



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

# THE SCOPE



Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

centralmiarc.com

Serving Our Community Since 1921

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*Slow Scan Net Returns...*

## LCDRA Moves Net to 145.390

For many of you, the wait to hear Carl (K8YHH) and the Sunday evening Slow Scan Net is just about over. During the October 15th meeting of the Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association, it was decided that Canfield's weekly net needed more coverage and the net has been moved to the Okemos repeater.

Carl outlined the need for better coverage, because of the interest generated outside the Lansing area. He noted that several stations attempted to get in from as far away as Jackson and Flint, but were unable to make the machine. But the underlying reason for the net is to promote new ways to pass information, in time of need.

Erv (W8ERV) mentioned the possibility of taking laptops into the field, as well as digital cameras, which would allow people who are not SKYWARN certified to pass damage photos to EOC personnel. Carl agreed, and said this was one of the biggest reasons for the net. It would save time and allow new people to get involved.

Over the past 12 months, Carl noticed and up and down flow to the net, but he's most excited about the unlicensed gentleman that is on the phone with Carl during his net. Richard Cole has been there each week, giving Carl his comments, which are then passed, third party, to participants in the Net.

"Richard was the first person to successfully receive a photograph", said Carl (K8YHH). "He is not even licensed, yet he has an interest and I would like to see

more people like that served with this net."

After considerable discussion, Jeff (KB8SXX) announced that Dan (W8BCI) had called him earlier in the day to give his blessing on the plan to move Carl's net to the 5.39 repeater. Dan was unable to attend the meeting, due to the flu.

Finally, in a unanimous show of support, the motion was seconded and passed with no descending votes. And beginning Sunday, October 25th, the Slowscan Net comes back to the area. Everyone is welcome and Carl would like to have as many checkins as possible for his return.

Welcome back, Kotter....er....Canfield!

Occasionally, it's good to have some helpful reminders, so we remain good operators on our local repeaters, as well as simplex frequencies...and even on HF. But for the local repeaters especially, it is important to remember that we have many under 18 listeners and Hams.

Please be sure to follow a few simple rules and remember that this Hobby was formed and is known as a 'Gentleman's Hobby'.

Remember to Identify your station at each 10 minute interval, as well as at the end of your conversations.

Remember to monitor language. Consider that there may be parents out there who do not want their children exposed to offensive, or vulgar language. Occasionally, we all slip, but blatant use of this type of language is still against FCC regs.

Finally, take care to use good operating practices. This includes operating on either simplex, or repeaters...one should not operate on the output of a repeater, because it is not only confusing, you could find yourself interfering with other conversations, as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

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October 2009

# For Your Consideration

The news was not good. A husband, his wife and 15 year old son, tragically lost their lives recently, as they attempted to install a Ham Radio Antenna. The story was from Palm Bay, Florida, but it could have just as easily happened in Lansing, Michigan.

It seems that the Family was attempting to raise the antenna when they lost control of the pole and it struck an overhead power line. The impact sent 13,000 volts of electricity through the pole they were holding. The woman was pronounced dead at the scene, while her husband and son died at a local hospital later.

Now, why would I write something like this in our local Club newsletter? Certainly *not* to criticize the dead in any way. I guess my underlying reason is so that we never have to see a report like this originating from the Lansing area. And believe me, it can and has happened here before. But the important lesson we can gain from this tragedy is that we ALL *take our time and put safety first*.

I know how excited I can get, when an antenna project is under way. I want to get that baby in the air and start talking before the wire is in the air! And, from a personal standpoint, I remember an incident...or a near-incident at my own home just a couple years ago, as we raised my tower.

The tower was assembled and ready to raise, I had 6 or 7 of the local guys at my QTH to help raise the behemoth and as most Hams know, at about 30 degrees of tilt, ALL of the weight is on that tower-and believe me, you feel every single ounce! So here we are, a few of us 40 plussers huffin' and puffin' and the tower is not getting vertical fast enough. I remember telling the guys to just drop it, so nobody got hurt, but a few of the younger men kept it moving.

Yes, we got the tower up, but I determined that I would NEVER use that tilt-base again. Future work would be done with a climber...and one who was a.) experienced and b.) had the right equipment for the job. The cost, when figured against possible loss of life, etc., is negligible. And believe me, there are a few really good tower guys in the area.

And so, please allow me to share some rules you can live by. If only one life is saved because of this column, it will be worth the time.

1. Please, *do not attempt to do tower work alone....EVER!* You have a ton of good people right here in the Lansing area who are ready, willing and able to help. Simply get in touch with someone and get it coordinated.

2. If you have nearby power wires, have a plan to get your antenna work done safely. This case in Florida was a grim example of what *can* go wrong, if proper care and planning is not done. If you are forced to do this work near wires, have extra people there as spotters. If you lose control of the pole, LET IT DROP! Don't think twice about letting loose of the pole, and preserve your life.

This unfortunate series of events could have been avoided and lives were lost; That bears repeating. I urge each and every one of you to be careful and enjoy all that this hobby has to offer you.

# What's My Sign?

by Julie McLain KB8ZXR

I was born in my Grandparents' farmhouse in Midland, Michigan during the Depression and was the youngest of seven children. If you think things are tough now, they were REALLY tough back then—especially for a family of nine! Then, to make matters even worse, my mother passed away when I was only one year old. My father worked extremely hard to provide for his children, trying to be both father and mother to us all. But, with the times being so hard and because I was the youngest, I was given up for adoption. My “new” family already had two daughters of their own and I was, once again, the baby of the family. I grew up with my adoptive family on their farm in Bay City and was loved. My birth father made sure that when I was adopted, he would always be able to visit and stay in touch with me as I grew up. Because of that, I never lost contact with my birth family.

I did well in school and really liked learning. After graduating from High School in 1958, I went on to Bay City Junior College and graduated from the Nursing Course in 1960. I worked in the Nursing profession for 30 years as an LPN, and then as an Emergency Medical Technician. I worked at several different locations, including Flint, Bad Axe, and Traverse City.

I met my husband through some mutual friends who had “arranged” for us to meet at a surprise birthday party they were throwing for me. We hit it off from the start and were married in 1980. Because we had both been married before, we combined our families (his five children plus his mother and my four kids) and started on an adventure that isn't finished yet! We eventually decided to increase our family even more by adopting three girls. When my husband retired, we did foster work, loving and nurturing fifty-nine more kids in five years. After almost 29 years of marriage, twelve kids and thirty-two grandchildren, we have received the additional blessing of nineteen great-grandchildren, with two more on the way. As you can see, the adventure we started is still going strong!

I got interested in Amateur Radio through my husband. He was really enjoying his hobby and it looked like so much fun, in 1997 I decided to get my Technician license, as well. Since then, I've had a ball meeting other Hams and making new friendships. I really love 2 meters and you can usually find me on the 145.39 Okemos repeater. My hubby and I share our equipment and have a KLM, a Radio Shack HT and a mobile in the car.

We were both actively involved in the Cherryland Amateur Radio Club back in Traverse City. We had a lot of fun there and every Tuesday night we had a workshop where we would build antenna switches, repair radios, or just about anything else! We had many “hands on” projects and it was always a great time, with everyone leaving having learned a lot. Since we moved to the Lansing area, we've both joined CMARC and are trying to get more involved with the local Ham scene here. I'm really interested in getting my SKYWARN certification in the Spring so I can help out during severe weather in the coming year.

Besides Amateur Radio, some of my other hobbies include scrapbooking, watercolor painting, crocheting, knitting, sewing, and woodcarving. I used to belong to the Reo Grande Valley Woodcutters Club and currently belong to the Eastern Star.

When asked if I had any words of wisdom to pass along, I responded by saying, “Don't worry and be happy, and enjoy the Ham Radio hobby! We should all work together to better the Club and increase the membership. Let's let everyone see that we have a good time and lots of fun in Amateur Radio!”

Okay, now that you and I have gotten better acquainted, “What's My Sign?” My Callsign is KC8HJQ and my name is Jane Newton, wife of George Newton/KC8DVV.

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

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

10/2 - Amanda Bates (Erv's Daughter)	10/2 – John & Karen Crawford Anniv.
10/2 – Dennis & Suzanne Boone Anniv.	10/4 – Mike Holcomb & Wife Anniv.
10/5 – James Lakin (W8JRL)	10/9 - Don & Gloria Cote Anniv.
10/13 – Jane Hosford (KC8FSK)	10/14 – Don Devendorf (W8EGI)
10/14 – Robert Mann (WD8OEV)	10/14 – Dennis Kelly (N8OMT)
10/14 – Phil Dowker (KC8FXS)	10/18 – Michelle Bates (Erv's Daughter)
10/20 – Greg Sprout (KD8ICK)	10/20 - Jeri McMillan
10/20 - Keith Watson (KD8ICJ)	10/25 - Joe & Pam Denomme Anniv.
10/28 - Tom Nash (KC8SKL)	



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

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

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

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

## New Hit TV Show?



Jason Southwell (K8JDS) put this spoof together some time ago and it's made its rounds since then. Fun stuff, eh?



# CMARC Meeting Notes

## **CMARC BOARD MEETING**

September 11, 2009

President Sharon Waite/KD8HHK brought the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. with the following Board members in attendance: Vice President Bob Berger/K8RDN, Treasure Ron Harger/WD8BCS Secretary John Hosford/KC8QZB, Director Don McLain/KB8RAD and Director Jane Hosford KC8FSK. Excused were: Under 22 Director Corey Bullock/KD8BOQ. also present were Dan/W8BCI and Erv/W8ERV.

Sharon/KD8HHK said that she talked to Erv/W8ERV and he said that all the welcome letters have been mailed out. Sharon/KD8HHK said that Julie McLain/KB8ZXR has offered to be ladies night coordinator for ladies night in May 2010. a vote was taken for Julie/KB8ZXR as ladies night coordinator and was approved.

Ron/WD8BCS volunteered to be field day chair for field day 2010 and requests John/KC8QZB as cochair. John/KC8QZB accepts volunteering for field day cochair. a vote was taken for Ron/WD8BCS as field day chair and John/KC8QZB as field day cochair and approved.

Jane/KC8FSK said that a card and flowers were sent to Louis larche`/KD8BWL. Dan/W8BCI said that Abe/W8HVG had a slight ministroke and that he was in the hospital and should be out today. Sharon/KD8HHK said that George/KD8DVV went to the hospital but does not know if the hospital kept him there.

Erv/W8ERV will turn the club printer over to John/KC8QZB tonight after the meeting. Erv/W8ERV also said that B & B Embroidery that was in Perry has moved to texas. their website is [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com).

Bob/K8RDN said a while ago Ken/W8AAX gave us a DX map. today Bob/K8RDN went out and got some foam board and mounted the map on the board.

With all business concluded, John/KC8QZB made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Don/KB8RAD and approved. The Board meeting closed at 7:16p.m.

*John Hosford/KC8QZB – Secretary*

## **CMARC MEETING MINUTES**

September 11, 2009

President Sharon Waite/KD8HHK called the meeting to order at 7:32p.m. and welcomed both our members and those visiting with us tonight. We had a moment of silence in memory of the people that died on 9-11-2001 and for our "Silent Keys".

**ATTENDANCE:** There were 37 people in attendance (34 members and 4 visitors). Our guests were: Andrew Temme/KE7ESD, Shanon Raines, Mary Tillitson and Marv Sommer/WB8OIP, our speaker for the evening; Ralph Taggart/WB8DQT.

**NEW LICENSES, UP-**

**GRADES and VANITY CALLS:** No new licenses or upgrades this month

**CARDS AND FLOWERS REPORT:** Jane Hosford/KC8FSK reported that "Get Well" cards and flowers were sent to Louis Larche`/KD8BWL for his surgery. Dan reported that Abe/W8HVG is in the hospital and should be home today.

**INTERESTING DX CONTACTS:** Greg/WB8LZG made contact with bp8, his name is ken and is stationed at an air supply base in anartica ,new hope bay and trinity island on 40 meters. Jerry/KD8GLN made his first HF contact with his own equipment, he talked to W0LAV in misouri. Ken/W8AAX has worked 48 states on 30 meters. Don/KC8CY said every night that 40 meters is open to europe.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next CMARC meeting will be on Friday, October 2nd at 7:30 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS:** A motion to accept the July Secretary's Report as printed in the September SCOPE was made by Erv/W8ERV seconded by Bernie/N8PVZ and approved. A motion to accept the July Treasurer's report as printed in the August SCOPE was made by Chris/AB8ZL, seconded by Jerry/KD8GLN and approved.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Sharon/KD8HHK reported that Marvin Sommer/WB8OIP has submitted an application for lifetime membership. the application has been reviewed and he is asking that the application for lifetime

# CMARC Meeting Notes

member ship be approved. a vote was taken and the application was approved. Erv/W8ERV will make sure the certificate is here for the next meeting. Sharon/KD8HHK said that Erv/W8ERV informed us that B & B Embroidery ( [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com) ) has relocated to texas. the normal club discount is still in effect until december 15.

Dan/W8BCI reported that LCDRA is going to put a receiver site for the 145.390 repeater on the channel 10 tower (the transmit signal will still come from okemos). they are waiting for the crystals for the receiver. the 224.98 repeater developed a bug that it keys up and won't shut down. Abe/W8HVG suggested removing the transmit tone crystal. the 145.390 repeater is in good shape. the WKAR tower is not going to be replaced this year. they budgeted 1.7 million and the new tower came in at 2.7 million. the next LCDRA meeting is October 15 2009 at fire station 8.

Ron/W8BCS asked Carl/K8YHH about the slow scan net. Carl/K8YHH reported that there are some amateurs that can't get in to the 146.94 very well.

Don/WB8NUS reported that A. C. Stoddard is doing fine. his wife is doing a lot of nicks and stuff down there.

Bernie/N8PVZ reminded us of the things he had for sale and would donate 10% of the proceeds to the club. he is giving the club a check for \$92.00.

Linda/K8LCC reminded everyone attending the meeting to sign in. Erv/W8ERV reported

that Guy/KC8SLJ is looking for a dual band base station antenna

## **UNDER 22 REPORT:**

Morgan/KD8IWT is doing the MRAY youth net on the Grand Rapids link repeater system.

**50/50 DRAWING:** Troy/W8TCC won \$12.00 in tonight's drawing.

**BREAK:** Julie/KB8ZXR wanted to thank the ladies who brought all the goodies tonight. [Sec. Note: Thank you to all who helped with the goodies—your contributions are always GREATLY appreciated!]

**MAIN PROGRAM AND/OR SPEAKER:** Ralph Taggart/WB8DQT was our speaker for the evening. He put on an interesting program on An amateurs life in image communications. covering amateur television, atv repeaters, sstv, digital sstv, weather satellites, and narrow band television. With all business being concluded, Bernie/N8PVZ moved to adjourn, Erv/W8ERV seconded and approved. we adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

*John Hosford/KC8QZB – Secretary*



## **Ham Classes Forming**

If you're looking for an Amateur Radio Class, we have TWO of them to tell you about. All you need is the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual and a few extra bucks.

The first is slated to begin on October 19th & 26th, then November 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. (all Monday nights) Classes are from 7pm to 8:30pm.

Class is held at Union Street Community Center, 501 Union St., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827, Room 105. For more information you can contact Brenda Stohr, Community Education, 517-663-2236.

The second class is planned to begin on January 23, 2010 and runs through February 27th. It will be held on the MSU Campus, Engineering Bldg, Room 1145. 10am-11:30am

There is no cost for the class and they recommend you get an ARRL Ham Radio License Manual ahead of time. Reservations are also recommended.

You can reserve your seat by emailing Gregg Mulder (WB8LZG): [mulderg@msu.edu](mailto:mulderg@msu.edu) or Mike Shanblatt: [mas@mus.edu](mailto:mas@mus.edu). You can also call Gregg at 517-646-6257 or Mike at 517-332-0489.

If you wish to get a copy of the manual, contact Erv (W8ERV) at [w8erv@acd.net](mailto:w8erv@acd.net), or call him at 517-908-6739. He is organizing an order from the ARRL, and the books will be about \$17, as opposed to \$24.95. Good luck and we'll see you on the air soon!

# ARPSC Meeting Notes

ARPSC Meeting September 21, 2009 Lansing Fire Station #8

1) **Call to Order**

- a) Meeting called to order @ 19:02 hrs by Dennis (KB8ZQZ)
- b) 15 members present

2) **Old Business**

- a) Siren testing will continue through the year. Next test will occur on October 3, 2009 at 13:00 hrs. Ron (WD8BCS) to send out reminder notice.
- b) Ben (WX8BEN) is still developing the new WEB site. Close to roll out.
- c) No update on development of a grid map for storm spotters. This will be followed up as time permits. (WX8BEN)
- d) No activity on installation of D-Star. Repeater is tentatively planned for installation at the Maintenance & Alarms Division building at Pleasant and Ferrol St. A D-Star radio identified for each of the 4 Ingham Co. EOCs

3) **New Business**

- a) No plans for the SET on October 3.
- b) Ben was contacted by the NWS to start planning for next years Storm Spotter training. Several of the LCC staff previously helpful in securing the location no longer work at LCC due to budgets. Ben to follow up on potential rooms at LCC or another location.
- c) Silver Bells will be here in about 8 weeks. Need to run through the equipment for completeness and any necessary repairs.
- d) A discussion took place on obtaining a vehicle (i.e.; golf cart) assigned to the LARPSC for events. General consensus was to not pursue obtaining one due to storage and actual use.
- e) Hospice Walk on October 1. Contact Jeremiah (KC8EIA) to volunteer.
- f) GR Level 3 radar not working in the EOC. Dennis & Ron to work on problem after the meeting.

4) **Adjournment**

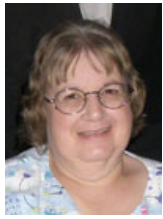
- a) Next meeting @ Ingham Co. Sheriff's EOC
- b) Meeting adjourned @ 19:35 hrs.

*Submitted by:*

*Dave Hayhurst (K8QH)*



# Ladies of CMARC News



## Tea Time Luncheon Wrap-Up

by Julie McLain, KB8ZXR

kb8zxr@aol.com

517-694-0812

Six Ladies attended the September 19th Ladies Tea Time Luncheon, which was held at Cheddar's Restaurant on West Saginaw in Lansing. We enjoyed a variety of delicious entrees, followed by a great time of visiting together. Before breaking up, we all planned our next luncheon and decided that it would be at Buddy's Grill in Holt.

Remember Ladies, you don't have to be a Ham to join us for these monthly get togethers. You only need to enjoy food, fellowship and FUN!! If you're not on our mailing list yet and would like to be—just contact Julie McLain/KB8ZXR at (517) 694-0812 or KB8ZXR@aol.com. For more info on any of our Ladies Tea Time events, please check out the SCOPE or CMARC website at [centralmiarc.com](http://centralmiarc.com).



## OCTOBER LADIES TEA TIME LUNCHEON

Please be sure to join us Saturday, October 17th at 12:30 PM for our next Ladies Tea Time Luncheon. We will be meeting at Buddies Grill, located at 2040 Aurelius Road in Holt.

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—we enjoy visiting with each other and having FUN! To guarantee seating, please RSVP by Friday, October 16 by contacting Julie McLain/KB8ZXR at: (517) 694-0812 or KB8ZXR@aol.com

~Julie McLain/KB8ZXR  
Ladies Tea Time Luncheon Coordinator





# Teen Talk



After much frustration and a lot of work, the time has finally come! The new Amateur Radio club has been approved at Holt High School. This new club will be called the “Communications Club”. The club will include both Amateur Radio and morning news via TV to the entire school!

The morning news portion of the club will attract many students into the club first, and they can learn about Amateur Radio. Also, the morning news will have the ability to make announcements about what ham radio is! The opportunity couldn't get any better!!!

With the help of Meredith KD8JBC, I wrote the proposal that is required to start a new club at Holt. I was very overwhelmed when presenting the proposal to the principal (Templin). Without even reading the text yet Templin stated, “This is the best proposal I have ever seen!” Needless to say, it was quickly approved. Now logistics are being discussed about where the club room will be, and what times the club will meet. After that, the new HHS Communications Club should have the previously donated equipment up and running to teach the future generations the pleasures of Amateur Radio!

I want to give a big thanks to all the people who have encouraged me throughout this process. There were many times when I wanted to give up. But with the positive reinforcement of friends in the hobby, I stayed in and jumped through whatever hoops the school system forced on me. I would like to give a special thanks to Don KB8RAD. Don has been a friend, mentor, and adopted Grandpa for me to turn to throughout this whole process. I'm lucky to have Don as the Youth Liaison, and without him this probably would still be just a dream. Thanks Don!

Also, thank you all who have donated equipment and offered time to the new club. Both are going to be needed to help get this going. Let's just remember that the youth IS the future of ham radio. I appreciate everyone's hard work and thank you for your patience. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the proposal sent to you, please feel free to contact me at any time (like always). I can't wait to update everyone about what the Communications Club has accomplished, next month in Teen Talk.

*73, Corey*

# Bits N Bytes...Second Look

## World War II

*Written by: Don Devendorf (W8EGI)*

As a civilian during the Second World War, I was Assistant Chief of the United States Civil Aeronautics Administration Flight Service Station at Lansing Airport where we provided pilots with weather and flight information, air traffic control and flightplan services. The CAA operated and maintained the world's largest communications network. One of our job requirements was proficiency in radiotelegraph, rarely used by the 1940s in the continental United States, having been superseded by landline Teletype. Overseas circuits, though, were still exclusively radiotelegraph and that was the only means of communication to, from and within the territory of Alaska. There were no wire lines.

In late December 1943 I received a telegram from the CAA regional Office in Chicago: "NOTIFY THIS OFFICE AND PROCEED TO WOODY ISLAND ALASKA FOR FURTHER DUTY STOP FIRST CLASS TRAVEL VOUCHERS IN MAIL STOP REPORT TO CAA ALASKA DEPOT SEATTLE FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS AND TRANSPORTATION STOP ACUTE SHORTAGE QUALIFIED OPERATORS YOUR SERVICES URGENTLY NEEDED."

Rail was the only cross-country means of transportation during wartime. „First Class“ meant I was entitled to a lower Pullman sleeping car berth on any long distance train. At the depot I was informed nothing would be available on any route for perhaps weeks: you might call back later. During WW II all forms of transportation were strictly rationed and we were told we all must sacrifice to win the war. However, my

father-in-law was superintendant of a large automotive parts plant now in military production and he knew something I didn't. On Tuesday he made a phone call and Wednesday night I left Chicago enroute Seattle on the Milwaukee Road's best train, the Olympian.

To my astonishment I was almost alone in a large comfortable Pullman car, lower berth, car center (preferred location for a quiet smooth ride). I counted only four other passengers in the car which accommodated maybe fifty or sixty. The Pullman conductor was astonished too that I did not know what was going on, since how did I get on his train? Seems railroad sleeping accommodations were secretly „block-booked“ during the war by what President Eisenhower would later call the "Military-Industrial Complex;" reserved and paid for in advance whether used or not. To paraphrase Gilbert and Sullivan, "What the hell do we care? Daddy pays the carfare!" This carfare was known as "cost plus." So anytime they wanted to go somewhere they went. First Class.

Ordinary travelers were herded into the crowded day coaches up ahead. In a real act of compassion, and in response to our unanimous permission, the conductor brought a young enlisted soldier and his new bride back to what he called the "cattle cars" to enjoy at least a two-night honeymoon together before he would be shipped out. We were sworn to secrecy. All Pullman cars had names and this one was "La Crosse." Coincidentally, I returned home from Seattle on the same Olympian, same La Crosse" in a

lower berth just across the aisle, one year later in January, 1945.

On Woody Island, just off the town of Kodiak, we were in Alaska's most westward Sitka spruce forest. Beyond, out the Aleutian Chain, two thousand miles of a barren rocky islands and perhaps the world's worst weather. Our CAA Radiotelegraph Station KMZG was big and bustling, 20 or more operators on watch around the clock handling all North Pacific weather, flight plans, point-to-point traffic and pilot information to all aircraft civil and military. We worked 8-hour watches, no days off, no lunch hours, no leave, for more than nine months. I recall 116 continuous midwatches midnight to 8 AM. Then onto evenings 4 PM to midnight and finally the very busy day watch.

Kodiak, (pop. 300) was then a quaint old frontier fishing village; two groceries, one drugstore, one meat market, twenty three saloons and one U.S. Marshall to keep order. Some regarded Alaska as the international headquarters of Alcoholics Unanimous; due partly to the long winter night and the preponderance of transient construction workers, Not far down the east shore of Kodiak Island was Fort Greely, a ramshackle wooden army barracks. Right next was a giant new steel-and-concrete Navy base, Kodiak Naval Air Station together with a long Class A concrete runway, said to be the only pavement within 300 miles. All who flew in were confronted with a scary yellow sign in the Navy hangar: "-ATTENTION ALL PERSONNEL-THIS IS A COMBAT

Continued Next Page...

# Bits N Bytes...Second Look

Continued From Last Page...

ZONE. UNIFORMS MANDATORY. NO BEARDS. SALUTE ALL OFFICERS." Actually, no enemy had ever been sighted, and the only observable combat was confined to the downtown saloons on Saturday night.

Earlier, the Kodiak Navy Base had a surprise construction site visit by the Special Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program, aka Truman Committee. Apparently the Senator had discovered such horrendous fraud and theft the he was rumored to have uttered cogent four letter words and such phrases as "goddam crooks" in the presence of Mayor Jack Mc Cord and a Kodiak Mirror reporter. None ever reached print, of course. Siems-Drake, one of the Six Companies that built Boulder Dam, was canned on the spot. Next morning and old friend of mine, electrical design engineer for Siems-Drake in Seattle, found their office had disappeared during the night; door locked, name gone. Seabees, the Navy construction battalion, were called in to finish the Kodiak base. Within one year Senator Truman would become President of the United States, order atomic attacks on Japan and end the war.

In late summer 1944 three of us were detailed from Woody Island to Fort Greely. We'd operate their Army Airway Radiotelegraph Station around the clock, relieving 25 or 30 Army personnel. The Fort Greely station was, in a word, overstaffed. I was stuck with the often hectic day watch. We lived in the temporary wooden barracks and ate at their mess hall, not quite up to Woody Island cuisine (our CAA cook was the highest paid person at KMZG: \$1,000 a month), but very good and so we informed the cook. He

almost cried. Only chef compliment he'd had in 25 years, he told us. We became good friends at once.

Early one sunny morning two huge Matson liners steamed up Kodiak Channel and by evening the entire military complement of Fort Greely was on its way to the South Pacific, where an actual shooting war was going on in a real combat zone. Five civilians we left holding the Fort; we three radio operators, a carpenter and a plumber. Next day we moved next door, and really upscale, in the gleaming new Kodiak Naval Air Station where we were to become Navy NHB operating a special radiotelegraph position they'd just provided for Army Airways. Obviously this wasn't boot camp. We were among the first tenants of the beautifully appointed BOQ (Bachelor Officer's Quarters). We'd banquet at Officer's Mess on handsomely monogrammed china, with sterling silverware, a white linen tablecloth and red embossed linen napkins. Our every dining wish would be attended by eager Filipino mess boys and of course we'd dress for dinner---jacket and tie de rigueur.

Recreational facilities abounded: a bowling alley, billiard tables, first run movies, free haircuts at all hours. Large sodas and malts never exceeded 25 cents and a box of 24 Hershey bars came over the counter for 60 cents. If one smoked, cigarettes were 50 cents a carton, nickel a pack. Remember this was war and we all sacrificed. From the barbers, who were enlisted personnel and couldn't talk to officers but could talk to us, we learned we were in a "country club." We believed it, wondering if we'd penetrated some sort of military secret. Later our suspicions were confirmed; the barbers had it right.

Early that winter the Army Airway functions were gradually absorbed into Navy circuits or moved elsewhere and, with our professional services now in dwindling demand, we returned to the real world on Woody Island. So ended our World War II "military" careers—three civilians operating an Army Station on a Navy Base.

*Each month, it seems that someone finds a little nugget of gold, printed elsewhere, which is worthy of sharing. This month, the notice came from Ron (WD8BCS) that this article appeared in the QMN Newsletter. We are proud to present it to you, because the author is none other than CMARC's Grand OM, Don Devendorf (W8EGI). Fantastic job, Don! We loved reading it...*

*Look for more stories like these, as well as early Ham Radio information in the Scope. And if you have a story to share, feel free to contact Erv (W8ERV) at [w8erv@acd.net](mailto:w8erv@acd.net)*

*We'll be sure to give all credit for submissions and suggestions, too. That and \$1 will get you a cup of coffee, but the thought counts. 73!*





# Local & Special Interest News

## CMARC Treasurer's Report

Primary Share Acct. (Humphries Fund) \$ 54.95  
Business Checking \$ 787.16  
NuUnion Certificate of Deposit (3/10/09) \$1003.83

Net Worth as of 8/31/09 \$1845.94  
Youth Fund Balance\* (as of 8/31/09) \$ 179.00

*\*separate from CMARC Funds*

Submitted,  
Ron Harger, WD8BCS  
CMARC Treasurer



## CMARC Treasurer's Report

Primary Share Acct. (Humphries Fund) \$ 54.95  
Business Checking \$ 815.80  
NuUnion Certificate of Deposit (3/10/09) \$1005.92

Net Worth as of 9/30/09 \$1876.67  
Youth Fund Balance\* (as of 9/30/09) \$ 179.00

*\*separate from CMARC Funds*

Submitted,  
Ron Harger, WD8BCS  
CMARC Treasurer

## 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: Jane Hosford-KC8FSK	ph: (517) 699-2540
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) 908-6739
Club Contact: Donald McLain-KB8RAD	ph: (517) 694-0812

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

QSL/ Awards Mgr.: Don DeFeyer-KC8CY ph: (517) 641-4533  
Scope Editor: J. Ervin Bates-W8ERV ph: (517) 908-6739  
email address: [w8erv@acd.net](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 11:00am and testing starts at 11:30am for the following  
date: **Saturday November 14, 2009**

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

## Returnable Cans/Bottles Wanted!

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

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

All we ask is that they be clean and bagged, so we can take them to Meijer. Your support for CMARC Youth is appreciated and we've already raised nearly \$180! Thanks!



Anyone recognize this little lad? Some call him the Little General. It's none other than Jeff Oberg (KB8SXX)

## Lansing VE Session #2

**Tuesday October 6th - 7pm**

Lansing Police Dept., South Precinct,  
3400 S. Cedar St., Lansing  
Downstairs, Sm. Conf. Room  
(Lansing VE Team)

Contact: Don McLain (KB8RAD)  
phone: (517) 694-0812

## Eaton Co. ARC

**Saturday October 10th - 12pm**

Eaton Co Sheriff Dept-EOC,  
1025 Independence Blvd.  
Charlotte, MI 48813

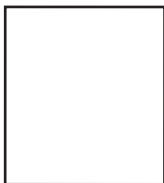
Contact: John A. Dewey (NY8Q)  
phone: (517) 645-2378

## Corunna VE Session

**Thursday October 29th - 7pm**

American Red Cross,  
712 Corunna Ave., Corunna, MI  
(Corunna VE Team)

Contact: Tom Carpenter (KI8AS)  
phone: (517) 579-0599



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*



October, 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**