



The Repeater The Repeater



The Livonia Amateur Radio Club

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws have officially taken effect as of January 1, 2010. Out of 40 current, Full Members, there were 27 "Yes" votes for revising the documents. The motion passes.

Dues for 2010 are due at the January meeting. Dues have been held to \$15 per year.

The 39th LARC Swap-N-Shop will be held February 21, 2010 at the Livonia Civic Park Senior Center. We are starting to get applications for tables back from the vendors and we need to do some serious planning for this event at the January meeting, which is why John Dellinger's presentation on digital formats has been postponed till the February meeting. We will need volunteers for setup and teardown, as well as help throughout the swap. 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 (setup) or Sunday morning (during the actual swap), please let me or another board member know. Also, if you have any last minute suggestions for vendors that you think would be interested in being at our swap, please let us know ASAP.

Elections will be held at the February meeting. 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.

We are still in the planning stages of a Technician-in-a-Day class. Bruno, WA8DHP, suggested that we hold it on Saturday, April 24th, on ARRL 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.

Are you an ARRL member, a VE, a CERT member, an ARES or RACES member? Is this information reflected in our roster? Let us know if this information is missing, or if you have recently joined an organization that will aid your club or fellow club members.

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. John, KN8B, will talk about running digital modes at the February meeting.

Even though it is hard to tell on the air, the sunspots have slowly been returning. The SFI has consistently been above 70 for the last few weeks. It appears that we are now starting to pull out of the extended low period on the sunspot cycle. Check 15, 12 and 10 Meters for the brief openings that occur - sometimes without many people noticing. Also, 'tis the season for E skip on 6-Meters and 2-Meters. There were a few good Es openings on 2-Meters over the past week or two. Are there more on the way? Stay tuned.

73,

Mike, N8MR

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: (President@livoniaarc.com). We will get you connected to someone who has the expertise you need.

2009 Sees Surge of New Amateur Radio Licensees

From: The ARRL Letter for January 7, 2010

This past year was a banner year for new Amateur Radio licensees. According to ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, the FCC issued more than 30,000 new ham radio licenses. "In 2009, the demand for Amateur Radio exam sessions remained elevated and is still running at a higher rate than before the FCC's restructuring of the license requirements in 2007," Somma said. "This high level of exam session activity has produced an elevated influx of new applications, far outpacing recent years."

A total of 30,144 new licenses were granted in 2009, an increase of almost 7.5 percent from 2008. In 2005, 16,368

new hams joined Amateur Radio's ranks; just five years later, that number had increased by almost 14,000 -- a whopping 84 percent! The ARRL VEC is one of 14 VECs who administer Amateur Radio license exams.

"When looking at the statistics over the last 10 years, these are some the highest numbers we've seen," Somma explained. "Additionally, our total number of licensees across all three classes has grown each year." Currently there are 682,500 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the US, an almost 3 percent rise over 2008. In 2008, there were 663,500 licensed amateurs; there were 655,800 in 2007. Broken down by license class, at the end of 2009 there were 17,084 Novices, 334,245 Technicians, 150,970 Generals, 60,795 Advanced and 119,403 Amateur Extra licensees.

"The ARRL VEC has been busy meeting the needs of the Amateur Radio community by helping people to become radio amateurs or upgrade their existing licenses," Somma said. "In 2009, ARRL VEs administered 44,595 exam elements at 6369 ARRL VEC-sponsored exam sessions. The number of amateurs who want to be Volunteer Examiners and who want to teach Amateur Radio classes is also going up -- we've seen a spike in the number of applications from General and Extra class radio amateurs who want to give back to their community by serving as ARRL examiners and instructors."

Somma applauded all the volunteers whose "hard work and contribution of countless hours of time helps to ensure the future of Amateur Radio. The ARRL VEC thanks our 32,411 VEs from around the world whose dedication and service helped to contribute to the success of Amateur Radio. I am delighted by these important achievements. 2009 was a very good year for Amateur Radio and I am excited by the promise of 2010."

ARRL Recognizes: Board Recognizes Outgoing ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN

From: The ARRL Letter for January 21, 2010

After more than 27 years of elected volunteer service to the ARRL, outgoing ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has retired. In recognition of his dedication to the League over nearly three decades, the ARRL Board of Directors bestowed their thanks in the form of an engraved plaque. Presented by incoming President Kay Craigie, N3KN, on behalf of the Board, the plaque recounts Harrison's elected service to the ARRL: Arkansas Section Manager, 1983-1988; Delta Division Director, 1988-1996; Vice President, 1996-2000; First Vice President, 2000-2006, and President, 2006-2010.

THIS MONTH ON THE AIR

Contests & Special Events

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW - 2200z, Jan 29 to 2159z, Jan 31

Vermont QSO Party - 0000z, Feb 6 to 2400z, Feb 7

10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB - 0001z, Feb 6 to 2359z, Feb 7

Minnesota QSO Party - 1400z to 2400z, Feb 6

Delaware QSO Party - 1700z, Feb 6 to 0100z, Feb 8

North American Sprint, CW - 0000z to 0400z, Feb 7

CQ WW RTTY Contest - 0000z Feb 13 to 2400z, Feb 14

North American Sprint, SSB - 0000z to 0400z, Feb 14

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW - 0000z, Feb 20 to 2400z, Feb 21

CQ 160-Meter Contest, SSB - 2200z, Feb 26 to 2159z, Feb 28

North American QSO Party, RTTY - 1800z, Feb 27 to 0600z, Feb 28

High Speed Club CW Contest - 0900z-1700z, Feb 28

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB - 0000z, Mar 6 to 2400z, Mar 7

DX

VP6AL - Pitcairn I - Nov 13 to Mar 01; QSL OK via eQSL or direct: c/o P.D.C Hahei, RD1, Whitianga, New Zealand

VK9WBM - Willis Island - Dec 01 to May 01; QSL via VK4DMC

T6LC - Afghanistan - Dec 03 to Mar 03; QSL via K4MJN; mainly 40 20m; CW, SSB; check 1430-1800z

J5UAP - Guinea Bissau - Jan 15 to Mar 31; 160-10m; mainly digital, SSB, CW; QSL via HA3AUI Direct

XR0ZA - Juan Fernandez Island - Jan 19 to Feb 02; 160-10m w/ focus on low bands; SSB, CW, digital; QSL direct via JA8BMK

YJ0MM - Vanuatu - Jan 21 to Jan 28; 160-10m; CW, SSB, RTTY; QSL via 9A8MM

5X1NH - Uganda - Jan 21 to Mar 21; QSL via G3RWF

PY2XB/PY0F - Fernando de Noronha - Jan 23 to Feb 03; all bands; CW, SSB, RTTY, PSK; QSL via PT7WA

TX3D - Austral Islands - Jan 23 to Feb 05; 160-30m, focus on low bands; SSB, RTTY; QSL via DL1AWI

XR9JA - South Shetland Islands - Feb 02 to Feb 27; 160-6m; CW, SSB, PSK31; QSL direct via CE5JA

TX4T - French Polynesia - Feb 09 to Feb 25; 160-30m, focus on low bands; QSL direct or buro via G3TXF

VK9X/G6AY - Christmas Island - Feb 20 to Feb 27; 80-10m, CW only; QSL direct or buro via G3SWH

UPCOMING SWAPS

Jan 30

Michigan Antique Radio Club Winter Meet
Costick Center; 28600 W. 11 Mile Rd.
Farmington Hills, MI;
<http://michiganantiqueradio.org/events/meetSchedule.shtml>

Feb 21

Livonia Amateur Radio Club
Civic Park Seniors Center , Livonia, MI; Talk-In:
145.35 (PL 100); <http://www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm>

Mar 20

Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society
Marshall Activities Center , Marshall, MI; Talk-In:
146.66; <http://www.w8df.com/hamfest.html>

Mar 21

Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA)
Owens Community College , Perrysburg, OH; Talk-In:
147.27; <http://tmrahamradio.org>