



The Repeater

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The Livonia Amateur Radio Club



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This will be a short version of the newsletter due to the swap preparation

The 39th LARC Swap-N-Shop will be held February 21, 2010 at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center. Official hours of operation are 8am till noon. So far, we have 86 tables sold and 92 tables total. Instead of only using two rooms at the Seniors' Center, we will be using three. The larger vendors will start to set up between 5:30am and 6:00am. We will need a volunteer or two to check hand stamps at the vendor entrances at that time.

We will need volunteers not only for setup and teardown, but also as well as help throughout the swap. Each room should have at least one LARC member to oversee things and make sure everything is running smoothly. We also need people to monitor the outside doors. Only volunteers are allowed one free meal. It doesn't take much to be a helper.

This is our club's major fundraiser and we need your help. If you can take the time to help us for a few hours on either Saturday night (we will meet at 10:00pm for setup) or Sunday morning (from 5:30am onward), please stop by and lend us a hand. This is the largest swap the club has seen in several years and we're going to need you to lend us a hand.

Congratulations to Doug Schwartz, KD8HMA/AE, who successfully passed the Element 4 exam to achieve his Extra Class license. Doug will have to re-learn the band edges, but he doesn't mind. Good going, Doug!

Elections will be held at the February meeting. Yes, the February meeting is the day after the swap - Monday the 22nd. If you would like to run for any of the offices, or have someone who you think should be nominated, please bring it up to any of the board members. All elected positions are fair game, so don't be shy about running for an office or making a suggestion. Before the elections, John, KN8B, will be giving us a presentation on digital modes. So be sure to bring your questions.

LARC, in conjunction with the Livonia CERT, will be hosting a Skywarn training session at the Livonia Civic Center Library Auditorium on Monday, March 29th at 7pm. We will have a table at the entrance of the auditorium with volunteers to give some publicity not only to the Livonia Amateur Radio Club but also amateur radio in general. Stop by, help us greet the people and get educated in cloud watching, just in time for storm season.

On Saturday, April 17th, the LARC will be participating in the Michigan QSO Party. Once again, it will be held at the EOC in the Livonia Police Department from noon till midnight. We will have two stations - one for CW and one for SSB. Stop by, get

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on the air and join in on the fun. Last year, we placed second in the EOC category with our rather casual effort. Let's see if we can improve on our score, if even by a few points.

We are still in the planning stages of a Technician-in-a-Day class on Saturday, April 24th - National Exam Weekend. The class will be held from 9am till 2pm, followed by a VE-administered exam session until 4pm. Final plans are in the approval process by the parents of the students. If you are interested in either planning or teaching part of the class, please let me know.

For our April 26th general meeting, we will have ARRL Great Lakes Division Director, Jim Weaver, K8JE, as the presenter. Jim has a very special presentation to give us, so this is not a meeting to miss.

Field Day is coming up and the Ford Amateur Radio League has graciously agreed to take the lead this year. Field Day is always the last full weekend in June. This year it will be June 26 - 27.

Want to be net control for the weekly LARC 2-Meter Net? Step up and contact Dave, KC8YWT, our Net Control Coordinator and let him know which weeks will work out for you. He has a script and a log that make being Net Control easy.

If you have any information you'd like published in this newsletter, please pass them along to me. I'm open to starting a corkboard as well. So if you have anything you want to sell or buy, let me know, so I can add it. This isn't *my* newsletter, it's *our* newsletter. I'm always looking for suggestions for improvement from the membership. And as always, if you would like to be newsletter editor, let me know. This position is open as well.

Also, if you have any suggestions for presentations for an upcoming meeting, please let me know.

Have fun with the bands. 10, 12 and 15 Meter openings are becoming more commonplace. Check out these bands for openings to the Middle East in the mornings, from about 1400 UTC till 1600 UTC. Europe and Africa are most likely to be heard from 1400UTC till 1800 UTC. Openings to Oceania can occur from 2000 till into the evening. Keep listening and call CQ if you don't hear anything. You might be surprised at who answers you.

73,

Mike, N8MR

ARRL Field Day: 2010 Field Day Packets Now Available

From: The ARRL Letter for February 18, 2010

It's that time of year again -- time to start gearing up for ARRL Field Day, June 26-27, 2010! ARRL's flagship operating event -- always held the fourth full weekend in June -- brings together new and experienced hams for 24 hours of operating fun. Field Day packets are now available for download and include the complete rules (including changes for 2010), as well as other reference items such as forms, ARRL Section abbreviation list, entry submission instructions, a Frequently Asked Questions section, guidelines for getting bonus points, instructions for GOTA stations, a kit to publicize your event with the local press and more.

Solar Update

From: The ARRL Letter for February 18, 2010

Tad "The Sun did not shine, it was too wet to play" Cook, K7RA, reports: We have been seeing improved conditions with moderate sunspot activity, and we should keep seeing these good conditions this weekend for the ARRL International DX Contest (CW). The average daily sunspot number for the past week was 38.7, down 4.6 points from the prior week, but the average daily solar flux rose 4 points to 90.6. The predicted solar flux for February 18-22 is 88, 88, 86, 85 and 84. The planetary A index for the same period is predicted at 10, 10, 5, 5 and 5. Look for more information on the ARRL Web site on Friday, February 19, including a look at some new resources for grabbing up-to-the-minute data from ionospheric sounders. These are very useful for studying HF propagation paths and understanding phenomena that we recently discussed on 75 meter short-skip propagation. For more information concerning radio propagation, visit the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page. This week's "Tad Cookism" brought to you by Dr Seuss' The Cat in the Hat.

Elmer Hotline!

Starting out on a particular mode or stumped by technical problems with your equipment? Are you hesitant to bring up their problems at meetings or breakfasts? Bring your questions regarding a piece of equipment or a new mode to the Elmer Hotline: (k8uns@arrl.net). We will get you connected to someone who has the expertise you need.