

Chirps & Clicks

Since 1932

An ARRL Special Service Club

February 2007

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Important Dates

February 10th SMART Club meeting

February 14th RACES meeting

February 15th KARC meeting

February 24th LaPorte HamFest

February 28 KARC Radio Fun Night

March 10th SMART Club meeting

March 15th KARC meeting

New Officers for 2007



The KARC board of directors met on February 6th, and as laid out in the club By-laws elected officers for the upcoming year. They are;

Director Ron Schubot N8CML, Vice-President Dave Nawatny KC8WLD, Treasurer Jim Gardner KI8HF, Secretary John Mathieson KC8ZTJ, President Charlie Chapman KB8SFR, and Director Don Verhage KC8OQM.

ARES/RACES/Skywarn

The 2006 Simulated Emergency Test (SET) was a success. Our point total was 1239, which is up from last year. We had 46 participants with 92 different agencies served.

The 2007 SKYWARN training is March 19th, at 7pm in the Portage City Hall.

The QMN net has changed frequency. The new band plan forced the net to move from 3663KHz to 3563KHz. This is the first time that they have moved since 1935. More information about QMN can be found at: <http://www.michiganet.org/>

Check your batteries! Did you know that rechargeable batteries can wear out after only 300 charges? Many batteries deliver less than half of their rated capacity after two years. It is a good idea to put an in-service date on your battery. A silver indelible ink pen works well for this.

You are always welcome to check in to the Michigan ARPSC net. It meets on Sunday evening at 5pm. The frequency is 3932KHz LSB.

73 DE NK8X

Public Service

Along with the anticipation of spring comes the opportunity of helping at public service events. The exact type of event varies but it is usually a fund raising walk, bike ride, or run.

Not only does the amateur radio contribution help the organizers with communications, safety, and logistics



Art Snapper NK8Z, Simon Boehme KC8ZYD and then Mayor, now State Representative Robert Jones.

during their event, but it also provides an opportunity for hams to recruit. If you think about it, there is little else we do that has more exposure to show and tell the public about our hobby. Another benefit to our ranks is the practice it provides for passing emergency messages and use of our equipment.

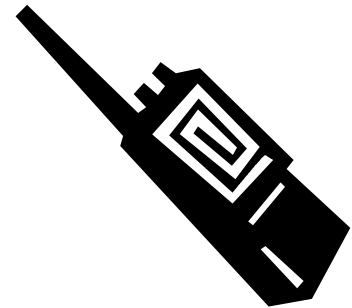
Public Service

Events

The first few public service events are scheduled and promise to be a lot of fun again this year.

April 28th—MS Walk

May 5th—March of Dimes



HelpWanted: 75th Anniversary Special Event Station

2007 will be the “Diamond” anniversary of the Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club and we need everyone's help to put on the best special-event station we've ever had. Do you have a good idea about where or when it should be held? Should we

celebrate it at the Red Cross club station, or should we take AVCOM to a more public location for a weekend? Whatever you think, we will need your

help in planning it, setting it up and manning the radios.

If you would like to be an operator or if you could help plan the event please let John Mathieson,

KC8ZTJ know about it.

75th Anniversary

Jim Smith, K8JRS - SK

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Jim Smith, K8JRS. Although he couldn't make a lot of our meetings in recent years, he always maintained his membership in the KARC and was constantly asking

about our activities and doing what he could to support our club and our hobby. The entire membership sends their condolences to Eleanor his wife, and the rest of Jim's family.

Upcoming Issues

Do you have something you'd like to see in an upcoming issue? How about items for sale or trade? Minutes of board meetings? Treasurer reports? Repeater tips and usage etiquette? Contest dates? Hamfest stories? Whatever it is you would like to see, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Send your ideas to: editor@w8vy.net

Kalamazoo Co. Office of Emergency Management

Stepping up to partner with local Amateur Radio

It's hard to believe that it's been three years already and it has been a great pleasure to work with and support Kalamazoo County Amateur Radio.

As I look back not knowing anyone when I arrived and following in the foot steps of a legend, retired Lt. G. VanGelder, it was a tough road. But always members of the Amateur Radio Club and RACES would welcome me as I settled into this new position.

Always a hand shake and smile would greet me at different meetings and activities.

From that point on, new friendships developed and I got to see a very dedicated group of volunteers working hard and proud to make this community safe and ready.

Over the last couple years this office has been able to assist with the purchasing of new equipment, training and increasing the level of professionalism in response. I've always said *"it's my job to get the equipment and their job to operate it"*. Then one day the final

piece of encouragement came and I went out and attended an Amateur Radio class and obtained my first Amateur License.

It has been very enjoyable and it wouldn't have been possible without all of you! Until next time...

By Lt. Paul R. Baker, Director
KZ8OEM



I Didn't NODE That

Most of us have used Echolink from time to time perhaps from the home computer. But just as a reminder, it might be helpful to look at how we can use this program from our radio. Echolink is a voice over Internet protocol (VOIP) that allows Ham radio operators to talk to each other via the Internet. Echolink stations can be set to run as a free standing link, such as the W8VY Echolink node, or off of a repeater. W8VY runs as a link node and has a 2 Meter radio attached via an interface to a computer that is connected to the Internet.

Using our own W8VY link requires a PI tone of 94.8 and a simplex frequency of 147.470 MHz. This is the same frequency that is used for LOSTeam outings. Node, as it is used in Echolink, is nothing more than a station that has been approved to connect to other Echolink nodes. All nodes are not always available. Another node for those in the Battle Creek area is the KB7YQY repeater. It is found at 442.350 MHz and a PI tone of 94.8. One only becomes available by signing on to the Echolink Servers.

Each node has a node number that allows it to be accessed via the DTMF key pad on our radio. It is frequently a six digit number that

when we key the mike and enter the number via our key pad, a call will be put thru to the called node or station. There is usually a delay in getting a response from our called node so don't be alarmed if it takes a few seconds before you hear anything coming back. Repeaters called will usually ID and let you know the repeater call. At this point you access the repeater like any repeater. One caveat though, there is a signal delay while traffic from the called node is routed through a server and back to you so be aware that there are delays in working with Echolink servers that you will not see on a local repeater.

Accessing a linked site is much the same as accessing an echo link repeater, however, be aware that people are not always listening to a link site ; you might log on and find no response when you give your call sign and location. So the rule of the road is be patient. Accessing a site is simple. Key the microphone and while keyed enter the 6 digit node number of where you want to call. Echolink will announce a connection and take to the node you called. If the node is off line, the server will let you know by stating "XXXX is not found" where XXXX is the call sign of the node called.. This means the site may

be down or if calling a single person, they are not listening.

A couple of special features of Echolink are worth discussing. One is the echo test. This test is started by keying (9999). The Echolink server will respond with "Connected to Echolink test server." The server will provide instructions and allow you to conduct a test transmission. This is an excellent way to test equipment and settings. When done simply press the pound key (#) and the server will disconnect. The pound key is the usual way of disconnecting from Echolink and will also disconnect any other stations on line with you. Another feature is the random node. Keying (09) will reconnect you to the node you just contacted. More Echolink commands are available at ;

www.w8vy.net/EcholinkCommands.htm

Enjoy using Echolink and let us about some of your contacts. If you find useful nodes contribute them to the Kalamazoohamradio yahoo group.

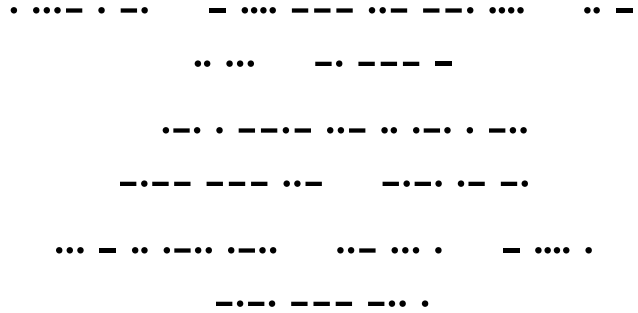
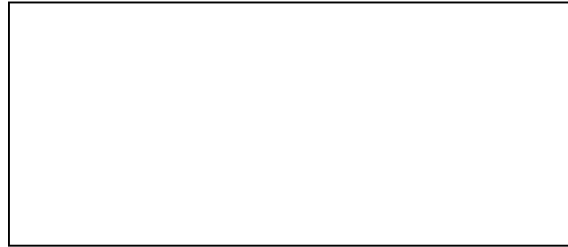
73

KC8ZTJ

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For additional copies or submissions
Please write to: editor@W8VY.net



www.W8VY.net

February 2007

March 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Kalamazoo County UHF net 7:30 PM 444.650 - 131.8 PL		6 SMART Club net 147.040 8:00 PM		8	9	10 SMART Club net GRG County Buffet 8:00 AM
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