



The Repeater

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The Livonia Amateur Radio Club

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Reminder: Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the May meeting will be on Monday, May 18th.

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This weekend was the annual [Hamvention](#) weekend. Lynette and I drove to Dayton on Thursday afternoon and came back home on Saturday evening. In the midst of the worldwide economic crisis, we saw little to no change in the attendance from last year. We also noticed many people buying and selling all sorts of ham radio items. The [Top Band Dinner](#) (held Friday night) was so popular this year, it was sold out several weeks ago - something that hasn't occurred in years. Luckily we reserved our seats in February. As always, the weather was sunny and quite warm one day, and then cooler and rainy the next. But as always, it was a lot of fun.

Speaking of a lot of fun, we are fast approaching our annual [Field Day](#) with the [Ford Amateur Radio League](#). On June 27 and 28, the two clubs will be participating in this most hallowed event at [Livonia Firehouse #6](#), at 37876 Plymouth Road, just west of Newburgh. Set up will begin on Saturday morning. It is a 24-our event, starting at 2:00pm Saturday and ending at 2pm on Sunday. Teardown will start directly after the end of the event. Everyone is welcome to stop by and operate, log or observe ham radio at its finest.

The May meeting will be dedicated to our Field Day preparations and members

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INTERNATIONAL REPLY COUPONS (IRCS)

Most DXers are familiar with the International Reply Coupon (www.g3swh.org.uk/irc.html) or more commonly known as an IRC. The IRC was first introduced on October 1, 1907. Its purpose in Amateur Radio, but even more so for DXers, has been an international postage type of money system. The Universal Postal Union (UPU) designs, prints and distributes the IRCs to the UPU member nations (www.upu.int/members/en/members.html). A DXer in one country could theoretically send one IRC from his country to a DXer in another country. The receiving station can then

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of the FARL will be attending. This is the mother of all special events, as many clubs across the U.S., Canada and other parts of the Americas will take part in this exercise. Regardless of whether you consider it a contest, special event, or a club outing, plan on being there to set up, operate, log or tear down.

The plans so far have the FARL handling the Phone tent, the LARC handling the CW stations. The food tent will also be handled by the LARC - thank you Doris and Lynette. There is also going to be a satellite station brought together by Bill Brezina, WA8HEA, and I, and we may be setting up a 160 Meter inverted L, which will get us on both 160 Meters as well as 6 Meters. We are still in need of a GOTA captain. LARC will bring the GOTA equipment, including a very much improved vertical antenna.

John, K8AZT, our Field Day Chairman, is contemplating running 3A with a digital station, if someone has the equipment and would be willing to be the captain of that station. I think it would be an exciting and worthwhile addition to our Field Day. Let John know if you're willing to help out with the digital station, or any other aspect of Field Day.

For the June meeting, we are planning on having Stan, K8SB, give a presentation on Radio Direction Finding, also known as foxhunting. Word is that the presentation is very interesting and informative. If you have any suggestions for future presentations, please let me know.

73,
Mike, N8MR

FOOTNOTE TO: WHAT IS AN IRC?

The history of IRCs has one infamous footnote. Back in 1920, one man took advantage of the differences in the country-to-country exchange rate of IRCs. This man turned it into a business, offering as much as 50% return through buying and selling IRCs, based on fluctuations between markets in differing countries. While investors poured in with purchase orders, it became apparent that the number of IRCs needed

International Reply Coupons — (IRCs)—Continued from page 1)

take the IRC to his post office and exchange it for postage for "the minimum postage for an ordinary priority letter-post item or an ordinary airmail letter sent abroad for the reply". In most countries one IRC is sufficient for the minimal size envelope back to the sender. There are some however that requires more, even though this totally conflicts with the UPU. W9OL, Bill, and N6DHZ, James, have Web pages (www.qsl.net/w9ol/IRC_Chart.htm and www.n6dhz.com/irc-chart.html) that are good references for how many IRCs or greenstamps (\$) to send overseas.

Over the years the IRC has been modified or updated and yes even gone up in price. The current IRC (www.dailydx.com/images/irc2007.jpg and www.dailydx.com/images/IRC-2007-100.jpg) is called the Beijing model No. 2" International Reply Coupons (IRC) with the Michelangelo "two fingers about to touch, framed in a postage stamp". This IRC costs \$2.10 in the United States and has been available for purchase since the July-August 2006 time frame. These IRCs are valid through December 31, 2009 and will no longer be available after August 31, 2009. In other words they must be turned into the post office by the end of this year, otherwise they will be worthless.

A new designed IRC was displayed in Geneva on August 8, 2008 the plenary meeting of the 24th Universal Postal Congress. The Nairobi model (www.dailydx.com/images/2008-08-08_irc.jpg) was created by Luxembourg's Rob Van Goorand, a graphic artist. The new IRCs are expected to go on sale on July 1, 2009.

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(40,000 total) was far less than adequate. Profits given to investors in the beginnings of the scheme was strictly income from new investors. Profits were far less than had been promised. Eventually the scheme was uncovered and investors were given nothing in return. The man went to jail for both mail fraud and larceny. His name: Charles Ponzi, thus giving rise to the term [Ponzi Scheme](#).

THIS MONTH ON THE AIR

Contests & Special Events

May 2009

Baltic Contest - 2100Z, May 23 to 0200Z, May 24

MI QRP Memorial Day CW Sprint - 2300Z, May 24 to 0300Z, May 25

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 30 to 2400Z, May 31 (*Contest highlights special callsign prefixes*)

June 2009

ANARTS WW RTTY Contest - 0000Z, Jun 13 to 2400Z, Jun 14

GACW WWSA CW DX Contest - 1500Z, Jun 13 to 1500Z, Jun 14

ARRL June VHF QSO Party - 1800Z, Jun 13 to 0300Z, Jun 15

All Asian DX Contest, CW - 0000Z, Jun 20 to 2400Z, Jun 21

Run for the Bacon QRP Contest - 0100Z-0300Z, Jun 22

Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest - 1200Z, Jun 27 to 1200Z, Jun 28

ARRL Field Day - 1800Z, Jun 27 to 2100Z, Jun 28

DX

5V7PM - Togo - May 10 to May 30 - SSB, RTTY, PSK - QSL direct or buro via DL9MBI

MJ/DJ7ZG and MJ/DL7AFS - Jersey Island - May 15 to May 27 - SSB, RTTY, PSK - QSL via home calls

ZK2V - Niue - May 16 to June 20 - CW, SSB, RTTY - QSL via N3SL & LoTW

YS1G - El Salvador - May 17 to May 23 - 160 thru 30 Meters, mainly CW - QSL via G3TXF & LoTW

N6IC/KL7 - Alaska - May 21 to May 30 - Douglas Island - Daytime operation only - QSL via N6IC

TK/F5MCC - Corsica - May 22 to June 11 - CW, SSB - various lighthouses and islands - QSL via F5MCC

OH0/DJ7JC and others - Aland Island - May 24 to June 3 - mainly CW - QSL via home call

HV5PUL - Vatican - June 01 to June 4 - CW, SSB, RTTY - QSL via HV5PUL

8R - Guyana - Callsign TBD - June 16 to July 6 - CW, SSB - QSL via N3DB

5J0M - San Andreas - June 19 to July 5 - CW, SSB - Mainly 6 Meters- QSL direct w/SASE via W1JJ

There's always more DX than those listed here.

UPCOMING SWAPS

June 7

Chelsea Radio Swap n Shop
Chelsea Fairgrounds 20501 Old US Highway 12
Talk In 145.450 (PL100)

June 20

Midland Swap
Midland, MI
Talk In 146.72/12

June 21

Monroe Hamfest
Monroe Cty Fairgrounds
M-50 at Raisinville Rd. (2 Miles west of Monroe)