



H C A R C R A G C H E W



In This Issue

- Ω Page 2
Blog from KB6NU
- Ω Page 3
Hamfest Calendar
DXpedition
- Ω Page 4
Notes From The President
- Ω Page 5, 6 & 7
Coordinator's Corner
Personal Locator Beacons

YOUR CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

John Turner, KD8EWV
517-283-1352
joelunchbox@netscape.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Ona, KA8WBR
517-254-4516
wmona@frontiernet.net

SECRETARY

Brett Smith, KC8ZDA
517-826-4563
brettcsmith@charter.net

TREASURER

Dan Sprow, KC8RYF
517-437-1410
dspro@comcast.net

BOARD MEMBERS

Cindy Turner, KD8HFA
517-283-1352
joelunchbox@netscape.com

Milt Bowers, N8BFD
517-283-1749
n8bfd@netscape.com

EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Dan Sprow, KC8RYF
517-437-1410
dspro@comcast.net

MARCH 2008

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE HILLSDALE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Local Repeaters: 147.060 + 100 Hz 444.600 + 114.8 Hz



Hillsdale Hospital Acquires New Radio For EMCOM

See EC column on page 5

Build Something!

A couple of years ago, a group of us were talking on the club repeater, and the talk got around to building stuff. One of the guys said, "You can't really build anything anymore." I almost fell out of my chair. That's simply not true. Heathkit may be just a fond memory, but there are still many companies out there selling kits that are not only fun to build, but are useful additions to the ham shack.

Here are a couple of sources:

Elecraft (www.elecraft.com). In my mind, Elecraft has become the premiere ham radio kit company, if not the premiere ham radio company, period. The new K3, for example, outperforms just about anything on the market by many accounts. Personally, I have built the KX-1, which is a real blast to operate from a park bench or to take on vacation. I also have and use the W1 wattmeter. TenTec (radio.tentec.com/kits). While perhaps known more for their ready-made rigs, they also sell a line of single-band transceivers and receiver kits. QRP Kits (www.qrpkits.com). QRPKits.Com sells kits that were originally projects of the Northern California QRP Club. My current General Class students are going to build the DC40A kit (\$40) as an exercise in building and as a way to learn about how radios work.

Below are some other companies whose kits have good reputations, but with which I have no personal experience:

Small Wonder Labs (www.smallwonderlabs.com) Wilderness Radio (www.fix.net/~jparker/wild.html) Milestone Technologies (www.mtechnologies.com) Almost All Digital Electronics (www.aade.com/index.html) FAR Circuits (www.farcircuits.net) Jackson Harbor (home.att.net/~jacksonharbor/ham.htm) QRPme (www.qrpme.com/) Linear Amp UK (www.linamp.co.uk)

QRP clubs are also a good source of cool kits. The problem with QRP clubs is that they order parts only for a very short run of kits. Once they sell out, the kits are no longer available. Even so, here are some clubs that are worth checking out: American QRP Club (www.amqrp.org) Four State QRP Club (4sqr.com/kits/kits.htm) NORTEX (www.kk5na.com/nortex.htm)

Ready to rock and roll? Here are a couple websites that you might want to check out before you dive in: Electronic Construction from A to Z (www.mtechnologies.com/building/atoz.htm). This site includes a page that lists all the tools you'll need to become a successful kit builder. Crystal Sets to Sideband: A Guide to Building an Amateur Radio Station (www.qsl.net/k3pd/book.html). This site not only discusses kit building, but also radio theory. The Art of Kit Building (ww2.netnitco.net/users/wt9w/kit%20building.html)

I hope that I've whetted your appetite for building a kit or two. They're a lot of fun to build, and you really do get a rush from operating a radio or using a piece of test equipment that you built yourself.

What have you built lately? Let Dan know. Email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

<p>March 15th 2008</p> <p>48th Annual Michigan Crossroads Hamfest</p> <p>Southern Michigan ARS & Marshall High School Industrial Arts Club</p> <p>http://www.w8df.com</p> <p>Talk-In: 146.660 (PL 94.8) -600 offset & 146.520 simplex</p> <p>Contact: Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ</p> <p>20960 NE Capital Avenue</p> <p>Battle Creek, MI 49017</p> <p>Phone: 269-966-0770</p> <p>Email: daffne25@yahoo.com</p> <p>Marshall, MI</p> <p>Marshall High School</p> <p>701 North Marshall Avenue</p> <p>Div: Great Lakes</p> <p>Sect: Michigan</p>	<p>April 5th 2008</p> <p>ARGYL Hamfest</p> <p>Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell</p> <p>http://www.argyl.org</p> <p>Talk-In: 146.620 (PL 94.8) & 145.270 (PL 94.8)</p> <p>Contact: Al Eckman, WW8WW</p> <p>725 Bowes Road, Apt. K6</p> <p>Lowell, MI 49331</p> <p>Phone: 616-897-7659</p> <p>Email: AEckman@lowell.k12.mi.us</p> <p>Lowell, MI</p> <p>Lowell High School</p> <p>11700 Vergennes Street</p> <p>Div: Great Lakes</p> <p>Sect: Michigan</p>	<p>April 19th 2008</p> <p>Milford Swap and Shop</p> <p>Milford Amateur Radio Club</p> <p>http://www.qsl.net/w8ydk</p> <p>Talk-In: 145.49 (PL 67); 146.52 backup</p> <p>Contact: Rose Moore, KC8NQJ</p> <p>1383 Sylvan Drive</p> <p>Hartland, MI 48353</p> <p>Phone: 810-632-5174</p> <p>Highland, MI</p> <p>Milford High School</p> <p>2380 Milford Road</p> <p>Div: Great Lakes</p> <p>Sect: Michigan</p>
--	---	---



DXpedition

The HQ8R DXpedition - to the rare Swan Islands is planned for March 15 to 23, 2008. Swan Islands has never before been activated before using the HQ8 prefix. Headed up by Javier HR2J, the DXpedition has the support of the Radio Club de Honduras. The Swan Islands are a chain of three islands located in the Caribbean Sea, approximately 144 nautical miles northeast of port of Castilla off the coastline of Honduras. The islands are uninhabited, except for a small Honduran Navy garrison. During the 1960's, Swan Island served as an outpost for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for transmitting clandestine radio broadcasts into Cuba. HQ8R is looking for 10 operators to work two phone, one CW and one RTTY/PSK31 station (a total of four stations) from 160 to 6 meters. Cost is around \$700 per operator. Logs, photos and videos will be uploaded via a high speed internet satellite system. More information is available on their website.

Source W5YI

HCARC
HILLSDALE COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Next Meeting - MARCH 20th —7 P.M.

Topic Building a Simple Crystal Radio

NWS Skywarn Training Rescheduled for April 7th

**NOTES FROM
THE PRESIDENT**

A L L H A M S W E L C O M E !

Stay Tuned!

**W E E K L Y 2 M E T E R N E T H E L D E A C H
M O N D A Y , 7 P . M . O N 1 4 7 . 0 6 0
H I L L S D A L E R E P E A T E R , 1 0 0 H Z P L**

**2 N D M O N D A Y N E T D E S I G N A T E D
A S A N E M E R G E N C Y T E S T N E T**

Meeting Every Third Thursday

Room 130

Hillsdale High School

This Months Meeting A Simple Crystal Radio Demo

VE News

Dear Members,

Don't miss this months club meeting as Milt Bowers and myself John Turner will attempt to build a working Crystal Radio right on sight! Well, we hope it works anyway. Radio will be built from regular household items. Not sure which model we will build, so be sure to show up. If anything, this should be very entertaining. Remember to mark the 20th of this month on your calendar, 7:00p.m. at the Hillsdale High School, and we'll be looking for you.

Regards!

HCARC President

John Turner

The VE team will be testing a couple of candidates from the current Tech Class on Monday evening the 10th at the Hillsdale High School. Two or three other candidates to be tested in a couple of weeks.



Coordinator's Corner



It is getting close to that time of year again where we need to be prepared for the upcoming Spring severe weather. The Skywarn Spotter class has been rescheduled for April 7th 7 P.M. at the Hillsdale High School Band room. Check your equipment, phone lists, Skywarn procedures etc.,. We will going over this information on a future net to see if we are all on the same page.

Recently the Hillsdale Hospital purchased an ICOM 2820H Dual Band radio which can be used for D-Star. Also an Astron power supply, and accessories for the radio. This was made possible through a \$3000.00 Grant that the hospital had acquired a couple of years ago. The antenna system will be installed as soon as the weather breaks. I have the radio at my QTH learning the radio and programming it. I would like to have an ARES meeting on the 22nd of this month to go over the features of this radio so it won't be new to anyone when it comes time to use it. If anyone wants to stop in and see the radio, or play around with it, feel free.

An effort is still underway to get Packet going at the EOC. I am continuing to meet with Doug on this matter.

The District1 D-Star project is still underway. You will know when I hear something.

Dan



Coordinator's Corner Continued



January 17, 2008 Personal locator beacons.

NOAA Satellites Help Rescue 353 People in 2007 Emergency Beacons to Soon Operate Under New Frequency

Armed with personal locator beacons to send a distress signal, 353 people were rescued in the United States and its surrounding waters in 2007 from potentially life-threatening emergencies. These signals were transmitted to rescue teams via a NOAA environmental satellite more commonly known for providing information to weather forecasters.

NOAA's polar-orbiting and geostationary satellites, along with Russia's Cospas spacecraft, are part of the high-tech, international Search and Rescue Satellite-Aided Tracking System, called COSPAS-SARSAT. This system uses a network of satellites to quickly detect and locate distress signals from emergency beacons on board aircraft and boats and from handheld personal locator beacons (PLBs).

Now in its 25th year of operation, COSPAS-SARSAT has been credited with more than 22,000 rescues worldwide, including more than 5,700 in the United States and its surrounding waters.

"Each person rescued was a tragedy averted," Mary Kicza, assistant administrator for NOAA's Satellite and Information Service. "This satellite-based rescue program is a key NOAA contribution to protecting American lives."

When a satellite pinpoints a distress location within the United States, or its surrounding waters, the information is relayed to SARSAT Mission Control at NOAA's Satellite Operations Center in Suitland, Md., and then sent to a Rescue Coordination Center, operated either by the U.S. Air Force, for land rescues, or U.S. Coast Guard, for water rescues.

Alaska and Florida recorded the most rescues in 2007 – 73 each. North Carolina was third with 16 rescues. Twenty-four states experienced a SARSAT rescue. Of the 353 rescues for 2007, 235 people were saved at sea, 30 were rescued from downed aircraft, and 88 were saved with help from their PLBs – the highest total since PLBs became operational nationwide in 2003. The total rescues in 2007 mark an increase from 272 the previous year.

"Anyone with plans to hike, or camp, in a remote area, where cell phone service is not reliable, or sail a boat far from shore, should not leave home without an emergency locator beacon, registered with NOAA," said Chris O'Connors, acting program manager for NOAA SARSAT. He added the number of beacon registrations in 2007 climbed to 29,710 compared with 23,383 in 2006.



Coordinator's Corner Continued



2 of 2

Urgency Noted in Changeover to 406 Frequency

Older emergency beacons, which operate on the 121.5 and 243 megahertz frequencies, will be phased out by early 2009, when 406 megahertz beacons will become the new standard. A key advantage of some the 406 megahertz beacons is they use Global Positioning System technology for instant detection, leading to faster rescues.

All of the rescues in 2007 from emergency locator transmitters carried on planes, used the older 121.5 MHz frequency. But beginning February 1, 2009, this 121.5 MHz signal will not be processed. "It's critical that everyone gets the message now to make the switch to the 406 MHz beacons," added O'Connors.

2007 SARSAT Rescue Highlights Four people were rescued in Lake Michigan, when a powerful storm knocked out communications to their boat, which was running low on fuel.

Near Kanatak, Alaska, four people and a dog were pulled to safety from their sinking boat; Three people were rescued after their raft capsized in the rough rapids of the Green River in northeast Utah.

A U.S. Coast Guard helicopter hoisted three people from 70-foot high seas, after their boat sank 200 miles off the coast of North Carolina.

A 71-year-old hiker, too exhausted to continue his outdoor trek along the Pacific Crest Trail, was rescued in Wrightwood, Calif.