

# The *LARC* Repeater



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Livonia Amateur Radio Club

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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER:**

It sure has been cold outside lately, and snow, snow and more snow. We have to think about next year's Swap, and come up with some ideas. And this year's Field Day. The Ford Club will be with us again this year, and so glad to have them. Also we need to think about this year's Hot Dog and Corn Roast, where will it be?

This year's SWAP, I think was really good considering the **ICE ICE ICE**. Setup went well. We were in at 11:00 p.m. and out at 1:30 a.m., and then back again at 5:30 a.m. The going was slow, and then we picked up speed for more vendors and the public coming in slow but sure. There are so many of you members that I want to thank, for all the hard work and dedication you put in making this work for the club. This place was new for us this year, and yes we did make some mistakes but next year it will be better. Fred went around talking to the really big vendors, asking if they would come back next year and they all said YES and we sold out all of the tables.

Now for the THANK YOU'S FRED W8GKH, DORIS KD8DXJ, TAZ KD8DXK, TOM N8LY AND WIFE LYNN, DAWN KD88GFF AND STUART KD8GFE, JOHN K8AZT, WILL W8USR, BOB N8DBZ, BRUNO WA8DHP AND WIFE CEIL, DAVE KC8YWT, RODNEY K8SGL, BOB KD8HSL, DICK KW8B, JERRY W8WQU, TOM WD8OWH. I hope that I didn't miss anyone, if so let advise.

Election of Officers is this month, and if there is anyone from our membership that want to run for an office, please feel free to do so. We are also looking for a new **Vice President**, Fred is taking some time off but will be working in the background where needed. The Officers that are in office now would like to stay on if that is what the club would like.

President: Sharon Keller

**Vice President: OPEN**

Treasurer: Doris Kelterborn

Recording Secretary: Dave Randell

Corresponding Secretary: Tom Mellnick

We wish Dick Smith a Very Speedy Recovery from Open Heart Surgery.

Breakfast the day before the SWAP, there were 18 members and 2 non-members from the LARC and Stu Rock clubs. We have an open breakfast for all hams at the Senate Restaurant on Haggerty Road between 5 and 6 Mile from 9:00 a.m. till approx 10:30 a.m.

**We also have six new members, Stan N8SP, Brad N8BBS, Bob KD8HSL, Ken W9KB, Doug KD8HMA, and Mike N8MR.**

We would like to Wish **Doug Brock a Very Happy Birthday February 17, 2008.**

**Your 2008 dues are due before or at the latest the March meeting. If not paid by then, your name will be removed from the club roster. And you will not be able to access the member yahoo web site.**

We have a guest speaker this month. His name is Dan from the Arrow Club in Ann Arbor. And he will be speaking on CW Practice and Procedures.

## **TECHNICAL SECTION:**

Have you ever turned on your low-band rig and thought your receiver was broken because there seemed to be no stations on the air? Then when you checked the controls on the radio and your antenna connections, everything was fine. You next changed the band switch to listen on other frequencies and you could hear some radio signals. Maybe you have heard a few of your fellow radio club members saying something about "Cycle 22 versus Cycle 23" on the local FM repeater and wondered what in the world they were talking about.

While there are several very good, but very technical articles and books about radio propagation, every time I try to read them I get a headache. Thus, let's boil down all the techie-stuff and drill down to see what the propagation numbers mean. Let's see if we can answer the question "Is this going to be a "good" or "bad" day for radio?"

With a little understanding of the data from the propagation broadcasts on the radio and the internet, we should be able to make an educated guess about how good (or how bad) radio conditions are going to be as we get ready to get on the air. Knowing about band conditions can also help you select the "right frequency" when you are participating in ham radio operating events such as Field Day or the CQ World-Wide DX Contest. Also, if you are trying to "work DX" and increase the number of states or countries you have contacted, knowing which bands offer the best (loudest) signals is a great asset.

By the way, we are currently at the "tail-end" of solar Cycle 23, which started in 1997. This is what a lot of hams are talking about these days when they complain about the poor conditions for long-distance (DX) contacts. However, since we are at the bottom of the cycle and conditions are generally poor, we should be happy to look forward to a new and better 11-year sunspot cycle, predicted to start sometime in mid-2008, although this is a very controversial topic of scientific discussion.

*Article written by Wayne Yoshida, KH6WZ CQ magazine*

## **BUDGET BASEMENT:**

I make personalized address labels, simple business cards or QSL cards. There are 30 address labels to a sheet, 10 business cards to a sheet or 4 QSL cards to a sheet. The charge is \$1.00 a sheet (mix or match) with a 3 sheet minimum (\$3.00). I have many graphics to choose from. Contact Doris (KD8DXJ) at 734-941-5043 or [Dorimae492@yahoo.com](mailto:Dorimae492@yahoo.com) for more information.

## **THINGS OF INTEREST:**

I received this email, and I am just passing it to you the members.

Dear SHARON:

We are sending this letter to you since you are the contact person shown on the ARRL web site for your club. This same letter is being sent to hundreds of ARRL affiliated amateur radio clubs who have indicated an interest in DXing in their club profile. We wish to provide you some information about the International DX Association—most often referred to as INDEXA—and ask that you share our message with all of your members, either at one of your meetings or via your club newsletter. If you or other members of your group find what we are doing is worthwhile, then we ask that you support INDEXA by becoming a member.

In 1983 INDEXA was incorporated as a non-profit organization to provide assistance to various DXpeditions to rare and semi-rare DXCC entities. This year we are celebrating our 25th anniversary of providing that support. In that time, INDEXA has helped over 175 expeditions to operate from many countries on the DX "most wanted" list. We have supported expeditions to many very rare DXCC entities, sometimes more than once. In our earlier years we actually supplied radio equipment such as rigs, antennas,

coax, etc., along with purely financial support. Over time our support has become principally financial contributions since most of today's DXpeditions are receiving valuable support from the various equipment manufacturers.

The latest information on propagation predictions are that the next Solar Cycle began in early January 2008. It looks like we are now beginning that positive climb to what is believed to be a very strong cycle which in turn leads to great propagation on the bands. This positive propagation trend will certainly lead to more DXpeditions wanting to activate countries from the "Most Wanted" DXCC list. Between December 2007 and March 2008, INDEXA is supporting five separate DXpeditions. We have a lot more fun in store the next few years in our DXing hobby.

What does this mean for INDEXA? Simply, INDEXA will be solicited for financial support to help send DXpeditions on their way. DXpeditions make possible all time new DXCC entities for some and new band entities/countries for many. Yet, many DXpeditions are undertaken only when sufficient "seed money" is pledged to render them possible, and that is where an organization like INDEXA comes into play.

As a group which has expressed interest in Amateur Radio DXing, we are certain that your club is interested in making DX happen. Perhaps your group already supports DXpeditions with "up front" contributions or possibly after the DXpedition with donations included with your QSLs.

If you think you can and would like to do more to sponsor DXpeditions in advance, we ask that members of your group consider joining INDEXA. A visit to our [wewww.indexa.org](http://www.indexa.org) will provide an informative overview of our organization and our DXing history. The web site also provides information on how to join electronically or by mail.

If you are already a member of INDEXA, we value your support so we can continue supporting DXpeditions as we have done for a quarter century.

Thanks and best DX!!

Gary Dixon, K4MQG, INDEXA President  
John Scott, K8YC, INDEXA Vice-President  
Bill Jennings, W4UNP, INDEXA Secretary-Treasurer

### **Meeting Rooms for this year**

February 25, 2008 Room B Election of Officers

March 24, 2008 Room A

April 28, 2008 Room A

May 19, 2008 Room A\*\*\*\*

June 23, 2008 Room A

**No Meetings July and August but the Board Does Meet. Hot Dog and Corn Roast In August.**

September 22, 2008 Room B

October 27, 2008 Room A

November 24, 2008 Room A

December there is no meeting, that is because of our LARC Christmas Party.

**\*\*\*\* The meeting is one week earlier than usual; January is early because of the Library's Book Sale. May is earlier, because of Memorial Day. Please make a note of these meeting rooms.**

### **Web Sites That You Might Find Of Interest:**

National Weather Service Detroit  
[www.orh.noaa.gov/dtx](http://www.orh.noaa.gov/dtx)

Logging Programs  
[www.n3fjp.com](http://www.n3fjp.com)

R A D A R  
<http://www.qsl.net/wr8dar>

Antennas  
<http://www.pi4cc.nl/link/bc.htm>  
[www.cebik.com/radio.html](http://www.cebik.com/radio.html)

Contests And DX  
<http://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/>

International Call Look-Up

[http://www.book.com/cgi-bin/do\\_hamcallexe](http://www.book.com/cgi-bin/do_hamcallexe)

Mega Converter Web Page

<http://www.megaconverter.com/mega2>

Aurora Activity Map

<http://sec.noaa.gov/pmap>

<http://www.geocities.com/usrepeaters/>

These are repeaters frequencies charts, coast to coast for those of you that will be traveling by car this year.