



# The Repeater The Repeater



The Livonia Amateur Radio Club

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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The 39th LARC Swap-N-Shop was a success, and it was the help of our membership that made it so. Last year, we sold 60 tables. This year, we sold 96. Last year we sold 400 tickets. This year, we sold 515. Last year, we used two rooms in the Senior Center. This year, we used every inch of all three rooms. I want to thank all of members that came out to help. It was great to see the club band together for this event, and we truly needed it. If you have any suggestions for improvements for next year, please let us know.

Elections were postponed, as the February meeting was called off due to the amount of snow on the ground. Needless to say, if we *would have* held the meeting, with my luck, either the library would closed or we would not have had a quorum for the election. So replay of last month follows: 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. Just like last year, it will be held at the EOC of the Livonia Police Department from noon till midnight. We will have two stations - one for CW and one for SSB. Stop by, get 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.

Plans have taken shape for the Technician-in-a-Day Q&A session 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. As of yet, we do not have a venue confirmed, though we are looking into getting the training room in the Livonia Police Department. 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. Before the meeting, we will be meeting up with Jim at the Senate Coney Island (same place as the breakfasts) for some chat about our hobby, the ARRL and other topics. More details to follow.

Field Day is coming up and the Ford Amateur Radio League has graciously accepted the challenge of leading this annual project in 2010. Field Day is always the last full weekend in June, which is June 26 - 27 this year.

We need Net Controls for the LARC 2-Meter Net. Lend a hand (or a mic) by contacting 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. Please include the usual information, such as the title, author, date of publication, web site (or newsletter or magazine) in which you found the article and any other supporting information.

If you have anything you want to sell, we can post it on the corkboard. 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.

10, 12 and 15 Meter openings are becoming more commonplace, and the people who learn about these openings first are the testers. But you don't have to be a tester to take advantage of the improving conditions on the higher bands. And even though the higher bands are attracting more people, don't forget the low bands (30, 40, 80, 160 Meters) still provide great openings all over the world. Keep listening and call CQ if you don't hear anything. You might be surprised at who answers you.

73, Mike, N8MR

## **2010 Michigan QSO Party April 17**

All Michigan amateurs are invited to mark their calendars for Saturday, April 17, 2010 for the 2010 Michigan QSO Party (MiQP). This is the one weekend a year when Michigan amateurs are in the limelight, as amateurs from across the USA and around the world are looking for QSOs with us. This is a great opportunity develop HF operating skills,

represent the great state of Michigan and last but not least, have a bunch of fun. Even if you don't consider yourself a contest operator, you'll probably find it's a blast to jump in to work the throng who will be looking for Michigan QSOs. If you've ever operated on Field Day, you'll certainly be ready for MiQP.

The operating period is a convenient twelve hours long, from noon local time (1600Z) until midnight local (0400Z) here in Michigan. Stations outside of Michigan may only work Michigan stations, while Michigan stations may work anybody. Activity takes place on the 80 thru 10 meter bands, on both phone and CW. The exchange is simple: a sequential QSO number (starting with 1, then 2, 3...) and your location (county for Michigan stations, and state, province or "DX" for others). A station may be worked once per band and mode, with CW QSOs counting two points and phone QSOs counting one point (just like Field Day). Multipliers are states, provinces, and Michigan counties, counted once on phone and once on CW. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers. See the MiQP website at <http://www.miqp.org> for complete rules.

MiQP offers an extensive awards program, with handsome plaques awarded for the in-state winners of the major categories. Certificates are awarded for the top single-operator score in each Michigan county, and there is a simultaneous competition for Michigan clubs where scores of its members are combined into an aggregate score for that club. There are also categories and awards for mobile and multi-operator stations.

The separate category instituted in 2008 for Emergency Operation Center (EOC) stations has become a permanent part of MiQP, and continues in 2010. A handsome MiQP plaque will be awarded to the highest scoring EOC station and certificates for second and third place. The MiQP rules defining an EOC station are essentially the same as for Field Day - "Michigan entries located at an established EOC site, activated by an individual or group, utilizing either permanent or temporary equipment and antennas". This category was specifically created to encourage EOC stations to participate, and to recognize their contributions. Eight EOC stations from around the state participated in 2009.

We are also continuing the "MiQP Rookie Of The Year" plaque instituted in 2007, which is awarded to the top single-operator score submitted by a Michigan station who has never participated in MiQP before.

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**Michigan QSO Party Website** - <http://www.miqp.org>

Find official log and summary sheets, results from past years, and free logging software.

**Questions?** - e-mail: [miqp@miqp.org](mailto:miqp@miqp.org).

**E-mail reflector** [http://www.miqp.org/MiQP\\_Reflector.htm](http://www.miqp.org/MiQP_Reflector.htm)

We hope to see a great turnout of Michigan amateurs on the air on April 17th! 73, from the MiQP Organizing Committee.

## Disaster Prep Tips

From: The ARES E-Letter for February 24, 2010

As we start a new decade, let's review some of the basics of Amateur Radio disaster preparedness. The following are tips from John Covington, W4CC, of Dallas, North Carolina. You must make sure you're personally prepared for a disaster before you can even consider helping with Amateur Radio. If you are preoccupied with personal matters, you won't be able to help ARES®. To be ready for disaster communications, do the following: Train regularly with your local ARES® group.

Think about how you might best be able to help during a disaster. Some of us are good at installing antennas and equipment, others of us are better at operating on the air. Not everyone is suited to doing every job. Sometimes just having helping hands, spare equipment or supplies can be helpful even if you cannot operate the radios yourself. Generators need fuel, operators need coffee, and stations need to be set up. Figure out where you best fit in. Decide how you can help out if you stay home: Can you deploy at a shelter or EOC for a few hours? Operate from home?

If you must evacuate, can you deploy from where you have evacuated to, such as a shelter? Have all resource materials you need in printed form. Don't depend on computers, PDAs and so forth as they may not work in a disaster, require electricity and are relatively fragile. If you use a computer regularly in your on-the-air operations, make sure you practice doing things such as calling nets and handling traffic the pencil-and-paper way once in a while. Remember, you may not be able to spare the amp-hours or the table space to run a computer.

Have an Amateur Radio ready-kit to supplement your personal ready kit. Some items to include:

\*Portable radio, antenna and power supply or batteries (2 sets)

\*Headset or earphones (you may be operating in a noisy area)

\*Any cables you could possibly need

\*Pencils and Paper

\*Clipboard (firm writing surface, you may not have one otherwise)

\*Radiogram forms (helpful but not absolutely required)

\*Operating aids (pink card, Field Resources Manual, list of ARRL numbered radiograms, and anything appropriate for your local area)

\*Small tools (multi-tip screwdriver, multitools, etc.)

\*ARES® Identification Card, if appropriate

\*Important phone numbers and frequencies

\*Map of the area

\*Flashlight

\*Poncho - very small to store, only around \$2 and can be useful when you least expect

If carried in lieu of a personal ready kit, a few other items may be helpful:

\*For a short deployment, a bottle of water plus some crackers or something to eat requiring no preparation could make things much more bearable for you

\*Medicine

\*Toilet paper - small packets from MRE kits are very handy and don't take up much room

\*Moist towelettes

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Here are a few other suggestions from your editor based on his perspective as a Registered Nurse:

\*Know CPR.

\*Know the location of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and how to use it.

\*Know the signs/symptoms of a heart attack and stroke.

Also, be prepared physically, mentally and emotionally for the sometimes overwhelming demands of a disaster or emergency environment. Hope for the best, but expect the worst. You are at risk for witnessing horrific scenes. Protect your self and especially young hams; participate in psychological and grief counseling, if necessary. Your mental health is just as important as your physical health.

## Special Call to Action - Version No. 2

From: Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director  
March 18, 2010

Dear fellow ARRL member,

A few days ago, I asked you to FAX letters to US Representative Henry Waxman and to US Representative Joe Barton urging them to release Senate bill S. 1755 from the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to the floor of the House. Although this is a Senate bill, it was passed by acclamation by the US Senate and now is awaiting action in the US House of Representatives. Our intent is to get the bill out of committee. After this has been done, we will notify you of the correct time to write in support of the bill to your own US Representative. Rep. Waxman is Chairman of the Committee and Rep. Barton is the ranking minority member of the Committee. Letters to your individual representatives will come later.

For the many of you who have already sent your letters, thank you. I apologize for this extra message. For you who have not yet sent letters, please do.

We strongly believe our goal of getting S. 1755 to the floor of the House will be accomplished provided every ARRL member who can get to a fax machine will help us fill the offices of the Committee leaders with fax messages.

What is the purpose of S. 1755? This is the first step toward overcoming the prohibitions against amateur antennas that are so common in CC&Rs included in land contracts. S. 1755 will direct the Department of Homeland Security to study and report on any needless impediments that prevent Amateur Radio from providing critical supplemental or replacement communication in time of emergency and disaster. We have reason to believe DHS will conclude among other things that CC&Rs that prohibit amateurs from putting antennas on their property are excessive and damage our ability to provide service in emergencies. Such a conclusion will lead directly into a second step of having a reasonable antenna law introduced into Congress. In essence, we are aiming at having a Federal law that provides much the same benefit for land contracts that FCC PRB-1 does for state and local ordinances.

Please copy the following message, add your personal information and make any other changes you may wish, and send the two Faxes within the coming day or two. Please also send e-mail copies of your letters to Division Legislative Action Chairman John Meyers, NB4K, [nb4k@arrl.org](mailto:nb4k@arrl.org).

If you do not have a home or office FAX machine, your

local office supply store, shipping center and many drugstores and other stores will send faxes for a small fee.

If you will be at the Marshall or Toledo hamfests this weekend, you may stop by the ARRL booth where we will print a letter for you to sign and will take care of Faxing it for you.

The fax number for Chairman Waxman is: 202-225-2525  
The fax number for Congressman Barton is: 202-225-1919

If possible, please also e-mail or USPS mail copies of your letters to Great Lakes Division Legislative Action Chairman John Meyers, NB4K ([nb4k@arrl.org](mailto:nb4k@arrl.org)), 218 Cory Ln., Butler, KY 41006. John will collect these letters and letters we receive from other sources and forward them to John Chwat, our Washington lobbyist, to use when he visits Mr. Waxman and Mr. Barton. The main thing, though, is to fax letters to Congressmen Waxman and Barton.

One final comment. Please do not confuse this request with requests for action on bills that have been introduced into the Michigan and Ohio legislatures. These bills and S. 1755 need your active support. They provide different benefits to Amateur Radio. The PRB-1-type bills currently active in the Michigan and Ohio legislatures are being managed through Michigan SM Dale Williams, WA8EFK ([wa8efk@arrl.org](mailto:wa8efk@arrl.org)) and Ohio SM Frank Piper, KI8GW ([ki8gw@arrl.org](mailto:ki8gw@arrl.org)).

The letter to Representatives Waxman and Barton follows **(on Page 5)**.

73, tnx,  
Jim

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ARRL - The national association for Amateur Radio

## 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](mailto:k8uns@arrl.net)). We will get you connected to someone who has the expertise you need.

Representative Henry A. Waxman  
Chairman, House Energy and Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Joe Barton  
Ranking Member  
House Energy and Commerce Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2010

Dear Chairman Waxman and Ranking Member Barton:

As one of more than 680,000 Amateur Radio licensees throughout the United States, I urge your support for passage of S.1755, the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act," which is pending in your Committee. This bill directs the Department of Homeland Security to undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief.

S. 1755, a bipartisan bill sponsored by both Chairman Lieberman and Ranking Member Collins, passed without opposition in the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee on November 4, 2009. On December 14 it passed by unanimous consent on the Senate floor. It was referred to your Committee on the following day.

This bill promotes and encourages the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response.

Please pass S.1755 and send it to the House floor and to President Obama for signature.

If you or your staff have any questions, please feel free to contact John Chwat, the Washington, D.C. representative of the American Radio Relay League, Inc., 703-684-7703 or by e-mail to [john.chwat@chwatco.com](mailto:john.chwat@chwatco.com)

Sincerely,

[your name, address]