



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club
Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association
P O BOX 27321
LANSING MI 48909

The Scope

April 2003



Increasing Your Chances for QRP Success

Inside this issue:

CMARC/LCDRA Board Member contact List	2
The Scope— An Historical Look	2
Skywarn Training	3
Ladies Night & Awards Banquet	3
Paul Harvey Gives Ham Radio a Plug	4
CMARC Board Minutes—April	5
CMARC General Meeting Minutes—April	5
CMARC Treasurer's Report—April	7
2003 Tall Ship Challenge	8
For Sale	8
CMARC Thank You	8
QSLing Tips	9
Calendar of Events	11



Many amateurs become interested in QRP operating, only to be discouraged by the lack of

QSO's when they try to get on the air. After calling CQs for a ½ hour with no answers, its even more discouraging when another QRPer calls CQ right after and gets a call back on the first try.

What is their secret to success? Well, experienced QRPers will tell you that::

1 is the antenna. A good antenna is a must. Running QRP, you will be competing with other hams running 10 to 100 times more power than you are. Every effort must be made to op-

timize antenna performance.

First rule of thumb... 'the bigger, the better.' If it didn't blow down last winter, it wasn't big enough! Your dipole may work okay, but a four element Tagi-Uda or Qualical Quad would put lots more 'umph' in your signal.

Your five watts can sound like a kilowatt when fed through a large antenna. But say you can't afford lots of aluminum or have no room?

#2 is height. Get the antenna you do have up in the air as high as possible, especially if all you have are wire antennas or dipoles. Try to get them up at least a ½ wavelength in

the air, 25 feet or higher for everything...the higher the better.

My own experiences on 40 meters showed that with a ½ dipole at 25 feet, my maximum radius communication range on one watt was about 800 to 1000 miles. When my antenna height was increased to 35 feet, my effective range jumped to about 2000 miles. A significant increase for a minimal effort.

Even a ¼ wave vertical, touted by many to 'radiate equally poorly in all directions,' may realize a significant increase in efficiency when raised from ground level to 20 (cont'd on page 4)



How Amateurs Accomplish the Impossible During Disasters

Michigan Ham Fests for May

May 3—Wexauke ARC
<http://members.fortunecity.com/wexaukee/>
Contact: Brian Polk, KC8TXT
13826 Serenity Drive
Marion, MI 49665
Phone: 231-743-6860
Email: bandb@netonecom.net

The media is full of summary reports of how amateur radio operators responding to disasters seem to overcome insurmountable obstacles and accomplish their mission of getting the message through to the destination.

Ever wondered why an

amateur radio operator has a better chance of getting through when "high technology" radio systems fail?

The answer is very simple. TEAMWORK! As a resource within the community, amateur radio operators are bonded by a brotherhood (sisterhood?)

that is simple as the beginning of time...we look out for one another and extend a helping hand in times of dire need.

During a disaster, dozens of amateurs will scan the bands looking for signs of

(cont'd on page 9)

CMARC BOARD MEMBER CONTACT

"Bruce" Rainey	KC8ODP	(517) 627-9118	kc8odp@arrrl.net	President
Tom Shaver	KC8NJK	(517) 651-6694	kc8njk@arrrl.net	Vice President
Dick McGuire	KI8C	(517) 782-1430	dickki8c@juno.com	Secretary
Randy Stortz	K8VY	(517) 393-0634	rstortz386@msn.com	Treasurer
Clint Hannahs	KC8EHR	(517) 882-1799	kc8ehr@arrrl.net	Director
Gregg Mulder	WB8LZG	(517) 646-6257		Director
Kevin Mulder	KC8QZE	(517) 646-6257		Under 22 Director
John Ingraham	NG8L	(517) 484-8027	ng8l@arrrl.net	Membership Chair

LCDRA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Dan Harger	W8BCI	(517) 882-8784	w8bci@juno.com
"Bruce" Rainey	KC8ODP	(517) 627-9118	kc8odp@arrrl.net
Don Rickerd	W8BQD	(517) 339-8496	
Dennis Boone	KB8ZQZ	(517) 337-0857	drb@msu.edu
Troy Creed	W8TCC	(517) 323-6358	w8tcc@arrrl.net
Hal Bell	W8LAY	(517) 484-0962	
Scott Newfer	W8SRN	(517) 373-0786	



The SCOPE—A Historical Look



If you ever wondered how and when the SCOPE came about, I will try and put down a few facts as I remember them. These will all be

from memory as there were no written records that I am aware of.

I was a member of another club in Michigan and saw the effects a local newsletter had. I joined CMARC in 1948 as an associate member. I became a full member in 1950 after I got my ticket.

About 1952, the wife and I were talking and decided to put out a newsletter. We thought it might be of interest to the local hams. At that time, the hams in Lansing were on 29.610 on ten meters. This was a long time before 2 meter, FM, and repeaters came into being.

We would listen to the local chatter and pick up items and happenings for the newsletter. We also put in a

few announcements of local interest. It was a fun project. We did not disclose who was putting out the newsletter at the time. If my memory serves me, we called it the CMARC News.

The wife was a secretary, so we borrowed a typewriter from an office supply store that was run by another ham, Archie Burgdoff. The wife cut the stencils, and with Archie's help, we went to the Maple Grove Fire Department and used their mimeograph machine to print the paper. The mailing list consisted of local hams that we were able to get addresses for. After mailing the newsletter, we would listen to the comments on 29.610.

After ten or so issues, we decided to call it quits. That was the last newsletter we did on our own. Due to all the comments on the air, we finally came forward and told everyone who was putting out the newsletter.

The CMARC officers thought it was a good idea and asked us if we would continue doing the newsletter but with help from the club. They paid for the paper. So we became the first official editors for the newsletter. A contest

was held and the new name became the SCOPE.

The club acquired a used mimeograph machine and I started cranking out the paper. The machine was out of adjustment and would run several sheets at a time. But through trial and error, I finally got the thing to work good. We would buy ink in a large tube and squeeze it into the drum, then spread it around with a brush to get the paper to have equal coloring.

After the paper was ready, we would gather our friends together for an evening and put the paper together and address the envelopes for mailing. We served as editor for several years, then asked to be relieved of the duty. Carl Hunsaker, K8ILF, then took over as editor.

Doing the newsletter was a lot of fun as well as challenging. Both the wife and I enjoy reading the SCOPE and feel you have an excellent editor. We often pass our copy on to other hams in our area.

Currin Skutt, W8FSZ

SkyWarn Training

Sponsored by the Ingham County-Amateur
Radio Public Service Corps.

FREE ADMISSION

May 10th 2003
10:00 am-3:30 pm
Lansing Community College
Old Central Auditorium

Clint Hannahs - KC8EHR - Ingham County/
City of Lansing E.C.
(30 Minutes)

- How Does Amateur Radio fit in with Emergency Communications
- Local uses of EMWIN

Zim Zoss—Battle Creek Emergency Director
(30 Minutes)

- EMWIN and Emergency Management Communications

Break (10 Minutes)

Ernie Ustuno—National Weather Service
(45 Minutes)

- Severe Weather : Damage Assessment

Lunch (from Noon to 1:00pm)

Kaz Fujita—MSU Professor, son of Ted Fujita
(30 Minutes)

- The legend of "Mr. Tornado"

Break (15 Minutes)

Mike Heathfield—National Weather Service
(2 Hours)

- Skywarn Training

Pre-Registration is NOT required but Appreciated

If anyone has any questions, they are to contact me.

Clint Hannahs - KC8EHR
(H) 517-882-1799
(P) 517-232-2828

Ladies Night & Awards Banquet

May 3, 2003
Cash Bar - 6:30 p.m.
Dinner - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

CORAL GABLES
2838 E. Grand River
East Lansing

Handicap accessible and free parking

CHOOSE ONE ENTRÉE PER PERSON
(Price includes 6% sales tax and 17% gratuity)

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 1. Broiled Sizzler Steak | \$16.00 |
| 2. Chicken Breast w/Gravy | \$16.00 |
| 3. Baked Butter Crumb Scrod | \$16.00 |

**Reservations must be made by
April 29, 2003**

Send your reservation along with your
check to:

Randall Stortz, K8VY
CMARC
PO Box 27321
Lansing, MI 48909

Be sure to include your name, call
sign, your choice of meal along with
your spouse and any other guests.

Increasing Your Chances for QRP Success

(cont'd from page 1)

feet above ground with radials (the more radials the better!).

#3 is feed line. Rule of thumb... "use the best you can get." One of the best and lowest loss feed methods is open wire balanced feed line in the 400-600 ohm ampere, commonly referred to as "ladder line." This is the lowest loss but can be tricky when running feeders into the house to keep them away from other metal and conducting objects.

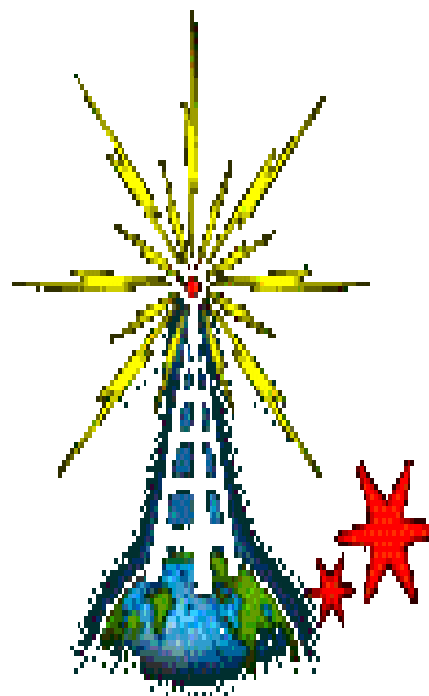
The most popular and, many times, most convenient feed is to use coax. This is where many amateurs are fooled. Use the best you can get! A large antenna array on a high tower won't sound much better than a dipole when fed with poor coax.

A station transmitter running 100 watts may be able to afford to lose a couple of watts using RG58U or 59U, but as a QRP station, you are only starting with a watt or two so you can't afford to lose any power to heating up the feed line. Yes, I know quality coax is quite pricey but it is worth every cent in DX dividends.

Following these simple rules of thumb may not be the answer to all your QRP hurdles, but it should increase your QSO totals, and make QRP operating a pleasurable experience rather than a failure.

Next month...we'll look at QRP operating habits.

73s Gregg Mulder WB8LZG



Paul Harvey Gives a Plug for Ham Radio



March 21, 2003
Radio commentator Paul Harvey plugs ham radio's emergency communications role

Veteran ABC Radio Networks commentator Paul Harvey on March 19, 2003, offered some kind words for Amateur Radio. The mention was the second item on "page four" of his *Paul Harvey Noon News and Comments* program.

"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at the ready for backup duty in emergencies—amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods,

fires, and tornadoes.

After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently, it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."

The commentary's enigmatic and mysterious final sentence—typical of Harvey's habit of leaving his listeners hanging—apparently refers to the fact that many Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and Radio Amateur Emergency Service (RACES) teams have ramped up their alert status as hostilities get un-

der way in the Middle East.

Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club
Eau Claire, Wisconsin
April 2003 Newsletter

Make a Seed Sprinkler

If you need to scatter grass seed in small areas, you can make your own seed sprinkler from a coffee can. Poke holes in the lid large enough for the seeds to fall through, and sprinkle wherever you have a bald spot on your lawn. Keep an extra lid without holes on the bottom, and when you're through, just switch lids to make a handy storage container for your seed.

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club **Minutes of the Board (April 4, 2003)**

The meeting was brought to order by club vice president Tom Shaver (KC8NJK) at 7:07 p.m.

The following board members were present for the meeting:

Tom Shaver (KC8NJK)

Vice President

Randy Stortz (K8VY)

Treasurer

Dick McGuire (K18C)

Secretary

Gregg Mulder (WB8LZG)

Director

Clint Hannahs (KC8EHR)

Director

Tom read minutes from the last (March) board meeting.

The following items were discussed at tonight's board meeting:

- A CD for Amateur Radio Today. We received it in the mail, but none of the board members see, to know why. Gregg Mulder will check out the CD and report back.
- There have been no reported marriages, births, or anniversaries.
- The only known death was the mother of Laurence Nordeen (N8VEN). Dick McGuire has sent a card.
- There are no known upgrades.
- CMARC received a notice of the Cadillac Swap. That, and other notices, are on a table in the meeting room.
- An item addressed to the CMARC President will be given to Bruce Rainey (KC8ODP) by Randy Stortz.
- We received a copy of Marilyn Humphreys' QSL card. Another

copy was already on the table.



- We are receiving donation requests from various charities. The board will make the causes known to members, but CMARC cannot afford to make a donation.
- Budget items were discussed at the last board meeting and are published in The Scope.
- Gregg Mulder will secure last year's location for Ham Fair before we lose the chance.
- The Humphreys Fund has \$435 from 13 people. Randy Stortz has a list available. We are still determining a use for the fund but have a number of considerations.
- The bulk mailing permit, formerly used for mailing The Scope, requires 200 items to be feasible. Because of e-mailing, CMARC has not renewed the permit; we have up to six months to reconsider.
- Tom Shaver cannot be in charge of Ham Fair. We will ask the general membership for a replacement. There appears to be a negative attitude among vendors concerning Ham Fair.
- Tom Shaver read a list of programs for future meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

CMARC **General Meeting Minutes** **April 4, 2003**

Tom Shaver began by announcing programs for future meetings. Because of the need to cancel the May 2 meeting, the program for that night has been rescheduled for August. Tom then announced that the program for tonight's meeting - Mike Perez (N8OUN) would come before the business meeting, to accommodate Mike's schedule. Mike is Emergency Manager for Ingham County.

The business meeting was brought to order by club vice president Tom Shaver (KC8NJK) at 8:17 p.m.

Members

21 members were present at the meeting.

Visitors

3 visitors were present.

New Members

Evelyn Sitterson, new Scope Editor, wife of Doug Sitterson (KC8UUF) and future ham.

Upgrades and New Licenses

None

Old Business

The minutes for the previous meeting were approved as published in The Scope. Moved by Mike Rhew (KC8DBP) and seconded by Kurt Niemeyer (KC8QYV).

The treasurer's report was approved as published in The Scope. Moved by Kurt Niemeyer (KC8QYV) and seconded by Mike Rhew (KC8DBP).

John Ingraham (NG8L, Membership Chairman) announced that CMARC has 196 members, of whom 103 are paid, including 25 life members. Four life members were present at tonight's meeting.

(cont'd on page 6)

Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club General Meeting Minutes (April 4, 2003)

(cont'd from page 5)

Tom Shaver (KC8NJK) has had to resign as Hamfair Chairman.



Tom is concerned about the lack of positive response from potential vendors. Don Tillitson (WB8NUS) commented that some vendors will just not commit in advance. The presence of the Kalamazoo Ham-fest on the same weekend should be convenient for vendors who will already be in the area.

Ladies' Night is May 3. A flyer has been distributed.

Per Clint Hannahs (KC8EHR) and members present, we will use CT

LOG at Field Day. The software is available free of charge, as are laptops. Scott Tichner (W8ATT) will chair one of the hf stations and transport the generator owned by Mike Rhew.

Per Doug Sitterson (KC8UUF) all three web sites are up and running.

Evelyn Sitterson repeated her request for Scope articles. They don't have to be on amateur radio.

Dick McGuire reported that he had sent a card to Laurence Nordeen (N8VEN) for loss of mother. Don Tillitson (WB8NUS) announced the death of Ken Faiver's (W8HNI) mother-in-law. Dick will send a card from CMARC.

Don Tillitson (WB8NUS) reported on safety vests. According to a vendor, the national color for amateur radio will be lime green. Before ordering any vests, we will view actual samples when delivered to other groups in the area.

New Business

Tom Shaver reported that CMARC receives donation requests through the mail from various charities. Consensus was that the club cannot afford to make donations unless specifically approved. Moved, seconded, and approved.

The club has a QSL card from Marilyn Humphreys. We will photograph it for display on the web page and use it as a symbol for the Humphreys Fund.

Clint Hannah (KC8EHR) announced that tomorrow's Skywarn program has been cancelled because of the expected ice storm. The program will be rescheduled.

Announcements

1. Per Don Tillitson (WB8NUS) the Mothers' Walk for March of Dimes will be Saturday, April 26. Meet at Oldsmobile Park at 8:00 am.
2. The MS Walk will be Sunday, May 4. Meet at East Lansing High School at 7:30 a.m.
3. The MS 150 Bike-a-thon will be July 12 and 13.
4. Women on Wheels will be July 19, starting at Mason High School.
5. Per Tom Shaver, the State Homeland Security Conference will be April 30 - May 2 in Gaylord.
6. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) is coming to our area soon.



7. Directories are still available at \$2 each.
8. CMARC receives \$15 for each new ARRL member who joins through CMARC.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 9 p.m., with vigor precipitated by the precipitation.

Did You Know?

William P. Lear is most often associated with corporate jet airplanes. But earlier, he made his mark in car radios. And he launched the Motorola Company in the 1960s with the invention of the eight-track tape player.

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

TREASURER'S REPORT

April 24, 2003

Account Balances
As of April 24, 2003

ASSETS:

Cash & Bank Accounts

Mich Nat'l Bank Checking	\$ 1089.12
Mark & Marilyn Humphreys' Fund	\$ 445.00
TOTAL Cash & Bank Accounts	\$1,534.12

Other Assets:

Comerica Bank	
\$1,000.00 CD	\$1, 515.22
Interest due CMARC	\$ 2.55
CD Total worth to date	\$ 1,517.77

Mark & Marilyn Humphreys' Fund	\$ 445.00
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$ 1,962.77

LIABILITIES:	\$0.00
TOTAL NET WORTH	\$ 3,051.89

Income & Expenses
March 24 to April 24, 2003

INCOME:

Dues	\$ 80.00
Directory sales	\$ 2.00
Ladies Night Reservations made thru 4/24	\$ 48.00
TOTAL INCOME:	\$130.00

EXPENSES:

Ziegenbein Plaque for Ladies Night	\$ 49.95
Scope Printing, half payment	\$ 22.16
Service Charges, Bank Checking	\$ 10.00
Stamps	\$ 5.55
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 87.66

Temporary NET GAIN (Ladies Night):	\$ 42.34
------------------------------------	----------

TOTAL NET GAIN/LOSS:	\$ -5.66
----------------------	----------

Respectfully Submitted by:

Randall Stortz, K8VY
Treasurer

QSL'ing Tips

What is QSL'ing anyway ?

QSL'ing , is sending and receiving "QSL" cards via the mail service. A QSL card is a type of postcard that many hams exchange with other hams they have contacted via "ham" radio and engaged in a two way conversation.

It is one of the fun activities which hams enjoy. I hope that the information which I provide, will be of some benefit to those new comers to the amateur radio hobby. In the 15 years which I have been an active ham, I have sent and received many "QSL" cards.

At one time I posted them on my wall in the "ham shack," but as I accumulated several hundred of them, I ran out of space on my walls ! So now most of them are filed in shoe boxes waiting to see the light of day in a bigger room.

What is the purpose of QSL'ing ?

There are several reasons why hams send and receive QSL cards. One reason is for confirmation that the contact actually took place. Many awards are issued to hams who demonstrate that they have contacted certain places, different states, countries, zones, counties etc.

These awards are only issued with the presentation of the QSL cards, although some awards are issued using the "honor system." The other reason that I can think of is just pure enjoyment! It is nice to contact someone and then a few days or weeks later, receive their card in the mail, usually with a nice comment or two added.

How do hams know each others address ?

All hams are issued a call sign from the Federal Communications Com-

mission (FCC), the communications licensing body of the U.S. government. All countries have a licensing agency.

When one receives a license, that person's name and address become public record. So there are companies which publish books that list names and address' by call sign.

There are also search engines here on the WWW . One only has to know the person's call sign to obtain their address, assuming it is current. If someone is new or recently has had a call sign change, they can either give their address over the air or send the card first, with their return address.

Isn't it expensive ?

It can get expensive, especially if you make lots of contacts and everyone wants your card! Luckily, not everyone sends out cards, and not everyone wants your card. There are ways to cut down on the expense of sending cards.

One way is to belong to a QSL bureau service, called a "Buro." These services accept your outgoing cards (pre-sorted by call sign), they will then ship them off to their destination for a modest fee. The "ARRL" offers this service to its members, it is however an "outgoing DX" service only. Meaning you can only send out "DX" cards, not stateside cards, using their service.

You can send cards by the pound if you like. Sending cards "via the Buro" takes longer than direct mail, due to the handling and also the time involved in accumulating the right amount of cards to make the service worthwhile. It costs about the same to (cont'd on page 8)

2003 Tall Ships Challenge

Captain Dan Arsenault, KG8KG, and Captain Mark Mowery, AA8TC, will operate special event station W8A from aboard the tall ship Appledore IV from August 17, 2003 through August 31, 2003.

A certificate will be available via AA8TC with a 9 X 12 SASE. See August QST. Listen for W8A on 7270, 14270, 21370, and 28370. CW operation possible, frequencies most likely in the Novice and Technician subbands. Operation of W8A will be as duties permit.

Appledore IV, based in Bay City, MI, is an 85 foot, 72 ton topsail schooner. Along with dozens of other tall ships from all over the world, she will be visiting U.S. and Canadian ports on the Great Lakes as part of the 2003 Tall Ships Challenge.

Information on the Schooner Appledore IV: <http://www.baysailbaycity.org/index.htm>

Information on the 2003 Tall Ships Challenge: July 9-13, 2003 Huntington Cleveland Harborfest <http://www.clevelandharborfest.com/home/default.htm>

July 16-20, 2003 Huntington Tall Ships® Toledo <http://www.tallshiptoledo.com/>

July 30-Aug.4, 2003 Tall Ships® Chicago <http://www.cityofchicago.org/SpecialEvents/Festivals.html>

Aug. 8-10, 2003 Tall Ships Challenge® Muskegon <http://www.sailmuskegon.com/>

Aug. 14-17, 2003 Tall Ship® Celebration: Bay City <http://www.tallshipcelebration.com>

Aug. 21-24, 2003 Tall Ships® Sarnia <http://www.tallshipssarnia.com/>

Hope to hear you on the bands.

73, Mark AA8TC

Contributed by Michael Rhew, KC8DBP

Thank you

The Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club would like to thank the following persons/businesses for their contributions to the Mark and Marilyn Humphrey's Fund:

Melvin and Berle Reiter, East Lansing

Edward K & Betty M Fitzgerald, Lansing

Bernard F. Gaffney, Jr., Lansing

Ronald L. Travis, Lansing

Geraldine Ferguson, Lansing

Cecelia J. Kramer, Okemos

J. Wesley & Winifred Olds, Okemos

Church, Kritselis & Wyble, Lansing

Robert H. & Gloria M. Markley, Whitehall

Bruce G. Rainey, Grand Ledge

Kenneth Rousseau, Grand Ledge

For Sale

Uniden Bearcat Base Station, recently overhauled. Internal antenna with outside antenna capability. 20 channel. AC/DC with cords. \$90.00. Contact Richard Cole—517-627-1992 after 9:30 p.m.

Kenwood 530S Transceiver. 162 through 10 meters. Good condition. Contact Dick Stortz, K8JNZ, 517-323-4598.

QSL'ing Tips

(cont'd from page 6)

send one card or one pound of cards! There are other services which are called "incoming" QSL Buro's.

How do the different "Buro's" work ?

For the "ARRL" outgoing QSL service, you will need to be a member of that organization. You will need to contact them for the current forms and information. It works something like this.

First you make the contact with the other ham with which you would like to exchange cards. Fill out the card with the station's call sign, if you are active and make lots of "DX" contacts, it won't take too long to accumulate the right amount of cards to ship.

Package them up and ship them off to the service. Include payment and any type of forms that are necessary. That's all there is to it, the cards will be on their way!

What about receiving cards ?

To receive cards from an "incoming" Buro, you need to find out who is providing this service in your call area. Usually, a ham club of some sort is volunteering time and energy to this effort. There are different clubs in all call area's. If your call sign has the number "7" in it, for example, you will need to use the 7th call area incoming QSL service.

This service is generally free of charge, you need only have provided the club with self addressed stamped envelopes (S.A.S.E's). They must always have S.A.S.E.'s on file from you to send your cards. Some clubs allow you to purchase envelopes and postage from them. Again, you will need to keep current on your funds to receive cards.

You can specify the desired amount of cards you wish to receive per each S.A.S.E. For example, an S.A.S.E with one unit of first class postage, will get you about 7 or 8 cards. If you wish to receive more, you will need to increase the postage on your envelopes. It's that simple! Include a thank you note from time to time, these folks do a great job and would appreciate hearing about it once in awhile!

What if I move out of my call area ?

When you move out of your call area, and are not going to change your call sign, you will still need to stay with the club who services your old call area. Example, you have a "7" area call sign and you move into the "6" area call district. You still will receive cards from your seventh call area bureau. Only when you make a call sign change to the new call area do you need to change bureau's.

Now for the tips!

Not every card you send out will produce a return, that is just the way it is. Some hams just don't QSL for one reason or another. And cards do occasionally get lost in the mail, or lost amongst the clutter of one's operating desk.

Hopefully, I can offer some tips to better your rate of return. Here are a few things which I have done over the years, with pretty good results. I will list them and then explain what each means.

- Choose a well designed card
- Provide an S.A.S.E if going direct, or
- Provide an IRC if going direct
- Make sure all the information on the card is correct
- ALWAYS use GMT, coordi-

nated universal time, for both time and date

Choosing a well designed card.

I can't stress this enough, everyone likes to receive a distinct card. The ones which are designed by the individual are the best, in my opinion. Don't skimp in this department, your card, like your call sign, is your trademark.

Make it interesting, maybe you live in an area which has some unique aspect about it. Or, take a picture of your "shack," your dog, your wife, your favorite car, an historical site, etc. Whatever you choose, make it professional and distinct. It will cost a little more as compared to the "generic" type cards, but well worth the added expense.

If you don't want to go this route, there are many quality card printers that specialize in printing QSL cards of high quality. Because they are set up for this kind of business, their prices are very reasonable. Check the ads in the magazines and send away for the free samples which are offered. Look for quality semi-glossy stock, and choose a design that best fits your operating practices.

S.A.S.E.'s

When sending a card to a DX station QSL manager, ALWAYS provide the manager with a self addressed stamped envelope with the correct amount of return postage! QSL managers are providing a valuable service to their fellow hams, many times using their own funds to help provide cards to the stations wishing to receive them!

Don't make it harder on them than it already is, send an S.A.S.E !!!
(cont'd on page 11)

How Amateurs Accomplish the Impossible During Disasters

(cont'd from page 1)

a signal from the handful of hams trapped at the affected scene. When such a signal is found, every resource from outside the affected area will be brought to bear on the signal to establish reliable contact. High-powered amplifiers, directional antennas, sensitive receivers and cross-band radios are just a few of the techniques that hams use to establish and build that reliable contact, conserving precious emergency power for the hams stuck at the disaster scene.

All of this outside teamwork can be thwarted if you and your station is less than par. Good communications is as strong as the weakest link and as the one operating under less than ideal conditions, it is possible that you may wind up as the vital station holding the weakest link. Taking time to stock a few provisions and building up some operator skills will go a long way in performing your end of an "impossible miracle".

1) Make sure you have spare antennas, coax and connector adapters to build or rebuild your station. Even something as inexpensive and unexciting as a j-pole made from 300 ohm TV feeder ladder line will blow away the lame duck performance from any rubber ducky antenna. A ribbon J-pole rolls up nicely into a sandwich bag to put in your backpack, yet can be taped up against a glass window for maximum VHF or UHF performance.

2) Take the time to arrange for emergency power. Marine, wheelchair or RV batteries are favorites for powering 12 volt transceivers but are common enough to be low in cost compared to other emergency power systems.

3) Stock up on alkaline batteries. As hurricane season approaches, be stocked up on alkalines, especially AA

and D cells. They are surprisingly cheap at the large discounters such as Sam's Club or Costco. Try to standardize the battery appliances in your home to use either of these two types to get the most for your money.

4) Get an SWR meter or an antenna analyzer. It's hard to transmit full power into an antenna if it isn't a good match. It's best to find out and correct it before you go on the air than to risk damaging your RF finals.

Taking time to stock a few provisions and building up some operator skills will go a long way in performing your end of an "impossible miracle".

5) Practice your message passing and NCS skills. It's been shown time and time again that a new operator will often need about five net sessions to feel comfortable as a radio operator handling messages. There's a certain rhythm to handling messages or being an NCS. Like learning to ride a bike or play a musical instrument, it's one of these skills that can only be mastered by participation and interaction.

Take advantage of the EARC nightly net to practice running a net as an NCS. It's better to be proficient before an emergency than to pressure out and grow weary as the emer-

gency unfolds. Don't worry about sounding less than 100% when you get started. We've all got started at sometime and each one of us didn't sound polished on Day One. So don't sweat this detail. Give the Net manager a call and sign up.

6) If you've been hemming and hawing about buying a fifty watt VHF or dual-band mobile, here's a good reason. Much of the local communications work during an emergency will be done via simplex work. To be effective from the disaster scene, a mobile with fifty watts will perform much better on simplex overcoming the terrain than a walkie that puts out one to five watts. Here's the perfect excuse (er...reason) to convince your spouse that you really need to bring out the credit card. After all, you are being proactive about the safety and well-being of your family and your neighborhood, of course...

As you can see, it doesn't take much to tip the odds in your favor. Take an assessment of your situation, make a checklist and promise yourself that by the end of the month you'll have these simple things underway. With five NCS sessions under your belt and a few items tucked away you'll feel much better the next time you hear the civil defense sirens sound that you can accomplish "the impossible" rather than be struck with fear and frustration.

Don't delay. Start today!

Ron Hashiro, AH6RH - Hawaii

Emergency Amateur Radio Club (EARC) Wireless Dispatch

May 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

May Schedule of Events

May 3 Ladies Night & Award Banquet

May 3 539 Breakfast

Cuby Jack's
6527 S. Cedar, Lansing
8:00 a.m.

May 10 Skywarn Training
10:00 am

Old Central Auditorium
Lansing Comm College

Birthdays

May 22 Irving Graham
KD8PI

May 25 Ken Faiver
W8HNI

Anniversaries

May 1 Clint & Roxanna Hannahs

May 6 J. Rod Schultz

May 9 Dan Harger

May 12 Candice Knepper

May 21 John Ingraham

May 27 Mike Rhew

Reminder

**There will be no
CMARC meeting this
month**

**Ladies Night Awards
Banquet is on Saturday,
May 3**

Upcoming Events

Mark Your Calendars!!!

July 12-13

**MS Bike-a-thon
Howell to Lansing**

July 19

**Women on Wheels
Mason High School**

October 11

**Ham Fair
Lakeside Christian School
Old 78 Highway
69 and Marsh Road**

Address or Email change?

Please make corrections on this page and mail to:

John Ingraham/NG8L, Membership Chairman
2807 Greenbriar Avenue
Lansing, MI 48912

Or email changes to: NG8L@arrl.net

www.qsl.net/cmarc
80 Years of Service to Our Community!
www.qsl.net/lcdra

QSL'ing Tips

(cont'd from page 8)

If you have worked a rare DX station that doesn't have a stateside QSL manager, and you don't want to go through the "Buro," you can still provide an S.A.S.E with that country's postage. There are a couple of companies that I know of which provide the current return postage stamps. They keep up to date on the current rates, you just tell them what country you need.

Also, you may want to check with your local stamp dealer and see what their selection is on "mint" stamps from the countries you are interested in. This has worked very well for me. Sometimes the DX station is surprised that you have sent his country's stamps on a return envelope! This is one trick to get the attention of the station to send you your card! Plus, it is less expensive than I.R.C.'s.

I.R.C.'s

An I.R.C. is an "International Reply Coupon." These are available through most local post offices. Most countries will except I.R.C.'s in exchange for postage. Although, some countries require more than one coupon for their first class air mail rate.

I believe the current price per coupon is somewhere around \$1.00. As you can see, these can be a rather expensive way to go, especially when the country which you are sending them to requires more than one! I.R.C.'s do work, but sometimes it is harder on the DX station to exchange these for postage, due to location or whatever. So it is not the best way to go, and I much rather prefer the postage route.

Be careful when sending DX stations I.R.C.'s or dollars through the mail, as they tend to have a way of

"coming out" of the envelopes on their way! When addressing a DX envelope, NEVER put the station's call sign on the envelope! Some people know that call signs mean stamps, I. R.C.'s or money enclosed. Also, in some countries receiving currency (U.S. dollars) is illegal! And we certainly don't want the DX ham to go to jail and quit operating, do we ?

Correct information / GMT

Always make sure that you have provided the correct information on your card. Band, mode, time, date etc. DX hams are very busy logging and making out cards, they do not like to have to search for your contact in their logs. If you make them upset, they may not send you a card at all. And I can't blame them, if you can't get the information correct, maybe you don't deserve their card! So please, make sure you fill it out correctly. ALWAYS use GMT for the time AND date! People don't like to waste time converting your CST (or whatever time zone you are in) to their time zone!

Again, this can mean the difference between getting that rare one or not! So learn how to use it correctly, its not very difficult. GMT stands for "Greenwich Mean Time, or more commonly referred to as UTC or "Zulu" time. UTC stands for "Coordinated Universal Time". Why not "CUT" you ask ? Well, UTC is translated from the French " Universelle Tempes Coordinate' ", hence the "UTC" abbreviation (cool, no?). Why Greenwich England and not, say, New York? Good question, here's the answer.

The Prime Meridian runs approximately through Greenwich, England. Longitude is measured in degrees east or west of the Prime Meridian. Thereby making Greenwich universally recognized as the standard time zone. All this is, is a time reference by

which everyone's clock says the same hour and minute. Thereby creating a universal time based on the time in Greenwich England. It would become very difficult if everyone used their own time zone! When making contacts with DX stations on the air, you both have a reference of a common time and date zone.

Here's an example: I am in the Mountain time zone in North America. Which is seven hours behind Greenwich, England time. Let's say that it is 6:30 pm MST on 22 November 1997. UTC time will be 01:30 am on 23 November 1997 in Greenwich, England!

So when someone asks you for a schedule at 0130 UTC on 23 November 1997, it will really be 22 November 1997 at your North American shack! Confused? Don't be, just buy or build yourself a clock that displays time in a 24 hour format and you'll be fine! If you set the clock to W W V, which transmits time in UTC on 2.5, 5 and 10 Mhz, as soon as the clock reads 00:00 hours the date just changed to the next day. So write it down as the next day in your log book or on your QSL card.

Using 24 hour time also eliminates the need to use AM or PM as well. Because anything after 0000 hours is AM up until 1200 hours or noon! Everything after that is PM, so when you work someone at 1500 hours, that is three hours after noon $1200 + 3 = 1500!$

Be sure and check with your area's incoming QSL bureau to see which they prefer, S.A.S.E.'s or cash payment first before sending anything!

copyright ©1996/1997/1998/1999

Steven R. Hurst, KA7NOC

shurst@magiclink.com

<http://www.magiclink.com/web/shurst>

Remember America's Heroes



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club
Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association
P O BOX 27321
LANSING MI 48909



CMARC— Full membership: \$10 per year.
Associate membership: \$5 per year.

Please make check or money order payable to CMARC and mail to: John Ingraham/NG8L, Membership Chairman, 2807 Greenbriar Avenue, Lansing MI 48912.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ License Class: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Email SCOPE? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Wedding Anniversary: _____

As a licensed Amateur, you can sign up today as a FULL member of CMARC. You will have voting rights as well as an annual subscription to the SCOPE. As an ASSOCIATE, you have an annual subscription to the SCOPE, but no voting rights.

LCDRA— Membership: \$15 per year (January to January)
Additional family members: \$7.50 per person

Send check or money order payable to:
L.C.D.R.A., PO Box 80106, Lansing MI 48908

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ License Class: _____

ARRL Member? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Email SCOPE? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Email Address: _____

Birthday: _____

Wedding Anniversary: _____

Use of the repeater does not REQUIRE membership, but your support is GREATLY appreciated.