

# The *LARC* Repeater



A publication of the  
Livonia Amateur Radio Club

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## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER:**

I can see that March is not going to go out without a fight. And Spring is here, I just hope that we have seen the last of the snow for this year.

We have things to plan, for the club and one is Field Day with the Ford Club; *The Tin Lizzy*. I have sent a letter to the Fire Chief asking again for the use of the Training Tower at Station #6 for our Field Day.

At the Board Meeting, the committee gave their proposal on the club getting a new radio. We will have to wait until next year, after the swap to get another one. I think one is better than nothing and we do need some new radio equipment. **We will also need someone to Chair Field Day this year, do I have any takers?**

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.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ray Jenks W8SXX and his wife.

**Our Meeting this month is March 24, 2008 in meeting room A**

We do have a program for this month's meeting; *The Buddipole* given by Roger Reini, KD8CSE.

**Happy Birthday's this month goes out to Stan Phillips, N8SP and Tom Mellnick, N8LY. Both have the same date - March 20.**

**The Board would like to say Happy Easter to all of our members.**

## **TECHNICAL SECTION:**

**+++ New ops: A curse or an opportunity? +++**

The answer to the above question depends on each one of us. New ops are curses for people who prefer to "curse the darkness," but they are opportunities for people who would much rather "light one single candle" to clear the darkness. The darkness in these instances being the darkness of inexperience and ignorance. Note that I said ignorance; not stupidity. I am referring to a case of not having had the opportunity to learn rather than of being unable to learn.

I believe that all amateurs are inherently intelligent. Education to become knowledgeable is what we all need in one or more respects.

I fairly frequently receive e-mail complaining about how some new hams continue to operate using non-ham practices. This is particularly true when a group of several friends come into Amateur Radio from Citizens' Band at the same time. This is natural. They know each other well and may have operated on CB together using CB procedures for a long time. Long-established practices are often difficult to change.

Long-standing practices are particularly difficult to change when no one has shown that alternate practices are more appropriate. But, who is it that should introduce aspiring and new licensees to the ways of Amateur Radio?

The most logical people to show or teach newbies the "way of light and wisdom" are local hams. These are the hams who meet new licensees in person at license classes, club meetings and events, or at breakfast or lunch.

How do neophytes learn proper procedure? They could read on their own or could listen to established hams operate. The latter is a good way to learn, provided the hams they listen to use good procedure.

Another excellent way to help newbies learn and to get them involved in a local club at the same time, is to present a short-course on proper operating. This course could be targeted strictly to new folks by adding it on as a single discussion or in few-minute bites during a license course. It could also be given at club meetings.

The training might include the proper use of pro-words and pro-signs, how to begin and end a QSO. It could stress courteous operating and prepare new hams to deal with the truly few LIDs who are discourteous and piggish, as well as other commonly-encountered features of day-to-day operation.

You might choose to open the training up to old timers. If you do, prepare to be surprised at the number of old timers who learn that practices they thought were correct, aren't. This is sort of like the King of Siam in "The King and I." Remember, he was the supreme honcho who suddenly realized that what he had thought was true for decades actually isn't.

As just one example of a highly common error, consider the all-familiar ending for Amateur Radio QSOs. Which is proper . . . 73s or 73?

Regardless of the fact that nearly many new and old ops alike say 73s, this is incorrect. The correct term is 73. Don't misunderstand, saying 73s won't result in FCC

enforcement action. It won't even result in a friendly reminder from an OO. Even so, if one really wishes to operate correctly, it is 73, not 73s.

The code term, 73, is already plural. It was initially set up by telegraphers to say "best wishes," "good luck" or similar thoughts to fellow telegraphers. Adding an "s" to 73 to turn it into 73s turns it into "best wisheses" or "bestes wisheses" or some other distortion of the language. At best it becomes a plural plurality, whatever this may be.

Not too long ago, I listened to a QSO on a local repeater in which two newcomers were debating the meaning of a few Q signals. Among other things, they were trying to figure out whether QRA means "I am at" or "there is a lot of interference," and whether QTH means "my call is \_\_\_," or "your signal is very weak."

New ops need help - need an Elmer. It is best if the help comes from people who choose to take the effort to teach correct information.

**This is reprinted with permission from Jim Weaver, K8JE**

## **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'm sending the following to all the Michigan radio clubs with the hope that you will again help us get the word out about the 2008 Michigan QSO Party that will be held on April 19th from 12 noon to midnight local time. With your help, we can spread the word at the "grass roots" level and assure a great turn out for this year's event. I ask that you help us spread the word by doing the following:

1. Please announce the event at your March and April club meetings and try to drum up some activity within your club. The MiQP can be a great club activity!
2. I have attached a 2008 MiQP Flier that I ask that you distribute at your meetings and maybe even put in your club newsletter or on your Webpage. Also included is a "MiQP press release that is in the body of this email. This information is also on the MiQP Website. The URL link is <http://www.miqp.org>
3. Please pass this information on to your club's "movers and shakers". These are the folks that can champion these events and make them successful.

We thank you in advance for your help. If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. NU8Z-MiQP@comcast.net I hope to hear you and members of your club on the air during the QSO party on April 19th, 2008.

73 Mark NU8Z

**See the press release below**

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2008 MICHIGAN QSO PARTY  
Attention Michigan Amateurs!!!!

It's that time of year again! It's time to gear it up and get ready for the 2008 Michigan QSO Party.

The MiQP has something to offer for everyone and there is no shortage of reasons for joining in on the fun on April 19th, 2008.

Last year was a good year for the MiQP. Activity was up and we hope to do even better this year.

We hope to see an increase in activity within the traditional amateur radio clubs in Michigan. I think that most clubs are looking for special activities and the MiQP has some features that should be considered in filling this need.

This type of event is what it's all about. It is a group activity that can be a source enjoyment before, during and after the event! This year we will have the traditional categories such as Single-Operator, Multi-Operator and Mobile. But in addition to these, we are adding a new "Emergencies Operation Center" EOC category. This will provide an opportunity to brush up your clubs emergency operation skills and provide great training (and fun). This would also be a great opportunity to expose some of your newer members to emergency communications operations, but in a less formal environment.

As you can see from the rules listed below, this is only a 12 hour event. Please consider getting on the air for the whole thing, or any portion of the 12 hour period. You can operate from home, portable, mobile or at the clubs EOC. With the support of mobile and portable stations, we plan on having activity in all 83 counties.

Last but not least, we ask those of you that have participated in the MIQP to please help us get the word out and encourage other Michigan hams and radio clubs to participate and join the fun. See <http://www.miqp.org> for more details and the rules.

Date /Time: Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 19th t until 0400Z April 20th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 20th)

Modes and Categories: Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, mobile and Emergencies Operations Center (EOC) categories. Single-op entries are categorized by output power, QRP (5W or less), Low Power (100W or less), and High Power (greater than 100W)

Multipliers: Work stations once per band and mode. Work other states and Michigan Stations. MI to MI QSO's are allowed. Work portables and mobiles again as they change counties, state or province.

Exchange: Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

Scoring: One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode. Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states & provinces for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Freqs: Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045; Phone-3800, 7200, 14250, 21300, 28450.

Log Submittal: Mail logs no later than 30 days after the contest to: Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 or via e-mail to [logs@miqpp.org](mailto:logs@miqpp.org)

More Information: For complete rules, along with free logging software, log and summary sheets, see <http://www.miqpp.org>

73 es cu April 19th 2008  
Mark NU8Z

## **WEB SITES OF INTEREST:**

Local Hams in your Neighborhood  
<http://www.vanityhg.com/maps/enterzip.html>

National Weather Service Detroit  
<http://www.orh.noaa.gov/dtx>

Logging Programs  
<http://www.n3fjp.com>

R A D A R

<http://www.qsl.net/wr8dar>

Antennas

<http://www.pi4cc.nl/link/bc.htm>

<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 ConverterWeb Page

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

Aurora Activity Map

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

Here is a list of repeater frequencies charts, coast to coast for those of you that will be traveling buy car this year. <http://www.geocities.com/usrepeaters/>

## **AREA SWAPS:**

### **Milford Amateur Radio Club**

Saturday April 19, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Milford High School

2380 Milford Rd

Highland, MI

Talk-in 145.49 (67 Hz LP) 146.52 back-up

Tickets \$6.00 at door

### **Chelsea Radio Swap**

June 1, 2008 Talk-in 145.450 (PL100)

Chelsea Fair Grounds

20501 Old US 12 Hwy

### **Garden City Amateur Radio Club**

Swap In The Park

Sunday June 8, 2008

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Cherry Hill and Merriman Roads

Main Picnic Pavilion

Table 10.00 or sell from your trunk for Free

Talk-in 146.860 100 PL

### **Monroe Hamfest**

June 15, 2008

Monroe County Fair Grounds

Gerstacker Bldg

6905 Eastman Ave

Talk-in 147.00 (PL 103.5)

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

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.**