denomme-N8VYS ph.: (517) 589-5263

eMail: n8vys@compuserve.com

## DECEMBER LCDRA MEETING

The next bimonthly meeting of the Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association will be held on Thursday, December 17th at 7:30 p.m. We will be meeting at the usual place which is the Meridian Charter Township Service Center at 2100 Gaylord C. Smith Court in Okemos. For further directions monitor the 145.39 on the night of the meeting. We will be electing new officers. See you there!

# Classifieds & Special Announcements

## For Sale

### 2 Meter Stuff:

Kenwood TR7730 2m Base	\$115.
Hustler Collinear 2m 171/2' Vert. Antenna #G7-14L w/ Tower Offset w/ Cable	\$95.
2m Magnet Mount Antenna w/ Cable	\$10.
Astron Power Supply (13amps)	\$45.
Will Sell 2m Stuff Above As A Package For Only	\$265.

### HF Stuff:

Kenwood TS830S	\$485.
Kenwood MC50 Deskmike	\$60.
CW Key	\$5.
Leader In-Line SWR/Wattmeter Model #LPM885	\$100.
Heath Cantenna - Dummy Load Antenna	\$40.
William Nye Low Pass Filter	\$40.
B&W Coaxial Selector Switch Model #376	\$40.
Cushcraft R5 Antenna (14m on Up) Needs Some Repair w/ Cable	\$90.
Will Sell HF Stuff Above As A Package For Only	\$825.

Antennas are on the ground and include cables. Have manuals for all equipment and some boxes.

Call Glenn Sommerfeldt-KG8LE

Ph.: (517) 484-0997 or Email: ham8gs@pilot.msu.edu

## Exam Dates

**21-Nov-1998** Sponsor: W5YI-Vec Time: Call For Time And Walk-In Info Contact: Richard H Mc Guire (517) 782-1430 Vec: W5YI Vec Location: Call For Site Location & Time Jackson, MI 49204

**19-Dec-1998** Sponsor: W5YI-Vec Time: Call For Time And Walk-In Infocontact: Richard H Mc Guire (517) 782-1430 Vec: W5YI Vec Location: Call For Site Location & Time Jackson, MI 49204

**16-Jan-1999** Sponsor: W5YI-Vec Time: Call For Time And Walk-In Info Contact: Richard H Mc Guire (517) 782-1430 Vec: W5YI Vec Location: Call For Site Location & Time Jackson, MI 49204

**28-Jan-1999** Sponsor: Shiawassee Ara Time: 7:00 Pm (Walk-Ins Allowed) Contact: Mark A Mowery (517) 743-6176 Vec: Arrl/Vec Location: American Red Cross 702 W Corunna Ave Corunna, MI 48817

**20-Feb-1999** Sponsor: W5YI-Vec Time: Call For Time And Walk-In Info Contact: Richard H Mc Guire (517) 782-1430 Vec: W5YI Vec Location: Call For Site Location & Time Jackson, MI 49204

**25-Feb-1999** Sponsor: Shiawassee Aratime: 7:00 Pm (Walk-Ins Allowed) Contact: Mark A Mowery (517) 743-6176 Vec: Arrl/Vec Location: American Red Cross 702 W Corunna Ave Corunna, MI 48817

## December

### Birthday & Anniversaries

Dec. 9 - John Schafer/N8ZMT's 38th Bday!

Dec. 30 - Bob Benko/N8TNT's 31st Bday!

Dec. 30 - Bill Russell/WA8RZJ's 62nd Bday!

## X-MAS SWEETS

It has been suggested that it would be nice if members attending the Dec 4th. meeting would bring a Sweet to share for the Christmas Party. Please make it simple; cookies, brownies, Rice-Krispy treats what ever you would like to bring. Punch will also be provided in addition to coffee. I'm sure that it will be appreciated (if not devoured) at the party.

## 1998 Directory Corrections

Bob Craft should be N8ZCX instead of K8ZCX.

## Upcoming Schedule of Events

**ARRL 1998 Sweepstakes**, Phone Nov 21, 2100 UTC to Nov 23, 0300 UTC (Sat, Nov 21, 4pm to Sun, Nov 23, 10pm) Exchange QSO info with as many US & Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 & 10 meters. See QST, Oct 1998 Page 118 for Rules.

**CQ WW DX Contest**, CW Nov 28, 0000Z to Nov 29, 2400Z (Fri, Nov 27, 7pm to Sun, Nov 29, 7pm) Exchange QSO info with other amateurs in as many zones and countries as possible. See CQ, Sept. 1998, Pages 92 & 93 for Rules.

**CMARC Meeting**, Fri, Dec 4, 1998 at 8pm - 'Erv'-W8ERV Wears A Tutu, Board Elections and Christmas Party. American Red Cross Building, 2nd Floor Grand River Ave., Lansing, MI

**539 Breakfast** Sat, Dec 5, 1998 at 7:00am

**1998 ARRL Int'l EME Contest**, Dec 5, 0000Z to Dec 6, 2400Z (Fri, Dec 4, 7pm to Sun, Dec 6, 7pm) Two-way communications via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized frequency above 50 MHz See QST, Sept. 1998, Page 102 for Rules

**1998 ARRL 10-Meter Contest**, Dec 12 & 13, 1998

# The Day the Sprinklers Sent CQ

by Steve Altig, N7IF, Baltigs@aol.com  
What an afternoon. Sending CQ with the sprinklers doesn't get a ham very far. It only gets strange looks from the neighbors, and the occasional curious earthworm. But, you need a little background. After discussion with my wife, with retirement just a few years away, and a pending move to the country we reached the conclusion that it would be a good idea for me to rejoin the ranks of Amateur Radio Operators. I had held a General class license (WA6ISW) back in the '60s, but it had expired while I was in the Army, and then family and career became time priorities.

So, I bought a copy of Ham University(c) and began to study the code and technical elements, hoping to get my Novice license and later upgrade to General. The more I studied, the more I began to think I would try to take all the elements qualifying me for a General instead of working up to it.

The big day, March 1, 1997, arrived. There was a big crowd taking various Amateur Radio tests on this day, my day. An entire Scout troop, a group from a school, and an assortment of others, of which I was one.

"We are going to begin with the code tests, and after they begin, no one can leave the room." said the Volunteer Examiner in charge. "Who is taking the 20 wpm test?", she asked. The fellow in the seat next to me raised his hand. After some more instruction, the test began. I listened to the 20 wpm code test, copied about 1/

3, and began to worry. When the 13 wpm test began I breathed a sigh of relief when words flowed from my pencil to the paper.

"Anyone want to go for one minute of solid copy," asked the Volunteer Examiner. I raised my hand. He took my paper and began to go over it in detail. "Looks good," he said and gave my paper to the other VE s at the table. "One minute solid copy," he said. They looked up at me and looked back at the paper. After a few minutes they were also nodding and saying things to each other like, "Start here" and "Looks good" and "No problem." Then they looked at me and said, "You passed." What a relief. Element 1b passed. Now on to the technical elements.

Element 2. PASSED. Element 3A. PASSED. Element 3B. Waiting and sweating. PASSED. What a feeling. Walking out with my CSCE showing completion of all required elements for a brand new General class license felt great. Now to get equipment, antennas, and all of the other necessary "stuff" to get back on the air. My license came from the FCC a few days later and I was now KC7UXA.

How things have changed! It's a long way from a Heathkit DX-40 to a modern solid state transceiver. Scary stuff! My biggest problem though was how to deal with the homeowners association restrictions on antennas. I convinced myself that a random wire antenna, nailed to the eaves of my house was the way to go.

Everything was connected. Power supply, transceiver, antenna tuner and key all ready to go. I was ready. Power on, tune the antenna and try an 80 meter CQ. Out to my shack comes my wife. "There is something wrong with the plumbing," she cries. "Come quick. The pipes are banging and crashing"

I went into the house and listened but heard nothing. She insisted they had been making horrible noises. I stood in the doorway of the house and had her key down a few times and she was right, as usual. Sounded like someone was pounding on the pipes. This was disaster. All my work and study, not to mention money, and now this.

After some thinking and discussion with other hams, it turns out the RF from the transceiver was activating the solenoids in the sprinkler system for our yard. I asked my wife to go watch the sprinklers while I transmitted. What a sight for the neighbors to see water spurting out of the sprinklers to the rhythm of "CQ CQ CQ." In the end it all worked out and now I am back on the air and have worked 13 states in the weeks since everything came together. Oh yes, I do get the occasional "hi hi" when I tell other hams that my antenna is a random wire nailed to the eaves of my house 12 feet off the ground. But the best part is IT WORKS..

P.S. Since this story was originally written in April, 1997, the writer has upgraded to Extra and is now AB7VZ, and now has new vanity call N7IF.

*From Ham Radio On Line*

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## FCC Enacts Internet Morse Code Requirement

Note for the humor impaired: this is satire. Please do not read this if you are not properly trained and certified in satire.

The FCC, under pressure to clean up the Internet, especially after the Communications Decency Act provisions regarding Internet content regulation were stricken as violating the U.S. Constitution, has decided instead to require a Morse code requirement for Internet users. Citing the success of the Amateur Radio Service and the general belief that its requirement for operators to pass a Morse code proficiency exam and other technical requirements, has kept the A.R.S. "clean", the FCC will enact a 5 word-per-minute requirement for all Internet users. They are leaving open the issue of whether there should be a "codeless" class of Internet user and are soliciting comments on this proposal.

Persons wishing to develop a web site having only links to other web sites having links to other web sites, and so forth, must pass a 13 word-per-minute test and demonstrate proficiency in HTML, the Internet authoring language.

Persons wish to develop web sites that have actual content, as compared to just links to other web sites, must pass a 20 word-per-minute Morse proficiency test, demonstrate proficiency in HTML and the Java programming language, and show that they have mastery of at least one human language, such as English.

The FCC, which lacks budgetary authority to implement the testing program, has stated that it intends to create Volunteer Examiner programs for Internet applicants. *From Ham Radio On Line*

# “A Ham’s Night Before Christmas”

(Yet another corruption of Clement Clarke Moore’s classic Christmas tale, this time distorted by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, and the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Raleigh, NC, December 2, 1996.)

Twas the night before Christmas,  
And all through two-meters,  
Not a signal was keying up  
Any repeaters.

The antennas reached up  
From the tower, quite high,  
To catch the weak signals  
That bounced from the sky.

The children, Tech-Pluses,  
Took their HT’s to bed,  
And dreamed of the day  
They’d be Extras, instead.

Mom put on her headphones,  
I plugged in the key,  
And we tuned 40 meters  
For that rare ZK3.

When the meter was pegged  
by a signal with power.  
It smoked a small diode,  
and, I swear, shook the tower.

Mom yanked off her phones,  
And with all she could muster  
Logged a spot of the signal  
On the DX PacketCluster,

While I ran to the window  
And peered up at the sky,  
To see what could generate  
RF that high.

It was way in the distance,  
But the moon made it gleam -  
A flying sleigh, with an  
Eight element beam,

And a little old driver  
who looked slightly mean.  
So I thought for a moment,  
That it might be Wayne Green.

But no, it was Santa,  
The Santa of Hams.  
On a mission, this Christmas  
To clean up the bands.

He circled the tower,  
Then stopped in his track,  
And he slid down the coax  
Right into the shack.

While Mom and I hid  
Behind stacks of CQ,  
This Santa of hamming  
Knew just what to do.

He cleared off the shack desk  
Of paper and parts,  
And filled out all my late QSLs  
For a start.

He ran copper braid,  
Took a steel rod and pounded  
It into the earth, till  
The station was grounded.

He tightened loose fittings,  
Resoldered connections,  
Cranked down modulation,  
Installed lightning protection.

He neutralized tubes  
In my linear amp...  
(Never worked right before —  
Now it works like a champ).

A new, low-pass filter  
Cleaned up the TV.  
He corrected the settings  
In my TNC.

He repaired the computer  
That would not compute,  
And he backed up the hard drive  
And got it to boot.

Then, he reached really deep  
In the bag that he brought,  
And he pulled out a big box.  
“A new rig?” I thought!

“A new Kenwood? An Icom?  
A Yaesu, for me?!”  
(If he thought I’d been bad  
it might be QRP!)

Yes! The Ultimate Station!  
How could I deserve this?  
Could it be all those hours  
that I worked Public Service?

He hooked it all up  
And in record time, quickly  
Worked 100 countries,  
All down on 160.

I should have been happy,  
It was my call he sent.  
But the cards and the postage  
Will cost two month’s rent!

He made final adjustments,  
And left a card by the key:  
“To Gary, from Santa Claus.  
Seventy-Three.”

Then he grabbed his HT,  
Looked me straight in the eye,  
Punched a code on the pad,  
And was gone - no good bye.

I ran back to the station,  
And the pile-up was big,  
But a card from St. Nick  
Would be worth my new rig.

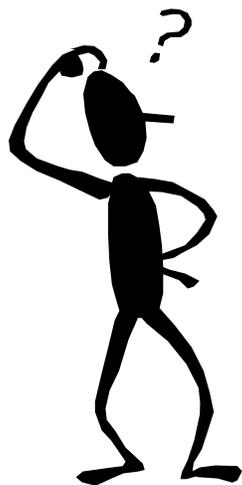
Oh, too late, for his final  
came over the air.  
It was copied all over.  
It was heard everywhere.

The Ham’s Santa exclaimed  
What a ham might expect,  
“Merry Christmas to all,  
And to all, good DX.”

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# ANTENNA WORDS

BY WA8LAY



## Word list

CIRCUIT	MATCHING
COIL	MEASUREMENTS
COUPLING	METEOR
ERECTION	MUF
FIELD	NAUTICAL
GAIN	SSITE
GUYING	STRENGTH
IMPEDANCE	STUB
LOADING	TRAILS
LOBE	WIRE
MAGNETIC	ZEPP
MAST	

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

Two hydrogen atoms were walking down the street. One said to the other, "I lost an electron." The other asked, "Are you sure?" The first answered, "I'm positive"

## CMARC Special!!!

Sale Extended for CMARC Members

Offer Good ONLY 'til Dec 5th.

Enjoy the Freedom of Portable Power...on Demand!

The Whistler 8Ah sealed, lead-acid power station is awesome. Great for use with an HT, a mobile on low power, cellular phones, TV's, or even to power a power inverter to 140 watts for other uses. It comes with a 12' #8 AWG booster cable for jumping dead car batteries...that's right! a 100 Amp boost! Tech America has extended this sale for the Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club by nearly one week, allowing us to offer these to you at a well reduced price of \$29.95, plus \$5 to cover shipping. If you want one, please bring **cash, or money order** to the December meeting of CMARC and see Erv. **He is ordering them that Saturday morning** and we should have them Monday. Thanks.



# 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.

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\* 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



"Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year  
From Your Friends At  
CMARC & LCDRA"

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club  
P.O. Box 27321  
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Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

# *THE SCOPE*

Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

Serving Our Community Since 1927

