

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

It is that time of year, where you start to take in stuff and think of putting the lawn mover away for another year. And it is time for the Radio Club meeting to start for another year. We have a few new things on the agenda, and some really good programs that some of the members had asked for. **LARC Nite Out** will be at the same place it has been, for the last five or so years. The menu will be the same, Prime Rib, Chicken Marsala, and White Fish along with dessert and cash bar. We will start taking name at the September and October meetings, for those of you that are coming.

How I Got Interested in Amateur Radio

Like a lot of amateur radio operators, my interest in the hobby began with an interest in CB radios. In the mid 1970's, my friends and I saved our grass cutting and paper route money and purchased CB radios. We mounted mobile antennas on the gutters on our parents' homes and we were in business. Since we lived close to the Southfield Freeway, we were able to talk to truckers and other mobile operators on a regular basis. My enthusiasm for the local CB activity quickly diminished and I lost interest in the hobby and moved onto other things.

A couple years later, I went on vacation with my family to West Virginia. I had the chance to speak to one of my parents' friends who happened to be a ham radio operator. I told him about my displeasure with the local CB activity back home. He explained the licensing requirements for amateur radio operators and assured me that ham radio operators are friendly and helpful to people who are new to the hobby. During the conversation, my father recommended that I contact one of my uncles who was and still is an amateur radio operator. I spent several hours in my uncle's shack, went to a couple of swap-n-shops with him and I was ready to hit the books and study for my license.

After a lot of studying, I was able to pass the Novice Morse code and written exams. I obtained my Novice ticket in 1978 at the age of 15 and I was licensed as KA8GST. After getting some experience on the air, I obtained my Technician ticket in 1981 and later obtained the call sign N8GAA. At that point, I was having fun on 2 meters, but I wanted more. Quite some time had passed before I was serious enough about upgrading my license. In 2005, I obtained my Extra ticket and changed my call sign to N8LY.

With my expanded privileges, I have been able to enjoy HF and talk to hams from all walks of life. Unfortunately, due to work, school, and other commitments, I haven't been able to put the time into the hobby that I'd like to. One of these days, I'll have the time to explore other facets of the hobby such as packet, amateur television, Echo-Link and other activities. For now, I am focusing on completing my WAS on 20 meters and expanding the list of countries that I've worked. I really enjoy the people associated with the hobby and I am hopeful that the number of licensed amateur radio operators will grow so the hobby will be around for future generations.

73,
Tom Mellnick, N8LY

And a big Congratulations to Tom N8LY for 30 years in Amateur Radio.

The **Garden City Radio Club** is offering **Technician License Classes starting October 6**. The class will meet for 11 weeks on Monday night, and the class is taught through the Garden City school system, so pre-registration is required and there's a registration fee of \$15.00. (\$10 school system fee and \$5 to defray the cost of classroom handouts.) **For further information on registration for this class, contact Fred Comps, K8KUZ, at 734-261-6441 or by email at K8KUZ@ aol.com**

Happy Birthday goes out to Will Sopha, Jerry Kaufka, and Taz Foley.

There will be a program on Beginning Packet, put on by Jay Nugent WB8TKE at the General Membership meeting this coming Monday Night September 22, 2008 @7:30 Livonia Civic Center Library meeting room B. Hope to see everyone there for our first meeting, after our summer break.

American Red Cross Clarifies Amateur Radio Policy

On September 3, the American Red Cross released a statement to clarify their policy as it concerns Amateur Radio operators. The letter below from American Red Cross Disaster Service Technology Manager Keith Roberatory, KG4UIR, is presented in its entirety:

There has recently been some posting on amateur radio discussion groups on the Internet that is carrying false or misleading information. The Red Cross does not have a policy against amateur radio participating in passing health and welfare messages. In fact, we recognize the importance of amateur radio in being a vital method for people to get registered.

The American Red Cross welcomes the support of Amateur Radio Operators in connecting friends and family members together through our health and welfare programs. The grassroots, independent nature of Amateur Radio Operators in communities around the country make them well suited for this task. General welfare messages are processed through the Red Cross Safe and Well web site. This site allows people to register their status which can be checked by friends and family who search by your name, address or phone number. A quick look at the website disastersafe.redcross.org will show how both the registration process and search are done.

As few as two hams can setup an effective registration process. A ham located in the disaster zone can use any mode to transmit the basic Safe and Well registration information to another ham located outside the disaster who would enter the information on the web site. This quick ad-hoc setup doesn't rely on any affiliations and can be established by a call out to another ham who can help.

The Red Cross also processes welfare inquiry messages that contain specific medical information. These contain more sensitive and personally identifiable information at the same time that the Red Cross keeps confidential to respect client privacy. We are researching if and how these messages can be passed across open frequencies, and what federal restrictions (such as HIPPA) may be impact how this is done.

Thank you,

Keith Roberatory
Disaster Service Technology Manager, American Red Cross
KG4UIR

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 for more information.

QTH FOR SALE

DX Location in Chelsea, Mi
1688 sq ft 3 bedroom on 3 acres
in a beautiful country setting
2.5 Bath
2 car garage
30x40 Pole Barn with separate driveway and 200 amp service
5000 watt generator with switch kit included
All appliances stay with house
Stocked fish pond.
3 Rohn 25 towers
35 ft 40 ft 100 ft
Antennas included:
TH6DXX @ 100 ft
4 ele 6 mtr @ 90 ft
7 ele 222 @ 85 ft

8 ele 144 @ 90 ft
4 ele 146 @ 100 ft
222 Ringo @ 105 ft
Full size 160 mrt inverted V @ 90 ft
G5RV @ 80 ft
Par 17 end fed @ 65 ft
K8BVY@arrl.net
734-475-9609
2301 Hoppe Rd
Chelsea, Mi 48118
Grid Square EN-72

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

National Weather Service Detroit

www.orh.noaa.gov/dtx

Logging Programs

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

Contests And DX

<http://cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/>

International Call Look-Up

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 buy car this year.

UP COMING SWAPS

Oct 12

Michigan State Convention

Kalamazoo ARC & Southwest Michigan ARC Team

Kalamazoo Cty Fairgrounds

2900 Lake St.

Talk-In 147.640/147.040 (PL94.8)

Oct 26

USECA Hamfest

33204 Maple Lane Dr

American Polish Century

Sterling Hts, MI

Talk-In 147.180 (PL100)

Dec 7

L'Anse Creuse Hamfest

L'Anse Creuse High School

38495 L'Creuse St.

Mt. Clemens, MI