



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

# THE SCOPE



Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

centralmiarc.com

Serving Our Community Since 1921

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## 2008 Ziegenbein Award & Ladies' Night

### Who Takes It? It's Anybody's Guess



Presentation of the 2008 Ziegenbein Award will have to wait. Apparently, the unnamed recipient was absent from Ladies' Night festivities on Friday, May 1st, so the Award remains in the possession of last year's honoree, Roger Barnhill (AB8RX).

This is not the first time this has happened, and protocol is to wait for a time when the recipient is 'in attendance' at a CMARC function, so June 5th, the Committee will attempt to deliver the good news once again.

Ladies' Night Coordinator, Shannon Raines (who is not yet a CMARC member!) did a superb job with the assistance of Julie McLain, Jane Hosford and a couple other helpers. The entire evening was fantastic and our hat's off to all involved!

Those in attendance enjoyed a sumptuous meal of their choosing, followed by cake, or sugar free pie and then it was off to the entertainment. Tonight's selection was a winner from the first note.

Jonathon Stars, a Holt native, was contacted and agreed to perform at Ladies' Night for the sum we approved...even though he commands a much higher amount elsewhere. Well, we certainly got our money's worth and more as Jonathon crooned tunes like 'I Left My Heart in San Francisco', 'O Lord, It's Hard To Be Humble' and other goodies.

The show-stopper of his 45 minute gig, however, was an encore, requested by Julie McLain (KB8ZXR). It seems that we nearly forgot a certain Under 22 Director's upcoming birthday (Saturday, May 2nd) and she asked if Jonathon would sing 'Happy Birthday'. Of course, he was only too happy to comply and as you can see from the photo at left, Corey was a bit taken aback by the Elvis Impersonation he recieved.

See you all at the June CMARC meeting!

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May 2009

# For Your Consideration

If I had to title this month's edition of 'For Your Consideration', it would be simple enough. I would call it, 'Thank God for Volunteers'. That's funny, we're all volunteers, right? Yes we are....but when people who are not even members of our Club step up and deliver the goods, so to speak, they deserve special recognition.

I have to admit, I didn't realize Shannon Raines (YL of Chris-KC8CAJ) is not only not a licensed Amateur, she is not even a member of our little CMARC Family. Well, not officially anyway, but after Ladies' Night, we ALL ought to go out of our way to say THANK YOU to her the next time we see her.

She had the help of two veteran organizers, Julie (KB8ZXR) and Jane (KC8FSK) true enough, but she really did a nice job of seeing that it all came together. And while we're saying 'Thanks', let's also recognize Meijer in Lansing for their kind donation of \$75, which allowed each Lady in attendance to take home a beautiful African Violet and the hard working staff at Delhi Cafe, for seeing that all of us (nearly 50!) ate dinner in a timely manner.

Despite the fact our 2008 Ziegenbein winner was not in attendance, everyone had a GREAT time. Our entertainment for the evening....another volunteer....accepted considerably less than he usually does and provided us with 45 minutes of song, laughs and fun.

Volunteers help make the world a better place. But when you have volunteers streaming in from outside the organization, offering assistance, it's something more. It's like Bil Blick (W8EB) once said to me. "It's almost religious....this Amateur Radio". I am thankful for Volunteers-how about you?

Until Next Month...

*73, Erv*

*My Momma Always Said I was a Big Ham!*

# What's My Sign?

by Julie McLain KB8ZXR

I was born on February 5, 1957 in Bethesda, Maryland where my Dad was attending the Naval Academy. When he left the Academy, we moved to Lansing so we would be closer to my Grandparents who lived in Ionia. My parents have four sons and I am the second to the oldest. I graduated from Harry Hill High School in the mid-1970's and from there went on to attend LCC.

My Dad got his Ham license in the early 1960's—a time when you never knew if you had passed your exam or not until they sent the notice to you in the mail. I remember how happy he was when he got the notice that he was, indeed, a Ham! I became interested in Amateur Radio in 1969 because my Dad was having so much fun with his new Hobby that I wanted to get my license, too. I was a scanner monitor at that time, which also helped to stimulate my interest in Radio. Therefore, when I was in the 9th grade I took the CW exam and passed at 10 WPM, but didn't pass the written test. In 2005, I tested again (at the Lansing Red Cross) and was licensed on June 28th of that year. [An interesting side note: when I took my Technician exam, a couple of people you know tested with me—Corey Bulock/KD8BOQ and Tyler Leighton/KD8BOP.] I now hold an Extra License, am actively involved in SKYWARN and love to chase storms. By the way, I was 13 when I saw my first Tornado, which touched down just west of Waverly Road in Eaton County. It was interest in SKYWARN that also led my younger brother, Dan, to get his Technician license (sometime in the 1980's) and he is now N8FUF. Besides SKYWARN, I'm also active at CMARC, LCDRA, and the Lansing/Ingham Amateur Radio Public Service Corp.

My station equipment includes a Kenwood TS-530S HF radio (which was given to me by a Ham who had let his license lapse), a Kenwood TM-231A as a 2-meter base station, a Kenwood TM-271A mobile rig and a Yaesu VX-5R Handheld. For antennas I'm using a slinky dipole on HF, a ground plane on 2-meters at home and a 5/8 wave for the mobile. I enjoy working 2-meters, IRLP and HF and plan to learn CW again. I've used ATV with the ARPSC and would like to eventually set up a packet station. In addition to Ham Radio, I like to fish (especially for salmon in the rivers) and ride motorcycles.

As far as my personal life goes, I started out working for the cable company as a technician when it was called Continental Cable. I then went to work as a Master control operator for WJIM-TV, moving up to become Assistant Chief Engineer and then the Chief Engineer. Of course, by then it was called WLNS-TV. I put the digital transmitter on the air and WLNS was the first one in the market to air a High Definition picture, which was the 2001 Super Bowl. From WLNS I moved on to MSU to work at the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory. This is the number two Physics Lab in the United States. I work as an RF Technician maintaining and upgrading the high power (250,000 watt) CW transmitters. I'll bet you can really get a CW signal out with that kind of power! The final tube in the transmitter costs \$60,000.

I met my future wife when a friend asked me if I wanted to make some money helping a fabric store in the Mall move out some of the furniture. Ginny worked there and a few days after the job was through, my friend told me that she really wanted to go out with me. He had also told her that I really wanted to go out with her, so, we decided that if we both really wanted to go out that badly, we'd try it once. Well, I guess it worked out because on October 4, 1980 we got married! It seems funny how something as insignificant as taking a job can bring about a turn of events that can change your entire life, but that's what happened when I met Ginny. And how's this for a coincidence? When I left WLNS in 2002 to work at the Cyclotron Lab, a former Lab employee (who was returning from a five-year stint at a job in Chicago) had just come back to work there the same week I started. It's hard to believe, but he's the friend who found the job for me at the Mall and got Ginny and me together! My wife and I now have two children, a son (named below) and a daughter, Carly, who is attending MSU.

There, now that we're a little better acquainted, "What's My Sign?" My Callsign is WA8KZY and my name is Mike Holcomb. My son is Ben Holcomb/WX8BEN (in charge of Ingham County SKYWARN) and my Dad was Jim Holcomb/WA8KZY (SK), who was the Civil Defense Director for the City of Lansing and also worked in SKYWARN with Dale Moore/K8YRD.

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



# Bits N Bytes...First Look



"No Greg went to the ham auction this afternoon, to get rid of a couple old radios that were cluttering up the place...Oh I think I hear him pulling in now!"

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

5/2 – Corey Bullock (KD8BOQ)  
5/6 – Roger & DeAnna Barnhill Anniv.  
5/9 – Dan & Marlene Harger Anniv.  
5/10 – Dewey Marlatt Jr. (KC8QZD)  
5/13 – Jan & Judy Bradfield Anniv.  
5/14 – Marr Warnke (W8MAT)  
5/14 – Don & Ruth Hinkle Anniv.  
5/15 – Michael VanAtta & Wife Anniv.  
5/15 – Jason Every & Wife Anniv.  
5/20 – Dennis & Pam Hale Anniv.  
5/21 – Dennis Hale (KD8HPY)  
5/21 – John Ingraham & Wife Anniv.  
5/23 – Don & Jean Devendorf Anniv.  
5/25 – John Crawford (N8LLC)  
5/27 – Marie Watson (KC8NOI)  
5/28 – Bill Anderson (KA8TPQ)  
5/29 – Ronald Edwards (WA8RZY)

## **Memories of Mom Cookbooks on Sale...Can You Sell Some?**

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

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

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

## **Ziegenbein Flashback ~ 1965**



1965's Ziegenbein Recipient, Dan Harger (W8BCI) discusses the Award with Pastor Manker Harris (I), of Pennway Church of God in Lansing

# Field Day Planning Meeting

April Field Day Planning Meeting  
Minutes by John Hosford-KC8QZB  
and Ron Harger-WD8BCS

Date: Wednesday April 8th, 2009  
Time: 19:06hrs  
Location: 5625 South Cedar Street,  
Lansing

**In attendance:** Bill-WD8NYW, Bob-K8RDN, Dan-W8BCI, Dave-K8QH, Don-WB8NUS, Gregg-WB8LZG, Jerry-KD8GLN, John-KC8QZB, Linda-K8LCC, Ron-WD8BCS, Sharon-KC8HHK, Wayne-W8QG

**Station Location/Site Plan:** The two HF Phone stations will be located approx 150' south of the parking lot in the center of the field in separate tents adjacent to each other. HF-1's (W8QG) trap vertical antenna will be 150' east-southeast of his tent. HF-2's (KC8QZB) trap vertical antenna will be 150' west-northwest of his tent giving at least 300' of separation between the two verticals. John and Wayne will each use their own rigs for these stations. Wayne will use his own vertical, and John will use Ron's. John will bring his tent for HF-2, and Wayne will use Ron's for HF-1.

*The GOTA station* will be located as near the curb on the south side of the parking lot as is comfortable. Ron will lend his HF rig for this station, and a suitable multi-band horizontal dipole will be used here.

HF CW will be out "under the big tree" on the south side of the field. Along with a dipole and/or long wire antenna, we'll again be launching either kite lifted or balloon lifted antennas depending on the winds. Gregg stated he'd be operating QRP/solar again this year.

6M Phone will be just in front of and to the west of the CW station. Jim-KA8DDQ will most likely show up with his van and portable beam,

as well as excellent VHF propagation!

30 minute operating time slots were suggested as a way for more individuals to give contesting a try as well as providing space for "walk ups".

**Site Safety/Security:** Bob and Ron will be working out a plan to keep wandering pedestrians from entering areas rendered unsafe due to coax/radials etc. Bob stated we would either be keeping them out or he would make sure they would never be seen or heard from again.

**Dimondale site:** Gregg discussed the conversation he had with the folks in Dimondale in charge of the park adjacent to the Emergency Services building. Amenities like 24hr bathrooms with running water, electricity and a pavilion all available at no charge are very attractive. Site size and the general public's safety are concerns and deserve discussion. It was agreed that the planning committee will convene for a "post Field Day" meeting to discuss 2010's site and Dimondale in particular, one month after Field Day '09.

**Schedule of Events/Activities:** Ron forgot to bring this to the meeting and has subsequently been relieved of all Field Day Co-Chair related duties as a result. *(ok, it is April after all. Blame this on ERV.)*

The current schedule is as follows:  
FRIDAY 5PM-8PM Canopy setup.  
SATURDAY 8AM Quick breakfast  
SATURDAY 9AM - 2PM Station Setup: Antennas, transmitters etc.  
SATURDAY 2PM Contest Operations Begin  
SATURDAY 3:00 - 3:30PM Training Bonus: Direction Finding / Fox Hunt!  
SATURDAY 4PM -5PM Club Picnic

SATURDAY 5PM - 530PM Picnic Cleanup

SUNDAY 8AM Quick Breakfast

SUNDAY 12-1PM Lunch

SUNDAY 2PM Cease Contest Operations

SUNDAY 2:01PM Seed Spitting Contest

SUNDAY 230PM Teardown begins.

SUNDAY 5:00PM Teardown completed, planning for 2010 begins!

**Logging software:** Ron will get with Wayne and John with their PC's to do a "live" test in the next month or so. Only these two stations need to be "networked", the other stations can operate as they have in the past.

## **FCC Rules Concerning Control Operator:**

The rules state that a control operator of proper license class must be present at all times while a lower class operator is on the air and operating outside of their privileges. The control operator of record for CMARC's club call sign W8MAA during Field Day 2009 will be Ron-WD8BCS. The rules do allow for that control operator to designate other licensees (of at least General class in our case) to act in this capacity while he is off site, and the station captains have agreed to do most of the heavy lifting here. (at least I think they agreed...)

Corey-KD8BOQ is the GOTA station coach this year, and a control operator will be assigned accordingly depending on Corey's license class at that time. (Rumor has it he is studying!)

**New Club Banner:** A quorum of the board was convened and a motion was made and passed to allocate up to \$400.00 for the purchase of a new club banner.

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Field Day Minutes Cont.

**Board meeting convened at 19:42hrs.**

Motion by Ron Harger to purchase (2) club banners in the amount not to exceed \$400.00 Motion seconded by Sharon Waite. Motion unanimously approved.

**Board meeting adjourned at 19:46hrs.**

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**Update:** A post meeting discussion between Erv and Ron revealed that we should be able to get two large general use CMARC banners, and also two "Field Day" only banners to go under them. This way the club banners will be multi purpose. The material is heavy duty and guaranteed for up to two years of continuous outdoor use, so with care these banners should last a very long time. An email has circulated with the design for final board approval.

Additional smaller "yard" signs will be made and placed strategically at points along the path to and in front of our operations.

**Holt Schools Wrap Up:** Erv made contact with Marge from Holt Schools and kindly declined their offer.

**Picnic/Food update:** Linda stated she will need 8 tables with at least 36 chairs. John will bring his gas grill with Ron's as a backup. \$100 has already been allocated but Linda will assess the need for additional funds if needed, and will approach the board accordingly. She said she new how to stretch a buck and would make every attempt to make it work with the original amount. Bill-WD8NYW will make contact with his brother Don-KD8BD to see if we can borrow tables and chairs from his church again this year. (5) large coolers will also be needed for food storage, ice etc.

**Bonus/Training:** This years training / demo will be a Fox Hunt!

Thanks to Dennis-KB8ZQZ. This is scheduled to take place on Saturday at approx 3:00pm.

**Generator/Lighting:** Dave-K8QH confirmed he will be bringing a large trailored diesel generator on loan from the State. It will be a good exercise for it. The fuel cost for the use of the generator will be donated by the State. As a backup, the CMARC generator will be on site as well.

**CERT Group Publicity Tent:**

Jerry-KD8GLN stated they plan on being on site from 10:00am to possibly as late at 5:00pm.

**Media:** Bill stated he would like to again have the use of the smaller canopy. We will do a better job this year of securing this canopy to withstand a minimum of F4.5 tornadoic winds. The same to be said for the larger canopy which suffered some minor damage in the gale that blew through the area in 2008. Bill will also require one table and a few chairs. Ron promised to remember all of the necessary paperwork for keeping track of our visitors this time. Dan-W8BCI offered to make contact with the folks he knows at WILX to hopefully improve our media coverage this year. He requested Bill contact him approx a week in advance of the event.

**Field Day messages:** Gregg stated in an email to Ron that Don-W8EGI's services will again be available for this bonus activity.

**ARPSC/RACES publicity tent:**

Ron dropped the ball here too and has not yet tracked down an ARPS liason. Ron was fired again.

**Misc Items:**

-GOTA hours of operation need to be decided, Ron will get with Corey on this.  
-Canopy assembly and teardown

crews need to be signed up! (Ron thought of this while typing the minutes up)

-ARRL Field Day paraphenalia information has been circulated amongst the committee members at Dave-K8QH's suggestion.

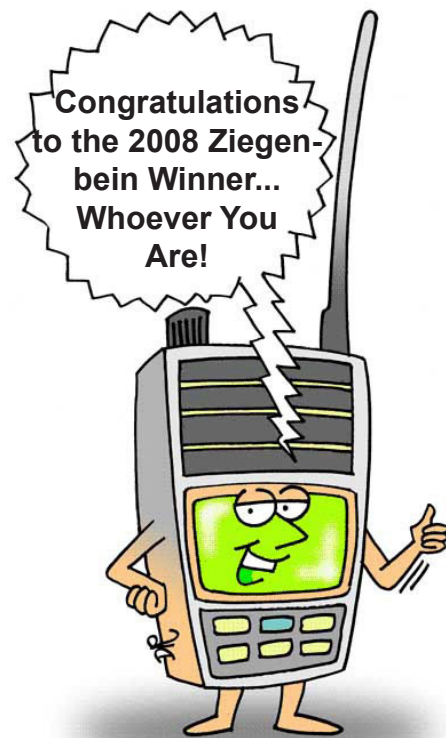
-The larger canopy requires some minor repair and re-inforcement, Ron will make contact with Ann Berger to arrange that.

-Two Meter talkin! ?? Yet another loose end Ron needs to tie up!

-As many as possible of the participants should bring their 2meter HT's. We'd like to select a quiet simplex frequency to use for onsite communications. Volunteers are now being sought to teach Gregg-WB8LZG how to use the FM mode without those pesky dits and dahs.

*Meeting adjourned at 20:18hrs.*

**SEE YOU AT FIELD DAY!!!**





# CMARC/LCDRA/ARPSK Minutes

## CMARC BOARD MEETING

April 3rd, 2009

Vice President Bob Berger/K8RDN brought the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. with the following Board members in attendance: Secretary John Hosford/KC8QZB, Treasure Ron Harger/WD8BCS, , Director Don McLain/KB8RAD and Director Erv Bates/W8ERV. also present were Dave/WB8MWG, Dan Harger/W8BCI. Excused were: Under 22 Director Corey Bulock/KD8BOQ and President Sharon Waite/KD8HHK.

Ron Harger/WD8BCS reported that the next field day meeting will be scheduled soon. John Hosford/KC8QZB reported that Julie McLain/KB8ZXR asked if he could print out ladies night signup sheets and bring them to the meeting.

Erv Bates/W8ERV reported that he and Ron Harger/WD8BCS will be getting together soon to look at the address labels and remove silent keys starting next month letters will be out and we may see some new members. a thank you card was recieved from Lowell Wilson's(SK) family.

John Hosford/KC8QZB reported that Jane Hosford/KC8FSK sends her thank you for the card the club sent to her. A flyer for diversity day. the board decided to send the flyer about diversity day to Jeremiah Sevrey/KC8EIA. Bob Berger/K8RDN is looking for assistance (about 4 or 5 people) to alternate net control for the Central Michigan Information Net. With 5 people they will only be net control one night a month. The net is usually 30 minutes or less.

The estate of KD8WP (Hank Lewandowski) would like to donate his ham equipment to the club. the equipment is worth about \$2600.00. they contacted Don Cote/KD8BD. Don thought this would be a great way to help the ham club Corey/KD8BOQ is working on starting. The board is turning this back over to Don and he will talk to the family and see if they agree. The board agreed that Corey should be involved before proceeding further.

Erv/W8ERV is going to get a price to buy a couple banners for the club.

Dan/W8BCI suggested that the club send John Imeson/N8JI a letter thanking him for the use of the LCC facility for the SKYWARN training.

With all business concluded, Ron/WD8BCS made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Don/KB8RAD and approved. The Board meeting closed at 7:23 p.m.

*John Hosford/KC8QZB – Secretary*

## CMARC MEETING MINUTES

April 3rd, 2009

Vice President Bob Berger/K8RDN called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and welcomed both our members and those visiting with us tonight. We had a moment of silence in memory of our "Silent Keys".

**ATTENDANCE:** There were 49 people in attendance (43 members and 6 visitors). Our guests were: Bill/WB8BER, Bronson/KD8FJI, James/KD8FJJ, Ed/KC8NQM, Luke/N8CLS, Tony/N8TSP, our speaker for the evening; Don/W8EGI, and hamthreads.

**NEW LICENSES, UPGRADES and VANITY CALLS:** Jim/KD8KBG just passed his Technician.

### CARDS AND FLOWERS REPORT:

Jane Hosford/KC8FSK sends her thank you for the card that CMARC sent.

**INTERESTING DX CONTACTS:** Ken/W8AAX brought in some dx cards to look at that can be worked on 30m and 12m with 100 watts and a simple wire. Don/W8EGI worked the dx contest, he worked one in France and another one in Spain with about 80 watts and the antenna pointed the wrong way. Greg/WB8LZG said they are working on setting up to have a qso between MSU and the International Space Station. It was reported that Chris/AB8ZL is believed to have made several contacts using a repeater on the International Space Station.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There will be no CMARC meeting in may due to Ladies night/Ziegenbein dinner on Friday May 1st starting at 6:00pm at Delhi Cafe. Contact Julie/KB8ZXR to sign up if you would like to go. The next CMARC meeting will be on Friday, June 5th at 7:30pm. The Lowell swap will be

tomorrow april 4th 2009. The Cadillac amateur radio computer swap will be May 2, 2009. Bob/K8RDN reported that we got a letter from the mayor about a diversity day event at one of the high schools in the area on April 18 and has invited us to come. Don/WB8NUS will get the letter to Jeremiah/KC8EIA. Ken/W8AAX gave the club a world map so that the DX group can show us where they have talked to. Lowell Wilson's family sent CMARC a thank you letter for attending his funeral.

A note from the kitchen.... just a little note about our monthly refreshments. I hope you all have been enjoying the assortment of goodies we have each month and I want to thank all of you who have been so kind to bring something for our breaks. However it has been just the same group of people bringing the treats each month and it is now starting to become a burden instead of something that they want to do. and on top of that we haven't been getting very much in our donation can so we barely have enough money to buy two kinds of coffee, coffee filters, punch and other things that we need, which don't come from the treasury. therefore if you don't want to see all the delicious goodies come to an end, please sign up to bring something or at least leave a nice donation every month the can is always on the table. this plea is only for club members and not visitors. our visitors are always invited to join us as our guest and do not have to donate anything. signed Julie/KB8ZXR

**OLD BUSINESS:** A motion to accept the March Secretary's Report as printed in the April SCOPE was made by Erv/W8ERV, seconded by Jim/LC8QWH and approved. A motion to accept the December Treasurer's report as printed in the January SCOPE was made by Don/KB8RAD, seconded by Dan/W8BCI and approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Greg/WB8LZG reported that anyone that knows anything about the MSU radio club knows that the club has been around since 1919, a long time. there has been a sign kicking around the radio club for a long time, something that was home made.

# CMARC/LCDRA/ARPSA Minutes

He decided to update it, because it had been around a long time and did not want to see it broken. The sign has been around as long as he has known the club, about 20 or 30 years. But the sign was looking like it was going to be history, so he built a back casing to put the sign on. In doing so, he took apart the sign to dress it up and found it was signed by professor Ebert who was instrumental in obtaining the station that they have there today, which is now the Ebert memorial station. He holds a special place in Greg's heart, because he is the one that gave Greg his novice exam in 1972, along with a whole bunch of other guys. Greg decided to juice up the sign a little bit by putting an RF activated 'On Air' backlight, that lights up when they key the mike or the key. Greg has a simple circuit for that. The sign was made in 1974.

Erv/W8ERV still has more than 100 CMARC cookbooks available. Erv also said that ten cookbooks were sold in Marshall, which more that covered the cost to get in to the swap.

Don/KD8BD reported that two or three weeks ago, he sent letters out to all the hams in the 48910 zip code. One of the hams he sent the letter to was KD8WP. Don got a phone call from his grandson to inform him that KD8WP had passed away, and they want to donate his equipment. Don informed him that there is a youth club that is being started. The grandson thought that would meet the criteria. Bob/K8RDN made an estimate on the equipment that they are willing to donate (subject to approval of the rest of the family) and came up with \$2641.00 worth of equipment. This includes a Yaesu FT-840, power supplies, a Vibraplex key, two 3kw amplifiers, tuners to go with the amplifiers, and two oscilloscopes. The grandson will talk to the rest of the family and get back to us.

Ron/WD8BCS reported that the Field Day location is finalized at Gardener Middle School. Another Field Day meeting will be scheduled soon. Two HF phone stations, GOTA station captained by Corey/KD8BOQ, CW station, 6 meter station, the CERT group will

be out, the Field Day schedule is being fine tuned and will be printed. As to what is happening and when. There is a 100 point bonus for a training activities... the latest idea is to have a fox hunt.

Dan/W8BCI reported that the noise on the 145.390 is back. He will be working on the noise. The rest of the repeaters seem to be working good.

Don/WB8NUS reported that the next LCDRA meeting will be april 16 2009 at 7:00 pm.

Ben/WX8BEN reported that the SKYWARN Training went really well. They had 152 people attend the event. Dan/W8BCI suggested that those that attended the SKYWARN training send a thank you letter to Tom Shaver and he will get them to John Imeson at LCC.

Ken/W8AAX said that some time ago the club bought a plaque honoring Tiny/K8DHN, the plaque was to go up at the Boy Scout camp, circumstances were that we could not put it up out there. He thinks it is still in the radio room. Don/WB8NUS said that he could not find the plaque in the radio room. Ken/W8AAX made a motion to buy a plaque and give it to Tiny's widow, seconded by Don/W8EGI and approved.

**UNDER 22 REPORT:** Don/KB8RAD reported that Corey/KD8BOQ has been kind of down and disappointed that the numbers for the MRAY Net on the Grand Rapids link system are not as high but at the same time is being realistic about it. He knows he moved to a new location and time and has to start from scratch. Plus the fact when he had the Net locally, he allowed for adults to check in. that allowed for 20 or 30 checkins. So now he might have 5 checkins that are youth, but now are all over the State of Michigan.

Seems like every time he does the Net, there are new people checking in that have never done that before. In fact, there was one who had checked in previously that thought it was really cool that Corey/KD8BOQ had started a youth Net, and this person said he might try to start his own. Thursday night he checked in again and has started a youth net in his area and is

really having a lot of fun with it.

If you know someone that would like to check in, please spread the word. Remember they can get on the Net if a licensed ham checks in.

Corey did finally get a teacher to sign off on sponsoring a club he is trying to start at Holt High School. There is a room there that is all set up with audio visual type stuff, and the teacher said they would like to have a combined ham club/broadcast club. So things are getting started. They are going to start getting the room cleaned up.

**50/50 DRAWING:** Mike/W8KZY won \$19.00 in tonight's drawing.

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

**MAIN PROGRAM AND/OR SPEAKER:** Don/W8EGI was our speaker for the evening. He put on an interesting program on the wackiest power company in Michigan. Hamthreads was also on hand taking orders for hats and jackets. Hamthreads also has a website on the Internet at <http://www.hamthreads.com>. With all business being concluded, Erv/W8ERV made a motion to adjourn seconded by Jim/KC8QWH we adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

*John Hosford/KC8QZB – Secretary*

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

**Bring a Friend and  
Show Them What**

**Amateur Radio  
Is All About!**

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



# Bits N Bytes...Second Look

## The Watt Widget by: Paul Rowe AB8VN

Do you ever wonder how much it costs to run an electrical appliance or piece of equipment? There is usually a "spec plate" which will list the maximum draw, but it may be two or more times the actual power the device uses. How do Watts translate to money? Assuming that electricity costs about 8 cents a kilowatt-hour, a single watt of draw for an entire year would cost  $1 \text{ Watt} \times 8760 \text{ hours per year} / 1000 \text{ watts per kWh} \times 8 \text{ cents} = 70 \text{ cents}$ . Round up a bit for taxes and say 75 cents. So that 4 Watt nightlight that runs all the time costs three dollars a year. But the refrigerator that guzzles 400 Watts and runs eight hours a day costs \$100!

If you know how much power something actually uses, and you know about how much of the time it is on (a guess within 10% is fine) you can easily figure the cost. There are some measuring devices on the market which will meter and calculate for you, but if you are like me, you have other uses for \$50, like buying Ham equipment, and would like to figure it out using an old piece of scrap. I knew it should be possible, so I spent some time scratching my head and trying to fit Ohm's laws to the problem, and got it down to something I could build with an electrical outlet in a box with a cord, and a piece of wire inside. The idea is to make a "shunt" (a piece of wire the right size) and use a multimeter to measure the AC millivolts across it, then pretend that number is actually Watts, because for the correct shunt, it is.

This is what I came up with. To show one Watt of draw as one AC

millivolt (RMS) across the shunt, the shunt must be a certain number of milliohms. Since power is current times voltage, and the voltage is about 120, one Watt must be 8.3 milliamps. Voltage is current Multiplied by resistance, so to get 1 millivolt from 8.3 milliamps, I need a resistance of 120 milliohms, or about an eighth of an Ohm. If I measure the voltage drop across a piece of wire that is an eighth of an Ohm, my multimeter will read directly in Watts, ignoring the decimal point. How much wire is that? One convenient fact is that a foot of number 10 wire is a milliohm, but I thought that a shunt 120 feet long was inconvenient. I looked at the wire table in the ARRL Handbook, and found that for number 14 wire, fifty feet would do the job. I thought that was still too much so I decided to scale down by a factor of ten, so using a five foot piece of wire pulled from some house wiring cable (the white wire from the cable) my Watt-Widget reads 1 millivolt for every 10 Watts, and the shunt should be able to handle up to 15 amps for long enough to make a measurement without getting hot.

But if my WattWidget only has a resolution of ten Watts, it won't do what got me started on this idea in the first place: measure small loads like a laptop power supply or a clock. I decided to build a second shunt that was scaled up by a factor of ten: 1.2 Ohms, so that a millivolt on the meter is a tenth of a Watt. I used some handy wirewound power resistors to come up with this, but more than about 300 Watts of load will overheat them, so this second device is for measuring small loads.

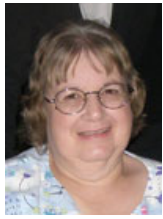
Now how do you build it? Find a duplex outlet, and break off the

"ear" on the white side. If you used a piece of number 14 wire as your shunt, you can fold it in two, then coil it up (to make a noninductive loop) and push each end into the back-wiring holes on the white side, thus bridging across the ear that you broke off. It is important to do this on the white side (and connect the cord correctly) so that the shunt is at ground potential, because the next step is to connect a pair of wires to the screw terminals on the white side and attach the other ends to your multimeter (set to read AC millivolts). For safety, you can't have exposed terminals or wire ends coming from the "hot" side! If you used power resistors instead of a piece of wire, the easiest thing to do is solder short pieces of number 14 wire at each end and push them into the back-wiring holes. Add a cordset and mask off the outlet that connects directly to the cord and you can start measuring.

Just remember not to exceed the power limitations of your shunt and move the decimal place where it belongs, then multiply by 75 cents a year. The whole thing probably won't cost you 75 cents, and it will last a lot longer than one of those expensive meter gadgets. And you did it yourself!



# Ladies of CMARC News



## Tea Time Luncheon Wrap-Up

by Julie McLain, KB8ZXR

kb8zxr@aol.com

517-694-0812

Even though the area was under a severe thunderstorm warning with the first SKYWARN Net of the season in progress, seven Ladies met for the Ladies Tea Time Luncheon held on Saturday, April 25th. This month's venue was Applebee's Restaurant on South Cedar Street in Lansing, and as it is every time the Ladies gather, we enjoyed our time visiting immensely!

If you have been reading about all the fun we have and would like to join us for one of our luncheons, please be sure to circle Saturday, May 16th on your calendar! That's the date of our next Ladies Tea Time Luncheon, and this time we're going to the Texas Roadhouse.

Remember Ladies, you don't have to be a Ham to join us for these monthly Luncheons. . . you just need to enjoy food, fellowship and fun!! If you're not on our mailing list and would like to be, just contact Julie McLain, KB8ZXR at (517) 694-0812 or at KB8ZXR@aol.com. For more info on the Ladies Tea Time Luncheons be sure to check out the "SCOPE" or the CMARC Website at [www.centralmi-arc.com](http://www.centralmi-arc.com).



### *May's Ladies Tea Time Luncheon*

*Please Join Us on Saturday, May 16th  
at 12:30 pm For Our May Ladies Tea Time Luncheon.  
We Will Be Meeting at the Texas Roadhouse Located at  
208 E Edgewood Blvd. in Lansing.*

*Remember, We're Just a Group of Ladies Who Love  
To Get Together. Some of Us Have Our  
Ham Licenses and Some of Us Don't, But All  
That Really Matters is That We Like to Visit  
With Each Other and Have FUN!*

*To Guarantee Seating So We Can All Sit  
Together, Please RSVP by Friday, May 15th  
By Calling Julie McLain at: (517) 694-0812 or  
E-Mail Me at KB8ZXR@AOL.COM*

*~Julie McLain, KB8ZXR  
Ladies Tea Time Luncheon Coordinator*



# Teen Talk

by Morgan Mosher, KD8IWT

CMARC Under 22 Asst. Dir.

mo\_man911@hotmail.com

810-869-5882

Have you ever tried something in ham radio where you were like totally stunned at how much fun it was and you just didn't ever want to stop what you were doing because you thought you would lose interest in it? Well, that's kind of how I felt a few weeks ago when a WPX contest was in progress on the 20meter band (14.225.00-14.350.00mhz).

That weekend my grandpa Curt, KD8IWS (who I call Papa) told me about this contest that was going on that weekend and asked if I wanted to join in the fun while I was over at his house. At first I wasn't really game for the idea, so I told him I wanted to just listen to the band, because I like to talk to people I make contact with. But the longer I listened to the band, the more I kept hearing very foreign accents and callsigns, so I decided to look one of the calls I heard and it was from somewhere out of the country (it was in England I think). I ran and found Papa and we read all the rules and as soon as we finished, I made my first out of the U.S.A contact.

After that happened I was captured by the awesomeness of contesting and I gave myself a challenge to see how many foreign contacts I could make that weekend. After a few hours and 15 or so foreign contacts, unfortunately it was time for my parents and I to head home for the day, so I reluctantly turned off our Kenwood and went home. However I still had WPX on the mind all day the next day and sure enough, the contesting flu drew me back to Papa's house and the Kenwood for some more long range contacts including Russia, Scotland and many other countries that I cant remember right off hand.

And the best part about the whole experience was I got to make some sweet contacts while spending time with Papa, my favorite grandpa, doing what we both love to do, using our hard earned privileges to the maximum! There are so many more things to do with ham radio it would take a long time to write up, so maybe, just maybe you will have to try them all yourself just to experience how much fun ham radio can really be!

73 until Net Time,

This is Morgan Mosher (KD8IWT), signing clear



## Returnable Cans/Bottles Wanted!

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

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

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

QSL card anyone?





# Local & Special Interest News

## CMARC Treasurer's Report

Primary Share Acct. (Humphries Fund) \$ 354.94  
Business Checking \$ 910.86  
NuUnion Certificate of Deposit (2/12/09) \$1794.25

Net Worth as of 3/31/09 \$3060.05  
Youth Fund Balance\* (as of 4/30/09) \$ 148.00

*\*separate from CMARC Funds*

Submitted,  
Ron Harger, WD8BCS  
CMARC Treasurer



## Upcoming Events

**MS Walk** May 3, 2009 8am at Potter Park Zoo, Lansing 146.940 Repeater

**Cystic Fibrosis Walk** June 7, 2009 12 Noon at DeWitt Park (Repeater to be Announced)

**MS 150 Bike-A-Thon** July 11, 12, 2009 (time to be determined) Across Mid-Michigan on Multiple Repeaters

## The 2009 CMARC & LCDRA Boards

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

### Our CMARC Officers:

President: Sharon Waite-KD8HHK	ph: (517) 882-5406
Vice President: Bob Berger-K8RDN	ph: (517) 882-0370
Secretary: John Hosford-KC8QZB	ph: (517) 699-2540
Treasurer: Ron Harger-WD8BCS	ph: (517) 676-3031
Director: Donald McLain-KB8RAD	ph: (517) 694-0812
Director: J. Ervin Bates-W8ERV	ph: (517) 202-6229
Under 22: Corey Bulock-KD8BOQ	ph: (517) 930-2372
Cards/Flowers: Jane Hosford-KC8FSK	ph: (517) 699-2540
Mem. Chmn.: John Ingraham-NG8L	ph: (517) 230-9445
Photographer: J. Ervin Bates-W8ERV	ph: (517) 202-6229
Club Contact: Donald McLain-KB8RAD	ph: (517) 694-0812

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

QSL/ Awards Mgr.: Don DeFeyer-KC8CY ph: (517) 641-4533  
Scope Editor: J. Ervin Bates-W8ERV ph: (517) 202-6229  
email address: [w8erv@acd.net](mailto:w8erv@acd.net)

**Deadline for articles: 20th. of month.**

## The 2009 LCDRA Board

### Our LCDRA Officers:

Pres: Daniel Harger-W8BCI	ph: (517) 882-8784
Vice Pres: Don Tillitson-WB8NUS	ph: (517) 321-2004
Secretary: John Imeson-N8JI	ph: (517) 663-1358
Director: Dennis 'Rocky' Beckner-K8DRB	ph: (517) 230-4995
Director: Donald McLain-KB8RAD	ph: (517) 694-0812
Director: Jim Harvey-KA8DDQ	ph: (517) 882-5796
Treasurer/Memb. Chair: Jeff Oberg-KB8SXX	ph: (517) 712-1302
Repeater Trustee: Dennis Boone-KB8ZQZ	email: <a href="mailto:drb@msu.edu">drb@msu.edu</a>
LCDRA Call: WB8CQM	

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

## Weekly Nets in the Greater Lansing Area

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# VE Testing & Special Announcements

## Lansing V.E. Testing Session #1

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

Pre-registration starts at 9:30am and testing starts at 10:00am for the following date:

**Saturday May 9, 2009**

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

## A Special Thank You

I asked Erv to place this message in the May edition of the SCOPE to say 'Thank You' to everyone that called to check on me, during my time in the hospital recently.

You will be happy to know that I am feeling much better and I hope to return to driving and doing everything I need to do for myself and Mary Lou very soon.

73, Don Tillitson (WB8NUS)

## Lansing VE Session #2

**Tuesday June 2nd - 7pm**  
Lansing Police Dept., South Precinct,  
3400 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
Downstairs, Sm. Conf. Room  
(Lansing VE Team)  
Contact: Don McLain (KB8RAD)  
phone: (517) 694-0812

## Eaton County VE Session

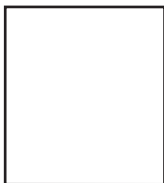
**Saturday June 13th - 12pm**  
Eaton Co. Sheriif Dept.-EOC,  
1025 Independence Blvd.,  
Charlotte 48813  
(Eaton Co. ARC)  
Contact: Mark Korroch (WB8TGY)  
phone: (517) 645-2378

## Sunday Slow Scan Net Cancelled Until Fall 2009

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

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





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



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

# *THE SCOPE*

*Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association*



May, 2009

Joining

☐ CMARC

☐ LCDRA

Name

Callsign

Address

City

State

ZIP

Phone

Lic. Class

ARRL Mem.?

Birthday

Wedding Anniversary

Year 1st Licensed

Email address

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

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

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

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