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Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

May/June 2018
 Volume 18
 Issue 3

Congratulations John Doornhaag / KD8NNQ on Winning the 2017 Ziegenbein Award!

For 2017 we recognize a Ham who has served on the CMARC Board of directors serving both as a director and an officer. He has invested much in time, energy, and resources during his time as a CMARC member. This member has taken initiative in bringing and welcoming new people into our hobby, including being the head VE for the Ingham County VE Group. This member has also put a lot of hard work into ensuring we had a smooth transition from our Salvation Army location to our current location at the Mason / Lansing Ambulance training center. Whether it was taking down our old tower installation, putting up our new towers and antennas, fabricating materials to keep costs minimal, bringing his own equipment to help in the installation, keeping up on the grounds of our club location, or even making sure that our new club area was well stocked and clean, this member has been there helping out.

With dedication not only to CMARC, but the entire Amateur Radio community, I am honored to be able

to recognize a member who has done what he could, above and beyond the expectations, John Doornaag KD8NNQ as the recipient of the Ziegenbein Award for 2017.

Congratualations John!!

Dan Beuchert / WX8MOJ
 Ziegenbein Award Committee Chairman



PHOTO BY SHANNON RANES/WA2NVK

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Treasurer's Reports 2018

Daniel Beuchert / WX8MOJ- CMARC Treasurer

Bank Balances for March	
Beginning Balance	\$3,302.82
Total Monthly Income	\$60.00
Total Monthly Expenditures	(\$200.44)
Total Business Checking	\$3,162.38
Petty Cash	\$1.00
Outstanding Checks	(\$125.00)
Sub Total + Petty Cash	\$3,038.38
Primary Share Accounts	
Humphrey's Fund	\$383.50
Building Fund (Club Station)	\$19.09
Field Day	\$478.03
Total Net Worth	\$3,919.00
Youth Fund Balance*	\$254.24
* Separate from CMARC Funds	

Bank Balances for April	
Beginning Balance	\$3,162.38
Total Monthly Income	\$475.00
Total Monthly Expenditures	(\$976.00)
Total Business Checking	\$2,661.38
Petty Cash	\$1.00
Outstanding Checks	(\$125.00)
Sub Total + Petty Cash	\$2,537.38
Primary Share Accounts	
Humphrey's Fund	\$383.53
Building Fund (Club Station)	\$19.09
Field Day	\$478.07
Total Net Worth	\$3,418.07
Youth Fund Balance*	\$254.26
* Separate from CMARC Funds	

Ongoing License Plate Project for the Club Room:

By Russ Fitzgerald / N8FZ

The club is trying to collect as many ham call license plates as possible from our members for a display in the club shack redesign project. Check your garage, shed, or basement and see if you have an old plate kicking around. Year or condition doesn't matter. Can't find one but still would like to participate? No problem. Here's what you do. The State of Michigan will let you order a replacement plate at any time, you do not need to wait for a renewal. All you need is a copy of your license, Amateur Radio Operator form from the state (I have

plenty of these), and a check to the state for \$2.00 for the standard plate or \$7.00 for the graphic bridge plate. When it arrives you use the new plate on your vehicle and donate the old one or donate the new one.

If you have any questions please call 517-899-2622, or email russf2211@aol.com, or see me at the next meeting. I have the forms with me.

May Birthdays:

5/2 Paul Keefer / KB8YQZ
5/7 Gary Grabenstein / K8CKW
5/11 Eugene Brown / KK4DIY
5/13 Kenneth Hazlett / K8NNY
5/14 Matt Warncke / W8MAT
5/17 Austin Burk / KD8VOY
5/19 Thomas Davage / K8KUF
5/19 John Doornhaag / KD8NNQ
5/19 Shannon Ranes / WA2NVK
5/23 Jen Coslor / KE8DVP
5/23 Michael Yager / KE8BIH
5/25 Garry Watson / KC8MAD
5/27 Marie Watson / KC8NOI
5/31 William Wing / W2PMH

May Anniversaries:

5/6 Roger / AB8RX and Deanna Barnhills
5/7 Dennis Dann / KE8ACA
5/8 Wayne Barker / KE8GUL
5/13 Jan / KC8BFK and Judy Bradfield
5/15 William (Kim) Sherman (WA8KIM)
5/19 Don Hunsaker / WB8PPB
5/30 John Schuster / KD8VON
5/31 John / AC8ML and Shirley Strong

June Birthdays:

6/2 Clyde Tompkins / K8CPT
6/4 Kaydence Weaver
6/6 Bill Coon / KC8LRM
6/7 Brian Wellwood / KD8ONC
6/8 Cyprian Blunt / KE8FXF
6/8 Bob Strobel / KB8DQQ
6/12 Ted Sadilek / WA8MFQ
6/13 Steven Cooper / N8NTU
6/14 Dawn Beuchert / KD8MWA
6/14 Bob Woolever / KE8AGO
6/17 Gerald Waite / KD8GLN
6/21 Charles Cosler / KE8DVQ
6/24 Ginny Hannahs / KD8HPG
6/25 Julia Burk / KD8STP
6/25 Gregg Mulder / WB8LZG
6/28 Pete Strank / KC8TCS
6/29 Alana Blunt / KE8FXG

June Anniversaries:

6/4 Bill Smith / KD8INX
6/22 Ted / WA8MFQ and Bev Sadilek
6/24 Garry / KC8MAD and Marie / KC8NOI Watson
6/26 Ed / WA8QJE and Brenda Hude

Upcoming Meetings:

CMARC Monthly Meeting

When: 7:00 pm, Friday, June 8, 2018

Where: Lansing Mason Area Ambulance
Training Facility
807 Kerns Rd., Mason, MI 48854

For more information, you can check out our website at www.centralmiarc.com or get a hold of Club contact Don McLain/KB8RAD at KB8RAD@arrl.net.

ARPSC Monthly Meeting

When: 7:00 pm, Monday, May 21, 2018
7:00 pm, Monday, June 18, 2018

Where: Lansing Fire Station 48
off Marshall Rd. South of Grand River.

For more information, you can check out our website at www.lansingarpssc.com.



The CMARC Board welcomes Michael Boensch / W8MKB as a Director. Michael willingly volunteered to serve the remainder of the term once held by Dennis Shubitowski / NS8H.

Dennis - thank you for your service.
We greatly appreciate it!

ARRL Volunteer Exams



Sponsored by the "Ingham County VE Group"

To best accomodate the various schedules of those wishing to test, the Ingham County VE team meets on either a Saturday morning or Thursday evening, every other month. We test in the Community Room at Lansing Fire Station #44 1435 E Miller Rd., Lansing MI 48911-5322.

Contact: Don McLain (KB8RAD)
(517) 930-7707
KB8RAD@arrl.net

First Thursday of the Month at 7:00 PM

February 1st
April 5th
June 7th
August 2nd
October 4th
December 6th

Second Saturday of the Month at 11:00 AM

January 13th
March 10th
May 12th
June 23rd (Field Day - 11:00 AM - Rayner Park, Mason, Michigan)
July 14th
July 28th (Hamfest - 11:00 AM - Holt Christian Church, 2424 Washington Rd., Lansing, Michigan)
September 8th
November 10th

2017 Ziegenbein / Ladies Night

PHOTOS BY WWW.LANSINGMICHIGANPHOTOGRAPHY.COM



ARRL: How can we help?

By Dan Romanchik / KB6NU

When he's not getting all worked up over ARRL politics, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches amateur radio classes, and works CW on the HF bands. He's the author of the No Nonsense amateur radio license study guides and The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code.



Recently, I received this email from a reader:

“Hi Dan,

“Hope you’re doing well. I have a couple of questions about the ARRL. I’ve been reading your blog and other sources, and it’s clear that the ARRL is in a little trouble. I have

to say, though, that as soon as the current administration in D.C. notices that some of their friends can make money off of amateur radio bandwidth, the whole amateur radio service is in very serious jeopardy. The only way I can think of to counter that would be an organization like the ARRL, and I think there’s really only one organization like the ARRL. Is that not true? If it is, how can we help?”

I replied that it is true that there’s only one organization like the ARRL. In the past, there have been groups that have tried to compete with the ARRL, but they’ve never really taken off. It’s an incredible amount of work to set up an organization like the ARRL and none of the alternates have been able to get to critical mass.

The second question—How can we help?—is the big question. Here are a few thoughts:

- Join the ARRL. If you’re not currently a member, join. You’ll have little or no influence, if you are not a member.

- If you are a member, but your friends are not, encourage them to join. The more members the ARRL has, the more influence it will have. This is common sense, but the ARRL doesn’t really seem to care about this. In the past, I’ve encouraged the ARRL to set a membership goal of 25% of licensed radio amateurs (link 1, link 2). I honestly don’t think this is asking too much, and I’ve never heard a good argument for them not to

do this. They continue to ignore me, and the percentage of licensed radio amateurs that are ARRL members continues to decline.

- Take an interest in ARRL matters and let your director and vice director know your views. Get your friends to do likewise. Get on the mailing lists for the board meeting agendas and minutes. To do this, log into the ARRL website, click on “Edit your profile,” then “Edit email subscriptions.”

- Invite your ARRL elected officials—your division director, vice director, and section manager—to talk at your club meetings. Be prepared to grill them on issues that you think are important.

- Run for office yourself. I ran for Great Lakes Division vice director twice. Unfortunately, I lost both times, but even running is a way to have an impact. I’d like to see the “loyal opposition” get organized and challenge the status quo, especially in divisions where I think the current director is making bad decisions.

Having said all that, there are ways to make an impact besides playing ARRL politics:

- Get on the air. It’s easier to lose bands if we’re not using them. Encourage others to be active.

- Be an Elmer to those that need it.

- Teach classes to help those who want a license get a license and to help those who are already licensed to upgrade their licenses.

- Be an ambassador for amateur radio, especially to related groups, such as the “maker” groups that have sprung up around the country. Make sure that they know about your amateur radio club and the classes and exam sessions that you offer.

I’d love to hear any other thoughts that you all may have on this. I really do think that at this point, we need to inundate the ARRL Board and staff with input from the membership. While they may have a long history of ignoring the membership and just going about their own merry way, now is really a time of change, and this might be the right time to set the ARRL on a better path. ■

Alexa, help me with ham radio

By Dan Romanchik / KB6NU

When he's not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about the voice apps that you like at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.



I have had an Amazon Alexa (<https://www.amazon.com/Amazon-Echo-And-Alexa-Devices/>

I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only.

Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command "learn," it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed.

Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill.

Other ham radio skills

While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available.

Here are a few that I found:

- Ham Exam (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B01N7NQ3JE/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_6&qid=1524602919). Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool.

- Ham Lookup (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073YL88SL/?ref=skill_dsk_pnps_dp_1). Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database.

- Ham Radio Propagation Forecast (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B073THV6ZP/?ref=skill_dsk_pnps_dp_0). Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by NoNBH).

[b?ie=UTF8&node=9818047011](https://www.kb6nu.com/use-alexa-amateur-radio/)) for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how I'd like to develop an Alexa skill to control my IC-7300 (<https://www.kb6nu.com/use-alexa-amateur-radio/>). I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called Continuous Wave (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B07C7HS47J/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_0). It's designed to help you learn Morse Code.

To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, "Alexa, open Continuous Wave." This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt...

- Learn
- Practice
- Alphabet
- Common words
- Random words
- Words
- Sentences
- Call signs
- Contest
- Quick Brown Fox
- QSO
- Help
- Stop – To end your session.

Alexa, help me with ham radio *Cont'd*

- ARRL Audio News (https://alexa.amazon.com/spa/index.html#skills/dp/B078Y7NGYT/?ref=skill_dsk_skb_sr_1&qid=1524750783). Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing.

Building your own voice app

The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at VoiceApps.Com. Two other websites—Pullstring (<https://pullstring.com>) and StoryLine (<https://getstoryline.com>)—also have tools to help you build

voice apps. And, Amazon has an online tutorial that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier.

Since I'm currently in the process of updating my No Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide, it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that. ■

News Snippet from the Amateur Radio Newsline (May 25, 2018)

AMATEUR EXAMS ARE A FIRST FOR ST. JOHN

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: Another way to respond to emergencies effectively is to Elmer candidates who want their licenses. That happened recently, for the very first time, on the Island of St. John in the Caribbean. Here's Andy Morrison K9AWM with more.

ANDY: There are many things the U.S. Virgin Islands are known for - blue skies and clear water among them but - ham radio operators? Guess again. The Island of St. John has doubled its modest amateur radio population following the island's first VE session held May 6 in cooperation with St. John Rescue and the islands of St. Croix and St. Thomas. After September hurricanes Irma and Maria knocked out communications for the remainder of 2017, Jennifer and Larry Pruss believed the island needed more than 10 active hams. Motivated by last year's 100 days of post-storm outages, there are now 18.

JENNIFER: "We had complete loss and blackout of all power and communication services. So I think that made everyone heightened to the fact that ham radio is extremely useful when all else fails."

ANDY: That was Jennifer Pruss who took - and passed - both her Technician and General that day. She and her husband Larry NP2LP are proud that their 12-year-old daughter, Skylar, got her Tech ticket that day too. Larry says many of the hams expect to become active and useful

to St. John Rescue, which is providing the new hams with free radios.

LARRY: "My wife and I are both members of St. John Rescue and we were going to do this regardless of their help however they stepped up and offered to help pay for materials and ultimately they are going to pay for radios. They have given us a grant to pay of \$4,000 for us to buy handheld transceivers so people who have taken the study courses and successfully passed are going to get a radio compliments of St. John Rescue."

ANDY: With the help of volunteer examiners from sister islands as well as the area ARRL section coordinator, Larry and Jennifer know this won't be the only VE session ever to be held on the island.

LARRY: "The next step is to get them their radios and get the radios distributed and programmed and to teach the General exam. Concurrent with all that is to get the ARRL section coordinator to come over from St. Croix. He has put together a grant for I think about \$25,000 to get some repeaters because our repeater system was damaged pretty severely during the storm so we are going to be putting up new repeaters as well.

ANDY: They expect to have a lot more General class licensees by the time storm season rolls around this year. For Amateur Radio Newsline I'm Andy Morrison K9AWM.

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved?

By Don Keith / N4KC



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Don's web sites are www.donkeith.com and www.n4kc.com. The latter site features numerous articles about our hobby. Don also blogs on the subject of rapid technological change and its effect on media, society and Amateur Radio at <http://n4kc.blogspot.com>.)

You would have to have your QTH under a rock—or be so wrapped up in your ragchews, contests, new digital modes, kit-building, island and summit activations, grid-square chasing, or nets...you know, doing ham radio stuff! —not to have noticed all the recent noise about the American Radio Relay League, our national amateur radio membership organization. The controversy has been rife on the air, in blog posts, and on various podcasts and video programs devoted to our hobby. And while there has been such sniping going on for a while, likely since Hiram Maxim himself deflected flaming arrows—who remembers Wayne Green W2NSD/1? —the most recent noise has certainly escalated many decibels over the last few months.

So far as I can tell, the impetus for the latest hullaballoo came when the League Board of Directors voted to censure one of its own over comments he made before a group gathered at an event. The gist of that action was because, apparently, board members are never supposed to criticize or question anything going on within the A.R.R.L. while before a public gathering of the organization's members or potential members. And though as muted and generally innocuous as this gentleman's presentation was, he allegedly broke that sacred rule. Thus a very public and much-decried censure from the Board.

Then, in apparent reaction to the uproar that resulted, the League decided that at their January 2018 board meeting they would consider even more stringent secrecy restrictions and policy. This, of course, set off even more of an outcry, among members, possible members,

and those who are happy to have any excuse to criticize the League, whether justified or not. So it came to pass that, as the villagers approached with their torches held high, the directors backed down and tabled the proposed actions, theoretically opting to conduct further consideration.

Then, to further rile the great unwashed out there and plant the seed for more conspiracy theories, the League's relatively new CEO abruptly resigned his position. The reason given? He suddenly discovered that Connecticut had a relatively high rate of taxes and he simply could not afford to live there on the salary the League had agreed to pay him and that he had agreed to accept for services rendered. Honest, that is the reason given in the press releases that were hastily posted and disseminated.

Huh? Did the gentleman not know the salary he was to earn for the position and his new state of residence's tax liability before he applied for and accepted the job? Seems anyone qualified to be CEO of such a large and important organization would be aware of those numbers going in. Pardon our pronounced incredulity!

Okay, thus far this is the way I understand how this latest round of dissatisfaction with the actions of our hobby's organization came about. If I have mischaracterized it in any way, please let me know. Some of this, I know, based on rumor and speculation. However, that is one of the issues up for consideration here. We simply do not have access to so many of the facts.

We should note that this is not the first time that open revolt has been threatened. Nor should we be surprised, considering the nature of any organization of the size and stature of the A.R.R.L., and one with such a diverse and intelligent constituency. And one with the ability to communicate and miscommunicate their opinions in so many ways. And in a time when such communication can be conducted—anonously—via so many

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved? *Cont'd*

previously non-existent media.

Oh, and an organization that represents hobbyists who are regulated by an agency of the federal government with the authority to levy fines and give jail time as well as by international treaty.

W2NSD certainly tried to lead the mob, partly because he wanted things done a different and better way, and partly, I believe, to sell magazines and books. Others have tried to form an alternative outfit, a completely new membership organization that would represent ham radio operators, in a manner somehow superior to and differently from how the League does it. Still more have simply refused to join the A.R.R.L. or quit in a huff—forfeiting the right to criticize, in my opinion—as they rail away as often and as loudly as they can about anything that gets their dander up. But unwilling to work from within to build the organization into what they believe it should be. Sometimes they are right on but often they are misinformed or just downright wrong-headed.

Now, since I mentioned my opinion, here are some thoughts I have about the state of the A.R.R.L. and, in some cases, our hobby in general. These sentiments are based on having been an active ham radio operator for 56 years with a professional background in business

management, media, journalism, statistical research, and marketing.

That means I don't necessarily know what I am talking about, but I am relatively adept at convincing folks that I do!

So, let's take some of the points I have seen ballyhooed about of late, occupying many pixels and much precious bandwidth, and discuss them—not at all anonymously—one at a time:

“The League is stodgy, secretive, and seems far too self-serving to do a good job for the hobby in general and its members in particular. What are they up to up there?”

If perception is ultimately reality, then this is absolutely true. I have seen and heard far too many otherwise level-headed amateurs express this view. The recent actions by the board, tabled or not, reinforce the perception that these charges are accurate. So do some recent odd activities dealing with the election of some officials and the appointments of others, as well as the sudden resignation of the relatively new CEO.

Solution: become more transparent. Simple fix!

News Snippet from the Amateur Radio Newline (May 4, 2018)

HAMS JOIN THE MILITARY - AT LEAST ON AIR

JIM/ANCHOR: The Military Auxiliary Radio System is all about communicating - so hams are marking Armed Forces Day with an exercise that arms them with cross-band operations. Stephen Kinford N8WB has more of those details.

STEPHEN'S REPORT: Are you ready for the big test? May 19th is the 67th annual Armed Forces Day in the U.S. and that sets the stage for an important exercise just a few days earlier that will engage radio amateurs and military stations in a test of cross-band operations. The test is scheduled for Saturday the 12th of May. It allows hams and military stations to communicate on various frequencies using SSB, voice and CW as well as modern military modes such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment, or ALE. There will certainly be some 60 meter activity on the interoperability channels where hams and military stations can communicate directly.

From the Barrow Army Reserve Center in Kentucky to the U.S. Military Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, to the Pentagon itself, military stations will monitor amateur frequencies and announce which ones they are on military frequencies. Participating amateurs who would like a QSL card should visit the MARS website and complete the request form. The website is triple w dot usarmymars dot org (www.usarmymars.org). That site also has a list of the military stations participating in the exercise, which has been held for the past 50 years. MARS involves ham radio operators in supporting military communication under a program sponsored by the Department of Defense.

For Amateur Radio Newline I'm Stephen Kinford N8WB.

(DEPT OF DEFENSE)

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved? *Cont'd*

Do not be afraid of allowing members—and, by the way, non-members—to know what is going on, what decisions are being made, and why. The League is, after all, a member-driven organization, its policy set by its elected officials, and through them, by the members. Those policies should represent the opinions and needs of its constituency. Even if the ultimate decision does not necessarily reflect the wants of the majority. Or are not even remotely popular with us.

Especially if these are the case!

The fact is that sometimes a director, vice-director, or section manager knows and understands more about an issue than Joe Ham, who has not ventured more than a few cycles off his 75-meter roundtable frequency since the '50s. Not that there is anything wrong with that. But there is a lot to keep track of, and issues are often far more complex than some are willing to admit.

I'm sorry, but I do not understand why board meetings cannot be streamed live in the Internet. CSPAN brings us all those long, boring committee hearings and bland speeches to empty chairs during Congressional sessions, but we citizens can see for ourselves what is going on with our elected officials if we really want to. Untold hours of the Dayton Hamvention are available for viewing on the web, for Pete's sake! Why are Board of Director meetings, with our elected officials in attendance, sacrosanct?

Yes, I understand that some dicey subjects or personnel discussions might need to take place behind closed doors. But those should be the exception rather than the rule. Even then we need to know as much as we can about what took place in there, including why it was necessary to lock the door and not allow members to eavesdrop.

And please! If someone is elected to the board by a majority of League members in a division, he or she should be able to express opinions without fear of reprisal or censure. Within reason, of course. A director should be allowed to defend the League and its actions but to also explain when there is disagreement. The director should absolutely be allowed to explain the reasons for his or her own vote, pro or con. And do

so publicly. Especially at hamfests and club meetings, where members and non-members gather to get the latest from their representative. Yes, a director should represent all amateur radio operators, League member or not.

But would not such transparency lead to even more criticism and rabble rousing. I don't think so.

Democracy can be dirty, the old "sausage being made" metaphor, but it must be open and transparent. And discussed and debated. Last time I looked, freedom to speak one's own mind is guaranteed by the Constitution, a document and an idea that has been defended to the death by so many. People who are able to exercise this solemnly-bestowed right include those who happen to hold an elected position in the American Radio Relay League. What is good enough for the USA should be fine for the A.R.R.L...

"What is this about the League spending an unknown amount of members' money (typical that they apparently did not tell us how much) for a research project and the primary recommendation to emerge from the results of the study was that a second web site be developed...and the company that did the research would be happy to construct it—but not create content for it—for a mere \$400,000?"

Huh? Is this correct? I don't know but this bit of news is flying around the web at the speed of light.

Included in this news bulletin are some facts that are even more disturbing, and if the League is serious about being more transparent, they need to confirm or deny but certainly explain them. The word is that at a time when amateur radio continues to grow reasonably healthily, membership in the A.R.R.L. is actually going down. That only about 20% of newly licensed hams even join the League. And that a vast majority of those who do join do not renew their membership at the first opportunity to do so.

And what about all those who get a license and never renew it? Do we really have to wait ten years just to see if that guy or gal stuck with the hobby? Before we find out the newcomer never uttered a word or sent a character

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved? *Cont'd*

or emitted a single digital bit after going to the trouble to pass the test and get a ticket? Or if he or she did, what caused the potentially fine ham to ultimately flee the hobby? Or what might have been done to pique their interest and allow them to come to worship the hobby as you and I do before they gave up and fled the scene?

I hesitated quoting those stats in the previous two paragraphs because I have no way to confirm or debunk them. Somebody can. And they work in Newington, Connecticut. They know who and how many joined the League. How many renewed. How many dropped by the wayside.

We don't, do we? At least not yet.

But if these numbers are accurate, or even close to true, something needs to be done. A second \$400,000 web site, despite the recommendations of that company—Who are they? Are they even qualified to do the research and develop recommendations that set the future course of our hobby and its primary booster organization? —does not seem, to me, to be the solution to a decline in League membership. Or, by the way, to determining what steps to take to continue to grow our hobby's ranks and build an even more thriving, powerful, effective A.R.R.L.. (I believe such a web site can serve a valuable purpose, and maybe it is the one the consultants had in mind. We

don't know since nobody has told us. But more on that second web entity later.)

A research project is definitely in order. Most companies would not dream of planning future policy or actions without reliable research and carefully developed strategy.

There is an old expression in the research and marketing biz. It maintains that all you need to know about marketing a product or service can be summed up in three sentences. Ask people what they want. Give them what they want. Tell them you are giving them what they want.

Here is an idea. If we want to know how to attract and keep new hams and new League members, ask those who chose not to continue to be a ham or League member why they made that decision. Have a bona fide research company contact people who got a license but did not join the League, people who joined but did not renew, and people who, whether they joined A.R.R.L. or not, got a license but allowed it to lapse. Use proper research methodology to be sure you are talking to the right people. Ask them why they did what they did, using properly-worded questions that don't taint the study. Attempt to contact and gather input from a representative sample of respondents, including age, ethnicity, other

News Snippet from the Amateur Radio Newsline (May 18, 2018)

RETURN OF 'LAST MAN STANDING' IS A FIRST FOR FOX

DON/ANCHOR: Are you ready for "Last Man Standing?" No, we're not talking reruns - but we ARE talking QSOs. Mike Askins KE5CXP tells us more.

MIKE: Did your hope of working KA6LMS die with Season Six of TV's "Last Man Standing?" Take heart: The show's Mike Baxter KA0XTT hasn't let his amateur radio license languish and neither has the Last Man Standing Amateur Radio Club. Recent word is that the show will live and breathe again this fall on the Fox network.

The same familiar characters will be back but it's possible Mike has upgraded some of the equipment in his shack - we'll see. We have it on good authority that KA6LMS hopes to resume operation from the set on production days.

Fox News quoted actor Tim Allen as saying "I could not be more grateful for the fans who wrote petitions and kept up the passion and incredible support for the show." According to Fox, "Last Man Standing" was the second most-watched comedy on ABC with an average of 8.3 million viewers. That's an enviable pileup.

Details were still being worked out, according to producer John Amodeo (amma-DAY-OH), an Extra Class licensee himself, who said "Last Man" isn't ready to breathe its last.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Mike Askins KE5CXP.

(FOX NEWS, JOHN AMODEO)

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved? *Cont'd*

interests, educational background, geography, and more.

(We know we need to attract more younger hams, more females, more African Americans and those of Hispanic descent! Here is an opportunity to learn why we have failed so far.)

Then, once the research is completed, present the findings to League officials as well as to the membership. If non-members and frequent critics see the results, too, that is fine. Just be sure the numbers include an explanation from someone who knows how to analyze the data and impartially explain what it really means. Numbers can lie. Research data can be horribly and disastrously misinterpreted.

Develop a strategy to address the reasons for lack of growth and for waning loyalty to the League. Develop it in the open, with input from as many hams, members or no, as is practical.

Implement the strategy. Do regular updates to the membership and to the public on what is being done to address the issues gleaned from the research data.

Observe objectively how effective that strategy actually becomes. Or if it is not working at all. This ideally includes regular additional research studies. Adjust the strategy and its implementation as you go. It absolutely should not be etched into marble. Do another study in three years or five years to judge impact and success or lack thereof.

That is how this stuff works, folks. We may be surprised by what we learn. Heck, we may be converting far more people to our hobby than we should be. And the League is retaining all the members it possibly can. But we need to know that, too. And develop a survival strategy around the data.

I did my own informal research for the past four years and the results became the basis for my book *Get on the Air...Now!* I found the most prevalent reasons for why people drop out of the hobby and attempted to address their perceptions and hesitation in the book. That is my simple way to “Elmer” them. (Including not ever using

the word “elmer,” either as a verb or a noun. Its connotation is not positive outside our ranks.)

At any rate, the point is if I did such a study on my own with no budget, the League, with its bank account and smart staff and members and all it has riding on the success of any implementation of change should be perfectly able to pull off this research thing, develop strategy, and implement it successfully.

“QST is nothing but a bunch of ads and contest scores and chases away more hams and potential hams than it attracts. It is old-fashioned, too technical/not technical enough, and printed on paper in a digital age, which nobody over the age of 40 is going to read.”

Gee, where do I start? How about with my own opinion? And why single out QST?

Print publications are struggling. Media have changed since I started writing this article. My “daily” newspaper is now only printed on Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays. When did you last see a Saturday Evening Post, Look, Life or Newsweek?

I happen to like the ads in QST. Plus, I know that if they did away with them, we could expect to pay \$50 a copy for the magazine. I enjoy QST, but I am not likely a customer at \$50 per.

And I single out QST—and the A.R.R.L. web site—because they are the most visible aspect of the organization and, by proxy, the hobby of amateur radio. The first impression most Googlers have of ham radio is arrrl.org. And those who might still peruse newsstands will see QST and ham radio as one and the same.

Think about this: QST serves a broad readership with diverse interests in various aspects of the hobby, from contesting to building stuff, from newcomers to old-timers. Contesters want to see the scores to see how they placed. Articles that are not technical enough hurt the feelings of the techies. Too technical and you chase off those who are not so inclined or who are timid already about how electronical they have to be to get into this game. And there is nothing wrong with not

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved? *Cont'd*

being so inclined! This is also the official organ for the A.R.R.L., so they have to print the various bland and boring goings-on inside our organization and others like it around the world.

If we truly want more transparency and to know all that is happening within the League, we have to have it available for easy access, in the magazine and on the web site. Not all of it is going to be up your alley or especially scintillating.

If you don't like something you see in the magazine, turn the page, my friend. Turn the page.

Frankly, I think they do a good job with the magazine. I see efforts to modernize its look, to include an even wider variety of articles, and I appreciate all that hard work. And I must point out that if they are not running articles that interest you, WRITE SOME! They will even pay you money if they use them.

On the negative side, I laughed out loud when I saw the current issue (March 2018), the "Antenna Issue." Then I cried as I imagined a typical twenty-something happening up on the issue on the stand at a bookstore. What would be his or her impression of the hobby upon thumbing to the cover article?

I don't want to be negative considering all the work, thought, research and creativity employed by the hams who won the League's antenna-design contest, the

projects featured in this month's QST. Those folks obviously devoted a lot of effort to their winning entries and the judges at the A.R.R.L. certainly worked hard on picking winners, verifying performance, and preparing the articles for the magazine.

But give me a break!

A 160-meter delta loop that needs support at 90 feet and has a long run of wire at 3 feet off the ground at the bottom of the loop? Not only do most of us not have a skyhook at 90 feet, but that bottom run of wire at my house would snare many neighborhood children and wild deer! And a directional three-element array for 80? That is if you happen to have a 140-foot tower to load as the radiating element? And a low-profile 2-meter mobile antenna that is actually a huge aluminum box bolted to the top of your buggy? An antenna that gives you a couple of dB more signal than your plain, old, \$15 quarter-wave mag mount?

I also could not help but notice that the bios of most of the authors included the fact that they held degrees in electrical engineering or equally impressive technical fields. I suppose it has to be included but such info only confirms the fears of those on the outside looking in that ours is a hobby exclusively for engineers and scientists.

Sorry, but sometimes the content in QST does seem to indicate the publication is just a tad out of touch with the average ham out here in the hinterlands. And since I

News Snippet from the Amateur Radio Newline (May 25, 2018)

KICKER: THEIR FAMILY HOME IS THEIR FAMILY SHACK

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: We end this week's newscast with the story of a ham family adventure. You'll recognize one of the names in this report - Neil Rapp WB9VPG mentioned her in his report just a few minutes ago. Now let's hear the rest of the story from Don Wilbanks AE5DW.

DON'S REPORT: It seems the Latham family almost didn't need to leave their home to attend Hamvention in nearby Ohio. Every day at their house in Greencastle, Pennsylvania is Hamvention. Of the seven children, six have licenses as do parents Rachel KM4ATS and Shannon KA8JRQ. The Lathams were all at Xenia together recently and Violetta,

KM4ATT, who is 13, spoke at the Saturday morning Youth Forum. The family's youngest ham is Aaron KM4LEJ, who's 10 but has had his ticket for two years. Ohio, however, is a short trip compared to one of their next journeys - they're heading to Curacao. Don't expect to find the Lathams lounging on the beach, however. They're going on DXpedition and the only waves they'll be surfing are radio waves.

For Amateur Radio Newline I'm Don Wilbanks AE5DW.

(SOUTHGATE)

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved? *Cont'd*

learned for my book that a big stumbling block for many would-be hams is concern about having to put up some exotic antenna to even get on the air, I am afraid these articles confirm their worst preconceived qualms.

That being said, I still believe the magazine is well done for the most part and represents our hobby well to a wide readership.

Sorry, but I can't say the same for the League's web site. When they did a major overhaul a few years ago, I had high hopes. They hired a professional outfit to re-do the whole thing, and I can only imagine what a task that was, considering all the rarely seen stuff that had to be re-worked and crammed into the site. Unfortunately, it emerged from this revamping as a cluttered, hard-to-navigate, counter-intuitive mess. I can only imagine the feelings of a mildly curious visitor, Googling "ham radio," and landing on arrl.org.

The site simply does not put our best foot forward. Maybe that outfit with the proposed \$400,000 web site was on to something after all. Maybe we do need two web sites, one for the current members and active hams with all the operating stuff, contest details, technical info, and more, but another "here is what today's amateur radio is all about" site.

This latter website would have as its goal selling the hobby, informing visitors how to get started, showing them what books and tools are available, overcoming their natural hesitancy about leaping into the unknown—navigating past real or perceived roadblocks—and assisting them in taking the next steps. It seems obvious to me. People interested in learning about the hobby don't care about or need to learn about detailed contest rules, regulatory news, how to solder circuit boards, a review of a \$10,000 transceiver or how to put up a 160-meter delta loop that requires a 90-foot support. They just need to see if the hobby is for them and, if it appears so, how do they take the next step.

As I say, it seems obvious to me. If the League's mandate is to grow the ranks of amateur radio, then it needs to sell the hobby like a can of beans. Or as they would a political candidate. That is a major part of

marketing, and, by my way of thinking, marketing is a primary chore for any membership organization that aims to grow. And especially this one. And especially in light of some of the numbers previously discussed.

(One more thing. It is beyond the scope of this article, but I hear and see much criticism of how the League supports and works with clubs. I admittedly don't know if it is true or not, but that seems to me to be a crucial area in which to foster and continue growth of the hobby. The club level is where the rubber meets the road, a place where newcomers can get help and in-person support and old-timers can get out of their shell and contribute to the good of ham radio.

Unless that research for which I lobbied so hard tells us something totally different, I believe it would be a key strategy to include clubs in any growth plan.)

"Okay, but the A.R.R.L. is never going to change. They will continue to hide behind the walls of HQ out there in Connecticut, pull up the drawbridge, and shoot arrows at anybody that tries to storm the fort."

I don't think so. Maybe I am a perpetual optimist, but I believe the League—elected officials and employees alike—want to do the right thing, and do it the best and most effective way they can. They love our hobby as much or more than the rest of us. There is no conspiracy to kill the hobby from within. Or to stubbornly maintain the old-fashioned ways of doing things even if it threatens our growth.

Nobody's getting rich up there. I suspect many employees could do better in other industries or jobs, but they prefer working to improve the greatest pastime created. Those who run for election, or volunteer for positions in the field, absolutely sacrifice much to give back to the hobby, and do so for no pay and precious little praise or thanks.

They may have the wrong plan sometimes. They may become borderline paranoid in the face of criticism or the mob mentality that so often rises up out here in Middle America and beyond. But that, to me, is why I think an obvious answer to such charges is to become more open,

Can (Should) The ARRL Be Saved? *Cont'd*

more welcoming of input from members and non-members. But those giving the input should be privy to as many of the facts, arguments, and pro-and-con points as possible, and be open to hearing all the ramifications of any issue or decision.

Many are incapable of being fair and open-minded. Most are. Regardless, we should be trusted with the facts and the full story.

And, by the way, it is especially important that those who are offering opinions and advice—and especially those with a forum, a platform, or a very loud loud-speaker—take the time and effort to get the facts, too, before they start shooting arrows and taking prisoners.

That includes this writer. I am entitled to an opinion, but it is also incumbent on me to know what the heck it is that I am talking about. In that spirit, I hope I have clearly labeled rumors as rumors, guesses as guesses, opinions as opinions, and facts as facts in this article.

Now, in the title of this piece I asked the questions, “Can the A.R.R.L. be saved?” and, parenthetically, “Should the A.R.R.L. be saved?”

Let me answer both questions emphatically in one all-caps word: ABSOLUTELY!

I venture that few amateur radio operators actually know all that the League does to protect, preserve and promote our hobby. Wade through that junky web site and you will see how important their work is to not only protect our hobby as it is today but from those who would snatch it away from us tomorrow. That ranges from frequency grabbers to noise-grunge emitters. That plus the contests, awards, and events they create and sponsor, the books they publish, the field organization they maintain, the legal counsel and lobbying efforts they support, the reviews and technological innovation they conduct, and so much more.

And by “they” I mean “us.” We are the League. Our votes and input should help make the organization better, stronger, more effective. And hopefully more transparent and open.

Will the A.R.R.L. ever please everybody?

Gee, I hope not!

As a former television station general manager in our market—and an active ham, by the way, who is now Silent Key—used to say after delivering an on-air editorial, “That’s my opinion. What’s yours?” ■

News Snippet from the Amateur Radio Newsline (May 25, 2018)

HAMVENTION: MORE THAN FAIR AT THE FAIRGROUNDS

STEPHEN/ANCHOR: With Hamvention 2018 a memory, plans for next year have already begun - but first, Kevin Trotman N5PRE takes stock of this year’s experience.

KEVIN: Are you ready for Hamvention 2019? OK - not so fast - it’s only days since the big gathering in Xenia wrapped things up. General chair Ron Cramer KD8ENJ told Newsline the final attendance count wasn’t in yet, but he expected this year’s attendance to top the nearly 30,000 amateurs who visited the fairgrounds in 2017. The theme of “Amateur Radio, Serving the Community” didn’t just find its way into various award ceremonies and forums but even turned up in informal gatherings near the food trucks where hams from Puerto Rico and other storm-ravaged places enjoyed eyeball QSOs for the first time with hams who shared last

year’s storm assistance efforts with them. Ron said some of the greatest strengths of the weekend event were the new weather-resistant tents and the 767 volunteers who came in from around the world to keep operations running smoothly. Meanwhile there were special hours at the Voice of America Museum in nearby West Chester Ohio which opened its doors to more than 250 hams from around the world who got immersed in broadcast history and even got on the air. To quote Ron, when Newsline asked him about the overall positive feedback so far: “If you have any complaints about Hamvention 2018 you probably weren’t there.”

For Amateur Radio Newsline I’m Kevin Trotman N5PRE.

(RON CRAMER KD8ENJ)

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES

March 3, 2018

Attendance

Current Board Members Present: Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT), Judy Crawford (K8JKC), Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ), Chris Ranes (NS8Q), Tom Rocheleau (WA8WPI), Shawn Crawford (WA8MXJ), Dennis Shubitowski (NS8H)

Guests: Steve Lyon (W8RQS)

Call to Order

President Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT) called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Logging Software:

- Dan purchased the full suite of N3FJP logging software at a price of \$50 as per last month's Board meeting. The software is licensed under W8PLP. We will have access to the software for use in the club station and at Field Day.

501(c)3:

- All paperwork is set to go and we are in the process of finalizing our asset list. The pieces of vintage gear are the only items we need to come with a value on.
- According to the original Articles of Incorporation, the club purchased a trailer at the same time as the large generator in the 1960s. We need to find out if the trailer still exists, and if it does, who has it, and then add it to our asset list.
- Dan is working through the lists of our expenses from last year and trying to categorize which items are considered part of running our club functions, whether they are meetings, Field Day, Hamfest, or other events. We are going to need to itemize our expenses as a requirement for our non-profit status. Dan will come up with a list of questionable items, and Clyde will get with Jordyn at the Floyd Green, CPA Accounting Firm to see if they qualify.
- Dan will contact John Hosford (KC8QZB) to see if he knows the make, model, serial number, approximate age, and total wattage of the generator.
- According to the non-profit rules, all club assets need to be stored on the premises and not held at other member's houses.
- We need to look into our insurance requirements for items owned by the club and stored off-site. Any items stored off-site may not be covered by our insurance if damage from fire or theft occurs.
- We need to find out when the \$20 fee was paid to maintain the Articles of Incorporation. The fee is to be paid annually and the Board members for that year need to be documented as well.
- Each year at the January meeting, the Board is going to quickly go through the inventory to make sure nothing has changed.

APRS:

- WA8LMF is going to present to the Board and to the general membership about the purpose of APRS in April. Before we bring APRS here, we need to have a general vote of the membership before anything happens.
- Kevin Ammerman said his IT Administrator will open a port and give us our own router for any internet access we need. The password to the router should be made available to Kevin, as well as one Board member.

SOLDERING CLASS:

- Due to insurance requirements, the Board has decided to purchase cheap safety glasses but still ask that each person coming to the class bring their own. Several Board members will bring some.

MOTION: *Judy moved that we purchase glasses through Amazon or someplace locally at a cost of \$20 or less, seconded by Shawn, approved, and the motion passes.*

- We need to make sure we emphasize that students bring their own soldering irons.
- Due to overwhelming response the class is completely full and may be looking at holding a second class to make sure everyone who has not signed up, but is interested, to be able to participate.
- Gregg Mulder (WB8LZG) has a list of kits that those who are successful in this first class, can move into.

FLOWERS AND CARDS:

- Judy sent a card was sent to John Hosford due to his hospital stay.
- A card was sent to Ann Burger after her bypass surgery.

WORK DAY:

- A work day is being planned for Saturday, May 5th around 10 or 11am.
- We are looking at purchasing some heavy duty shelves and the large black and yellow totes for organizing the various items in our storage area.
- We want to get rid of the old dividers that we used at the Salvation Army. For anyone who wants them, we will give them away.
- Chris will look into a locking cabinet for the laptop computers.

SAFESERV:

- Judy did pass her SafeServ exam. The class cost \$125 and the cost of the exam was \$36. She is now licensed for 5 years with an expiration date in 2023.
- The Board pre-approved up to \$200 for whoever took the class to be reimbursed with.
- The paperwork will be in the filing cabinet in case someone asks about it.
- We have been in violation for using cardboard trash containers at Hamfest and Field Day. Judy is going to find a couple types of trash cans with a \$50 cap.

MOTION: *Shawn moved that we purchase four trash cans with a cap of \$50, seconded by Clyde, approved, and the motion passes.*

FUNDRAISERS:

- The idea was brought up that we have a couple different fundraisers.
 - Quarter-mania
 - An auction of ham-related equipment, with the entry fee being a piece of ham-related gear.
 - All proceeds to benefit the club.
- The ideas will be presented to the club to get their input.

HAMFEST MEALS:

- Judy brought up the idea that any workers who show up to work Hamfest, should have their meals paid in full. We would give any worker a meal voucher at the door, and leave it up to the individuals if they want to use it.
- Each worker will receive an entire meal, which consists of one protein, one chip, one sweet, and one drink.
- A donation can will be there for those who want to donate as well.

MOTION: *Dennis moved that we provided meals for the workers who will work the entire day, seconded by Shawn, approved, and the motion passes.*

HAMFEST:

- Dennis has been trying to get in contact with Matthew Taylor to see how he handled the organizations and vendors who donated items for the prizes last year.
- Jeremy has volunteered to take over organizing the volunteers.
- Shawn thinks we should set up a table to try and offload some of the old equipment on our asset list. Shawn is going to talk to Bob Crawford and see if Don Tillitson would feel up to sitting at the table as well.
- We are paying a security deposit to the church and will promptly get the deposit back as long as nothing has been damaged.
- Signs need to be posted that no smoking or drinking are allowed on church grounds.
 - A note must be made on the flyers that go out.

OUTSIDE SHED:

- John Doornhaag and Shawn have been looking at what it will cost to repair the fiberglass shed outside of our building. It was cost about \$200 to replace the roof.
- Other options are being considered to replace the shed with something a little more permanent and secure.

Adjournment:

MOTION: *With no further business to discuss, Judy moved that we adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dennis, approved, and the motion passes.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Ranes". The script is cursive and fluid.

Chris Ranes (NS8Q)
CMARC Secretary

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2018

Attendance

Board Members Present: Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT), Judy Crawford (K8JKC), Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ), Chris Ranes (NS8Q), Shawn Crawford (WA8MXJ), Tom Rocheleau (WA8WPI), Dennis Shubitowski (NS8H)

Board Members Absent: None

General Members: 31 Members

Visitors: 7 Visitors (Jake Longanbach K8JML, Gary Williams WA8CLS, Dave Vick KE8IWW, Cheryl Davage KD8QFE, Clint Hannahs KC8EHR, Jim Geyer, Eric Woodard KEoIGK)

Call to Order

- Clyde (K8CPT) called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- Dan (WX8MOJ) held the Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sign-in Sheets

- Please make sure to sign the sign-in sheets circulating around the room at each meeting. There is one sheet for members and another for visitors. We use these sheets to keep track of how many people visit us each month.

Presentation by Jim Geyer

Break

Cards and Flowers Report

- We received a letter thanking us for our donation to the Ingham County Animal Shelter.
- We received a letter thanking us for our donation to St. Jude Children's Hospital.
- A get well card was sent to Ann Berger, the wife of Bob Berger (K8RDN).
- A get well card was sent to John Hosford (KC8QZB) following his brief hospital stay.
- A sympathy card was sent to Jane Hosford (KC8FSK) on the loss of her father Allen.
- A get well card was sent to Joe Urdzella (K8JJU) following his shoulder surgery.

Treasurer's Report

MOTION: *Kenny (K8NNY) moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Ben Barker (WD8OVL), approved, and the motion carried.*

- Remember to pay your dues for 2018. See our Treasurer, Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ) if you need a membership form and to pay with check or cash.

Secretary's Report

MOTION: *Bob Crawford (K8ZAP) moved to accept the Secretary's Report, seconded by Ted Sakilek (WA8MFQ), approved, and the motion carried.*

New Licenses and Upgrades: None

Interesting DX or other Contacts

- Gregg worked 13 or 14 countries using 1W. He worked the Santa Station O1YX in Finland
- Kirby (N8FLK) would like to set up to make a contact with a club station in Finland from our Club Station.
- Dan (NS8H) received a QSL card from the southern tip of Chile. He was using 100W and a dipole on 40m and SSB.

State Parks on the Air

- We are waiting for the ARRL to come up with a QSL card for Sleepy Hollow.

Old Business

- Status of the new P.O. Box
 - Judy confirms we did get a new Mason PO Box at a cost of \$76. Kevin does not want us to receive mail at our club location. Any Board member can pick up a mail, but Judy and Dan have the keys are live the closest.
 - P.O. Box 54 Mason, MI 48854

New Business

- Ziegenbein Award nominations are due by 3/15/18 and should be sent to Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ), the Senior Committee Member. All the rules and requirements have been published in the Scope and will be on the website as well.
- Technician Class
 - Begins January 20th and will run for 8 weeks from 10AM to Noon.
 - At the end of the last class on March 10th, a special VE Session will be held for those student who would like to take their tests immediately.
 - If anybody is interested in the class, they should contact Don McLain (517-930-7707).
 - There is no cost for the class, but it is recommended that the applicants obtain the licensing book. Tom Rocheleau (WA8WPI) is able to get them at a discounted rate through the ARRL VE. He is asking for those interested to let us know so he can order the proper amount of books.
- Soldering Class
 - Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT) is putting together a soldering class where computer interfaces will be built. Classes will being in January after the next meeting to give us time to finalize some details. He is asking to bring your own soldering iron so you can learn on the equipment you will be using yourself at home. Steve Lyon (W8RQS)

- Fundraising Ideas
 - Kenny (K8NNY) brought up the idea of partnering with Potter Park Zoo for a “Zoo On The Air” type operation.
 - An Auction type event with your entrance fee to be a piece of ham radio equipment.
 - If your piece of equipment does not sell, you will be required to take it home with you, so it does not accumulate in the building.
- Michigan QSO Party
 - Flyer has all the information.
- Hamfest Food
 - Judy (K8JKC) has successfully passed her SafeServ food license exam. We are now covered to serve hot prepared food at all of our events. The Board has agreed to reimburse her for any expenses incurred to take the exam.
- Any other new business
 - Marc Lovegrove is donating two HF rigs with the requirement that they be used for someone who does not have money to buy their own equipment. We need to put together a power supply and an antenna to make a complete station.

50/50 Raffle

- Marc Lovegrove won \$25.00

Weekly Nets

- Wednesday Night Traders Net at 8pm on the 145.39 Repeater
- Michigan VHF Traffic Net on the IRA Link System
- Thursday HF Net at 9pm on 28.495.
- Tuesday Night QCWA Net on 146.700.

Adjournment:

MOTION: *With no further business to discuss, Bob Crawford (K8ZAP) moved that we adjourn the meeting, seconded by Michael Boensch (W8MKB), approved, and the motion carried.*

The meeting was adjourned and at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Ranes (NS8Q)
CMARC Secretary

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

April 7, 2018

Attendance

Current Board Members Present: Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT), Judy Crawford (K8JKC), Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ), Chris Ranes (NS8Q), Tom Rocheleau (WA8WPI), Shawn Crawford (WA8MXJ)

Guests: Russ Fitzgerald (N8FZ), Jane Hosford (KC8FSK), John Doornhaag (KD8NNQ), Michael Boensch (W8MKB), Stephen Smith (WA8LMF)

Call to Order

President Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT) called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

APRS Demo

- Stephen Smith (WA8LMF) presented APRS to the Board and discussed the ins and outs of APRS, including what APRS is, how it is used, how it benefits the public and the amateur radio community, and why it would be a good fit at our location in Mason.

Field Day

- There is a talk of finding a trailer for Field Day. Dan mentioned that the Clinton County group has a trailer they use for their emergency communication, and may be a possibility for us to use if need be.

501(c)3 Status

- The application has been filed with the IRS and our check has been cashed by the IRS.
- We should hear back in the next two to six months.
- After we officially obtain our non-profit status, the Board will make some minor revisions to our by-laws, and then submit them to the IRS as an amendment.

Ladies Night Russ Fitzgerald (N8FZ)

- A change in venue may be in order.
 - Crossroads BBQ in Grand Ledge has a room for 70 with the costs of the meals would be at or less than what we pay for now. The meals would be buffet style so there is no need to order meal in advance. There is no charge for the room. We need to figure out the logistics on how people pay for their meals.
 - Robin Hill is a caterer and they have a place where people generally come from a lunch, and may be a place we can hold the event.
- In lieu of having an actual entertainer, the idea was brought up to have more of an interactive game, where guests have to interact with those around them. There is a question on what we would normally pay the entertainer. John Doornhaag said would pay them typically \$150 and

pick up their meal. In lieu of having entertainment, there is a possibility of having a couple door prizes purchased with the money we would normally spend on entertainment.

- Russ is going to move forward with Crossroads with Robin Hill as a backup. At the upcoming CMARC meeting, he will update the club as to what the plan in.

MOTION: *With no further business to discuss, Shawn motioned that we allow Russ and Kelly to proceed with Ladies Night plans however they see fit, seconded by Tom, approved, and the motion carried.*

Work Day

- We are looking at Saturday, May 5th around 10am, as a work day to cleanup the outdoors behind the building.

Procedures for the use/rental of our gin-pole

- Before we allow individuals to use our gin-pole, procedures need to be in place, before we allow individuals to use/rent our gin-pole.

Treasurer's Report

- Members have requested that we read the Treasurer's report at each meeting. Dan has agreed to start doing that.

Soldering Class

- There were twenty people sign up, seventeen attended, and everyone had a great time. Everyone was able to complete their projects, and four people mentioned their project worked after assembling the kits.
- A follow-up class is in the works. More details to follow.

Licensing Class

- There was a 100% pass rate with one person obtaining their General class just by listening to the Technician level material.
- We are planning an upcoming General class for sometime this fall.

Adjournment:

MOTION: *With no further business to discuss, Shawn moved that we adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dan, approved, and the motion carried.*

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Ranes (NS8Q)
CMARC Secretary

CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MEETING MINUTES

April 13, 2018

Attendance

Board Members Present: Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT), Judy Crawford (K8JKC), Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ), Chris Ranes (NS8Q), Shawn Crawford (WA8MXJ), Tom Rocheleau (WA8WPI), Dennis Shubitowski (NS8H)

Board Members Absent: None

General Members: 34 Members

Visitors: 4 Visitors (Timothy Clay, Mark Medonblik, Gordon Smith, Rick Baderstadt)

Call to Order

- Clyde (K8CPT) called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
- Dan (WX8MOJ) held the Flag for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Sign-in Sheets

- Please make sure to sign the sign-in sheets circulating around the room at each meeting. There is one sheet for members and another for visitors. We use these sheets to keep track of how many people visit us each month.

New Members / Visitors

- Timothy Clay from Bath - in the process of getting licensed
- Gordy Smith (KE8JKS) - passed his General on the first try
- Rick Baderstadt (KE8JFE) from Okemos - recent graduate of our Technician Class.

Cards and Flowers Report

- We sent a Thank You card to Jim Geyer who presented at the March meeting.
- Norm Wilmot (K6OLE) became a Silent Key. Gregg (WB8LZG) talked with Norm every morning from W8SH.

Treasurer's Report

MOTION: *John Doornhaag (KD8NNQ) moved to accept the Treasurer's Report as published on the CMARC website, seconded by Don McLain (KB8RAD), approved, and the motion carried.*

- Remember to pay your dues for 2018. See our Treasurer, Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ) if you need a membership form and to pay with check or cash.

Secretary's Report

MOTION: *Jerry Waite (KD8GLN) moved to accept the Secretary's Report as published on the CMARC website, seconded by Ben Barker (WD8OVL), approved, and the motion carried.*

New Licenses and Upgrades

- Judy Crawford (K8JKC) upgraded to General and made her very first HF contact to a station in Missouri.
- Gordy Smith (KE8JKS) passed his General.
- Rick Baderstadt (KE8JFE) passed his Technician.

Interesting DX or other Contacts

- Gregg (WB8LZG) worked our first contacts from the new club station to Calgary Amateur Radio Association and Caracas Venezuela.
- John (KE8CYC) made his first 60m contact to Buffalo, NY.

State Parks on the Air

- Mspota.org for more information
- Two-thirds of the parks in Michigan are or have been activated.

Old Business

- Our 501(c)3 long-form application has been filed and we are waiting for the IRS to process our application.
- Shawn (WA8MXJ) mentioned five students attended the Technical licensing class, with a special VE session at the end of the last class period. Two individuals who did not attend the class, but came into take their General Class exams. Everybody walked away with what they came for. All five students walked away as brand new Technicians and the two from the outside walked away with their General class upgrades.
- Clyde (K8CPT) mentioned seventeen people attended the soldering class with almost as many people there to help out. Four of those who attended mentioned they were successfully grabbing pictures from the International Space Station. There are still a couple kits available if someone wants them.

New Business

- Next Saturday, April 21st is when we will operate the Michigan QSO Party from the club station (W8PLP). We will begin at Noon and ending around Midnight. We would love to have any and all operators attend. This is a very casual operating event, perfect for those wanting to get their feet wet on HF or in contesting in general.
- Clyde (K8CPT) is planning to hold follow-up class to his very successful digital interface/soldering class. This time they plan to test all of the interfaces from the previous class, and to make sure they are working. Carl Canfield (K8YHH) will be there as well to teach some of the digital modes. At this point, a date has not been set, but stay tuned for more info.
- Ladies Night this year will be on May 11th beginning at 6:30 pm. The new location is at Tony M's Banquet Room on Creyts Rd. across from the Meijer Warehouse, and is handicap accessible. The cost is \$15/person and you can pay in advance. If you are not going to pay in advance, please sign up with Kelly.

- We are planning a cleaning day for May 5 @ 10 AM. The inside storage area is in need of sorting and organizing. The outside of the building needs to be cleaned up as well, including trimming shrubs, trees, raking leaves, picking up trash, and general landscaping work.
- Steve Lyon (W8RQS) donated a really nice lockable entertainment cabinet for us to use in our storage area. He installed a couple adjustable shelves inside, and it is on wheels to make it easier to move. Thanks Steve for your donation!
- Bob Berger (K8RDN) received the monthly report for March from John (WB8RCR), the State Emergency Manager. Many people do not submit their reports as they should, but of those that did, the total value for the National Traffic System per hour contribution to the State of Michigan is \$31,884. All of the time spent is volunteer and greatly benefits our State. For those interested, search for "Station Activity Report" or a "Public Service Honor Roll Report".
- Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ) spoke about Field Day this year. Clyde wants to be the GOTA Station Chair, Randy Williams will be the digital station Chair. We are going to have a 6m station this year. Gregg Mulder will be the CW Station Chair. Each station is in need of operators. The Ingham County VE Group will hold another VE session as well. The ARPSC group has a relationship with Tim Crane who is part of the Clinton County Emergency Management group. There is a possibility of a collaboration between our group and theirs.
- Clyde (K8CPT) mentioned that Hamfest is coming up on July 28th. More volunteers are still needed, so if you would like to help out, contact Clyde. Tyco Aussie will be there with his friends. We have a fine selection of prizes to give away as well.

50/50 Raffle

- Dan Dembinski (KD8YDE) won \$21.50 and donated \$4 back to the club.

Adjournment

MOTION: *With no further business to discuss, Dan Dembinski (KD8YDE) moved that we adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Tyree (W8JTT), approved, and the motion carried.*

The meeting was adjourned and at 7:50 pm.

Refreshment Time

Presentation by Stephen Smith WA8LMF on APRS

Respectfully submitted,



Chris Ranes (NS8Q)
CMARC Secretary

CLASSIFIEDS

Gregg Mulder / WB8LZG
(517) 646-6257 after 4pm

\$4 Each

Cleaning off the book shelves in the shack. I have the following books available. Many are in "brand new" condition. Good time to stock your library at a big savings!

- The Complete DXer
- The Joy of QRP
- QRP Operating Companion
- The DXCC Companion
- QRP Notebook 1st Edition
- Best of the IDEA Exchange
- International QRP Collection Vols 2, 3, & 4
- ARRL Antenna Compendium Vols 1 & 2
- ARRL RF Exposer & You
- Death Valley QTH

\$550

Complete Yaesu HF station in nice condition. FT-990 Transceiver with built in power supply, wide range tuner, and CW filter. It comes complete with hand mic, manuals, and a homebrew CAT interface.

\$100

Yaesu SP6 External Speaker with Time Wave DSP 599YZ Unit built-in.

\$100

Yaesu SP6 External Speaker with Time Wave DSP 599YZ Unit built-in.

\$50

Kenwood TM-241 2m Mobile Rig with Mic - 5, 10, 50 watt

Gregg Mulder / WB8LZG
(517) 646-6257 after 4pm

\$40

Knight-Kit R-100a Receiver with matching speaker. Yes it works!

\$75

LDG-11 Auto Tuner with Wall Wart power supply (100 watt)

\$100

Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. with Zebrawood Finger Pieces. Like New

\$110

Vibroplex Vibro-Keyer 1969 Ser. 258959. This was a DELUXE Chrome Model but the base has been repainted. "Vy nice feel".

\$75

Vibroplex Knock-off Keyer "Look alike", Red Base, "Vy nice feel"

\$100

Kent Single Lever Paddle with Homebrew Custom Finger Pieces

\$10

Code Practice Oscillator

Ed Oxe / W8EO
eaoyer@gmail.com

\$90 or Best Offer

Alinco DJ-V57T HT for 2 meters and 70 cm. Radio includes a speaker mic and car battery charger. It runs 5 watts max and has 200 memories.

Gregg Wesley / KD8PA
(517) 614-6573

Aluminum Tubing, Masts, and other odds and ends for antenna building.

Jim Hannahs / KC8QWH
(517) 589-8346

\$275 Ea. or \$525 for the Pair
(2) Yaesu VX-7R Tri-Band HTs.

Each comes with the original microphone, case, charger, battery, manual, and original boxes. The radios are in excellent condition.

\$25

RT System Cable and Software Disk for programming the HTs.

Greater Lansing Nets

The “**Central Michigan Slow Scan TV Net**” meets every Sunday evening from 7:00- 8:30pm on the 145.39 repeater (PL 100 Hz), with Net Coordinator Carl Canfield/K8YHH. EVERYONE is welcome to join in and have fun learning and using this interesting and useful mode of communication. Other digital modes will be explored from time to time. For more information, call Carl at: (517) 755 6627.

The “**Ladies Tea Time Net**” meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm on the 145.39 repeater (PL 100.0), with Net Coordinator Janine Lieber/KK6GYM.

The “**Quarter Century Wireless Association Net**” also meets every Tuesday night but at 8pm and on the 146.70 repeater (PL 107.2 Hz), with Net Coordinator Don Tillitson/WB8NUS.

The “**Mid-Michigan Information & Trader’s Net**” meets every Wednesday evening at 7:00pm on the 145.39 repeater (PL 100 Hz), with Net Coordinator Clyde Tompkins/K8CPT.

The “**MSUARC Friends and Info Net**” meets every Thursday evening at 7:00pm on the 145.39 repeater (PL 100 Hz), with Net Coordinator Gregg Mulder/WB8LZG. The first half of the net is time for chatting, while the second half is for Morse Code practice. If you wanted to learn Morse Code, but didn’t know how to go about doing it, then please join us. The speeds are kept down to a minimum, to make it easier to learn.

ALL are welcome on these nets, so be sure to check in to show your support. And as with all Nets, 3rd party check-ins are welcome, but must have Control Operator present at check-in time.

CMARC Officers and Appointees

President

Clyde Tompkins (K8CPT)

Vice President

Judy Crawford (K8JKC)
k8jkc2017@gmail.com

Treasurer

Dan Beuchert (WX8MOJ)
wx8moj@arrl.net

Secretary / Scope Editor

Chris Ranes (NS8Q)
kc8caj@gmail.com
cmarcscope@gmail.com

Under 22 Director

Shawn Crawford (WA8MXJ)
wa8mxj@arrl.net

Director

Tom Rocheleau (WA8WPI)

Director

Michael Boensch, W8MKB

Cards & Flowers

Jane Hosford, KC8FSK
(517) 515-7610

Club Contact

Don McLain, KB8RAD
(517) 930-7707

Club Historian

William Cote, WD8NYW

Antenna Projects Chairman

Gregg Mulder, WB8LZG

Lansing ARPSC Liaison

Jim Hannahs, KC8QWH

QSL/Awards Manager

Don DeFeyer, KC8CY
(517) 641-4533

Photographer

Kenneth Hazlett, N8BVV
(517) 348-5513

**CMARC Calls:
W8MAA & W8PLP**

LCDRA Officers and Appointees

President

John Imeson, N8JI
(517) 449-1517

Vice President

Don Tillitson, WB8NUS
(517) 321-2004

Secretary

Ron Harger, WD8BCS
wd8bcs@arrl.net

Treasurer

Jeff Oberg, KB8SXX

Director

Jan Bradfield, KC8BFK
(517) 202-1779

Director

Don McLain, KB8RAD
(517) 930-7707

Director / Membership Chair

Michael Boensch, W8MKB

Repeater Trustee

Dennis Boone, KB8ZQZ

**LCDRA Call:
W8BCI**

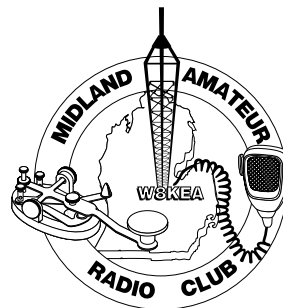
The Scope is a bi-monthly joint publication of The Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club and the Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association. Please send all articles, classified ads, or other information to the editor, Chris Ranes, NS8Q, at cmarcscope@gmail.com.

The deadline for each issue is midnight on the 20th of the preceding month.

MICHIGAN HAMFEST WEEKEND
MIDLAND JUNE 16 MONROE JUNE 17

MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MIDLAND HAMFEST '18



JUNE 16 , 2018
SALVATION ARMY BUILDING
330 WALDO AVE.
MIDLAND , MI

Set-Up at 6:30 AM
Show Runs 8:00 AM - Noon

Admission \$5.00
Tables \$5.00
Trunk Sales \$5.00

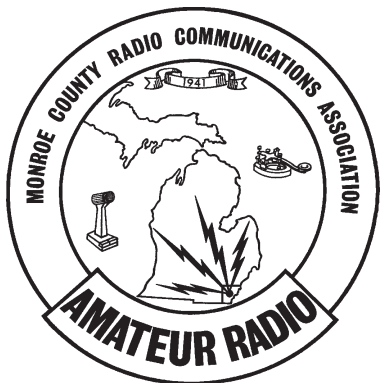
Featuring:
FCC Exam
New & Used Amateur Radio Equipment
Parts, Coax & Connectors
Large Selection of Vacuum Tubes
Seminars/Demos
Refreshments



An ARRL
Sanctioned
Hamfest

Talk-in: 147.00 MHz – Midland Repeater
For More Information & Reservations Mail
MARC Hamfest, PO Box 1049, Midland, MI 48642
or Contact

Keith Johnson, KB8SOE at (989) 488-4337 email: KB8SOE@arrl.net



MONROE HAMFEST

and Computer Show

Father's Day - June 17, 2018

7:30am to 1:00pm - Set-up 6:30am Presented by:
The Monroe County Radio Communications Association

Monroe County Fairgrounds

M-50 at Raisinville Rd. (2 Miles west of Monroe)

FREE PARKING

Indoor Facilities / Trunk Sales

Computers and Equipment

Distributors / Hot Food

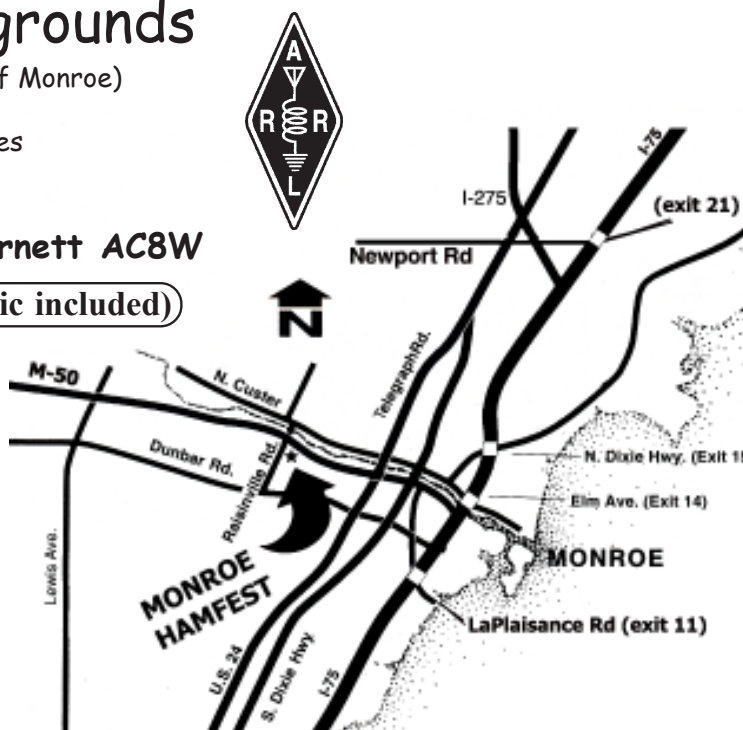
QSL Card checking by Stan Arnett AC8W

Over Night Camping \$30 (electric included)

Tables indoor 8': \$15 each, does not include admission ticket. Electric available in all buildings, bring cords.

Trunk 10' Spaces: \$10 each, does not include admission ticket.

Tickets Advance \$6 each.



Ticket, Trunk Sales, & Table Reservations online at: <http://www.mcrca.org>

Mail to: Fred VanDaele KA8EBI, 4 Carl Drive, Monroe, MI 48162, ka8ebi@yahoo.com

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tickets _____ Trunk Spaces _____ Tables _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Advance Tickets \$6 ea. / 10 ft Trunk Spaces \$10 ea. / 8 ft Tables \$15 ea.



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

W8PLP/W8MAA

Membership Form



For new CMARC applicants: Please complete all sections.

For existing CMARC members: Please include your Name and Call Sign along with only the information you would like changed.

Mail completed form to Membership Chairman (see address below) or take to Club meeting for processing. Please include payment if applicable. (Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to 'CMARC').

Daniel Beuchert | PO Box 27275 | Lansing, MI 48909-7275

Membership Type		<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Full:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues: \$20.00 <i>Includes voting rights and an annual subscription to The Scope.</i>		
Associate:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues: \$5.00 <i>Includes an annual subscription to The Scope but NO voting rights.</i>		
New Licensee:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues: 1st Year Free		
Under 18:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues: Free		

Contact Information	
First Name: _____	Last Name: _____
Call Sign: _____	License Class: _____ Phone #: _____
Address: _____	Apt/Unit: _____
City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Birthday: _____	Anniversary: _____
Email: _____	Sign up for the List Serv: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<small>Note: Email is used by club officers to communicate club business and may appear in the club directory for use by club members. CMARC does not share/sell contact information to other parties.</small>	

Club Communications	
Newsletter Preference (select only one option)	<input type="checkbox"/> I will download from the web site.
	<input type="checkbox"/> Please mail to my address (Note: Direct mailing increases postage costs.)
ARRL Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> I am an ARRL member



Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association

Membership Form

For new LCDRA applicants: Please complete all sections.

For existing LCDRA members: Please include your Name and Call Sign along with only the information you would like changed.

LCDRA oversees the operation and maintenance of all Lansing Area repeaters. Use of the repeaters does NOT require LCDRA or CMARC membership, but your support is welcome and appreciated.

Mail completed form to Membership Chairman (see address below) or take to a meeting for processing. Please include payment if applicable. (Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to 'LCDRA').

Michael Boensch | 1897 Sunnymede Ln | Lansing, MI 48906-1356

Membership Type		<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
Full:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues: \$15.00 <i>Includes voting rights and an annual subscription to The SCOPE.</i>		
Family Mbrs:	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Dues: \$7.50 ea. No. of Family Members: _____		
ARRL Affiliation	<input type="checkbox"/> I am an ARRL member		

Contact Information	
First Name: _____	Last Name: _____
Call Sign: _____	License Class: _____ Phone #: _____
Address: _____	Apt/Unit: _____
City: _____	State: _____ Zip Code: _____
Birthday: _____	Anniversary: _____
Email: _____	
<i>Note: Email is used by club officers to communicate club business and may appear in the club directory for use by club members. <u>LCDRA does not share/sell contact information to other parties.</u></i>	

Central Michigan Amateur Radio
P.O. Box 54
Mason, MI 48854-0054

STAMP

To:

Activities Calendar



Date	Time	Event	Place
5/5/2018	10:00 AM	CMARC Work Day	The Club Station in Mason
5/11/2018	6:30 PM	CMARC Ladies Night / Ziegenbein Award Banquet	Tony M's Restaurant
5/12/2018	11:00 AM	VE Session	Lansing Fire Station #44
5/21/2018	7:00 PM	ARPSC Meeting	Lansing Fire Station #48
5/26/2018	2:00 PM	Interface Follow-Up Class	The Club Station in Mason
6/7/2018	7:00 PM	VE Session	Lansing Fire Station #44
6/8/2018	7:00 PM	CMARC Meeting	The Club Station in Mason
6/18/2018	7:00 PM	ARPSC Meeting	Lansing Fire Station #48
6/22/2018	5:00 PM	Field Day Deployment	Load at The Club Station in Mason and drive to Rayner Park in Mason
6/23/2018	11:00 AM	Special VE Session at Field Day	Rayner Park in Mason
6/23/2018	2:00 PM	Field Day Begins	Rayner Park in Mason
6/24/2018	2:00 PM	Field Day Ends and Tear Down/Clean Up Begins	Rayner Park in Mason