

Air Scoop

Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society

www.dcars.org

February 2008

Table of Contents

Tower Installation

- Page 1 -

President's Message

Meeting Minutes

- Page 2 -

Amateur Radio News

- Page 3 -

DX Corner Announcements

- Page 4 -

Homebrew Antenna Installer

V.E. Exams

Upcoming Events

- Page 5 -

Meetings

The next DCARS meeting will be held on

February 18th

Project Nights held weekly

- Page 6 -

Clubhouse Tower Installed!



Tower base was set in place last November



Above – Rich looks on as the tower top is raised
Below – Mike, Tony & Rich bolt the sections together



The DCARS tower team.
From Left to Right Tony, Don K8GMW, Tony KC8NUR, Rich N8OYR, Kenny KD8DVL, Mike KD8DKA & Les WA8LE

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President's Message



President

W8JRT

Joe Thompson
w8jrt@dcars.org



Vice President

KD8DKA

Mike Brackenbury
kd8dka@dcars.org



Secretary

N8DP

Dave Palmgren
n8dp@dcars.org



Treasurer

K8WLT

Walt Aho
k8wlt@dcars.org



Hamfest

Chairman

WD8RTH

John Anderson
wd8rth@dcars.org

Well, it looks like it will be another six weeks of winter since Punxsutawney Phil saw his shadow. This gives us more opportunity to think about things like field day, antenna projects or to just operate. We won't have to worry about such things as yard work or spring cleanup as winter will be slow to leave.

Our last meeting, and my first as your club president, was very interesting. We had an excellent program on the troubleshooting of power supplies. I wonder what other interesting topics we'll see at upcoming meetings. If you have a good idea, bring it up. Now is the time to start thinking about our summertime activities. Field Day is only 5 months away and the Hamfest only 8 months away. Last years Field Day wasn't nearly organized enough. Field Day is an opportunity to have some real fun but it is also an opportunity to demonstrate how effectively we can communicate. That doesn't mean just with the radio gear, it also means among us. This year lets see how organized we can be and how many contacts we can accumulate to demonstrate our communications abilities.

See you at the next meeting.

73, Joe. W8JRT

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Minutes from the January meeting

The January meeting of DCARS began at 7 pm. In attendance were W8JRT, KD8DKA, N8DP, K8WLT, WD8RTH, WA8LE, K8GMW, N8OYR, KC8NUR, K8AO, KD8DVN, KD8DKB, N8XAH, KD8DKC, KD8BJD, KA8RPB, KC8OJQ, KD8FWJ and Jason Germaine.

Treasurer's report read – Motion to accept by KC8NUR, Second by N8OYR – Passed
Secretary's report – Motion to accept by KD8DKC, Second by WD8RTH – Passed

W8JRT gave a .15 repeater update - The Tone encoder board is being installed. N8DP reported that both the .24 repeater & the .55 IRLP node are working fine

Clubhouse discussed – Need to install ground rods for tower. N8DP to investigate delay in getting rotor repaired.

Old Business

The newsletter being sent by snail mail verses e-mail was discussed. A motion to offer snail mail to those who wanted it. Made by KA8RPB, Second by K8WLT – Passed

WA8LE suggested that the heat in the clubhouse should be shut off except when occupied. Motion by KD8DVN, Second by K8WLT – passed

New Business

WA8LE asked about insurance for the clubhouse, KD8DKA to head committee.

K8WLT asked if a mailbox should be pursued, after a discussion we decided to leave our address as is.

Our checking account checks are old and dated – K8WLT will get them replaced.

WD8RTH reported that our U.P. Hamfest 2008 is ARRL sanctioned.

W8JRT renewed the DCARS web site for two more years.

Discussed a need for programs and items for show & tell to make meetings more interesting.

The 50 – 50 raffle was won by KC8NUR

January's show & tell was a slingshot for installing antennas (see page 5) and for the program we discussed and repaired a 12 volt power supply.

Congratulations to Justin Poquette for earning new Tech license (KD8HOR) and to Rick KD8HDG & Kenny KD8DVL for upgrading to General.

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Happenings in Amateur Radio

"When News Breaks – We Fix It!"

ARRL DXCC DESK ANNOUNCES NEW ENTITY

The ARRL DXCC Desk is pleased to announce the addition of St Barthelemy (FJ) to the DXCC List, making the island entity number 338 with an effective date of 14 December, 2007. Cards with contacts dated December 14, 2007 or after will be accepted for DXCC credit. New card submissions for St Barthelemy will not be accepted until January 1, 2008 in order to allow time for administrative adjustments.

Background

On February 21, 2007 the French Ministry issued a decree making St Barthelemy an Overseas Collective, making its status equal to that of St. Pierre et Miquelon, Mayotte and other French territories currently on the DXCC List. On November 8, 2007 the President of Association Des Radio Amateurs De St Barthelemy, Philippe Delcroix, FJ5DX, contacted the DXCC Desk, requesting that St Barthelemy be considered a new DXCC entity.

The "event date" that caused St. Barthelemy to be added to the DXCC list was December 14, 2007, the date the US State Department Fact sheet was updated by the Bureau of Intelligence and Research. This update added St Barthelemy to the *List of Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty* with its Administrative Center in Gustavia, qualifying it under DXCC rules in Section II -- 1 Political Entities (c):

(c) The Entity contains a permanent population, is administered by a local government, and is located at least 800 km from its parent. To satisfy the "permanent population" and "administered by a local government" criteria of this sub-section, an Entity must be listed on either (a) the U.S. Department of State's list of "Dependencies and Areas of Special Sovereignty" as having a local "Administrative Center," or (b) the United Nations list of "Non-Self-Governing Territories."

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NEW LF HAM BAND OK'd

For the first time since the dawn of radio regulation nearly a century ago, hams will soon have a home above 200 meters. Acting at the 2007 World Radio Conference (WRC-07), the International Telecommunication Union, or ITU, approved a worldwide (secondary) amateur radio allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz with a power limit of one watt effective radiated power (ERP). The FCC will have to act on implementing this change before the band becomes available to amateurs in the U.S. For more details, see this month's "Washington Readout" on page 62.

The WRC delegates also agreed to tentatively consider a ham allocation around 500 kHz at their next meeting in 2011. Several countries, including the U.S., already permit limited operation here under experimental licenses, and in mid-November, according to Newsline, WE2XGR/1 in Massachusetts contacted GI4DPE in Northern Ireland for the first 500-kHz transatlantic amateur CEO. For more on the 500-kHz experiments, see <www.500kc.com>.

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RADIO ACCIDENTS: FALL ON MALTA CLAIMS LIFE OF RADIO ENTHUSIAST

A man described as a radio enthusiast died after a fall from a ladder. This, while apparently working on an antenna system at his retirement home on a Mediterranean island.

Alan Wright, 71, originally from Wrexham, in the United Kingdom, is reported to have fallen three stories down a shaft in Malta.

It is understood Wright had been working on the antenna at the time of the accident.

According to reports in the English language Times of Malta newspaper, Wright had been attempting to fix the antenna on January 22nd when the accident occurred.

The British Foreign Office says that his next of kin has been informed and an investigation into the death is continuing.

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Airscoop

The Airscoop is the official newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society

Original articles and photos are welcome.

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Submit articles to:

Newsletter Editor
Dave Palmgren – N8DP
(906) 428 - 2271
n8dp@dcars.org

Please notify the
Newsletter Editor of
any address changes.

Visit our Website
WWW.DCARS.ORG

Webmaster
Joe Thompson W8JRT
w8jrt@dcars.org

Area 2 Meter Repeaters

Escanaba	147.15 +	No PL
	145.13 -	No PL
Gladstone	147.24 +	107.2
IRLP 4013	147.55 Smpx	107.2
Cooks	146.70 -	No PL
Grd Marais	147.195+	No PL
Gwinn	146.64 -	100.0
Iron Mtn	146.85 -	No PL
Iron River	145.17 -	107.2
Ishpeming	146.91 -	No PL
Marquette	146.97 -	100.0
	147.27 +	100.0
Menominee	147.00 +	107.2
Munising	145.41 -	No PL
Newberry	146.61 +	127.3
	147.09 +	114.8
Republic	147.09 +	No PL
Trenary	147.03 +	No PL
Wetmore	146.79 -	No PL

Wisconsin Repeaters

Abrams	146.835 -	107.2
Crivitz	145.47 -	107.2
Egg Harbor	146.73 -	107.2
McAllister	146.88 -	136.5
Green Bay	147.12 +	107.2
	147.27 +	107.2
	146.685 -	107.2
	145.49 -	100.0
Sister Bay	147.18 +	107.2
Sturgeon Bay	147.21 +	107.2

Club History

Our organization began with a group of local hams getting together in 1964 for the purpose of hosting a U.P. Hamfest.

They called themselves the "Bay de Noc Radio Club" This first local Hamfest became a reality in 1965.

On September 1, 1970 the group met once again at the Northern Michigan National Bank to create a more formal club. The name chosen was the "Delta County Amateur Radio Society".

Arrl affiliation was applied for and the club received its charter on February 15th 1971.

Please address all correspondence to:
DCARS

Richard Thompson
9560 Chaison N. Road
Gladstone, Mi 49837



DCARS is an
ARRL Affiliated Club

Area Nets

UP Net 3921khz
Daily – 5pm EST
Sunday – Noon EST

Midcars 7258khz
Daily 7:30am – 2pm EST

IRLP Linkup Node 9206
Tuesday 9pm EST

Southcars Node 9617
Saturday – 9am EST

UP Echolink Node 9617
Sunday – 8pm EST

The DX Corner

Those of you who have upgraded from Technician to General or above may be wondering, okay now what do I do on the 'lower bands' (160 through 10 meters)? Besides rag chewing with stations around the United States there are many hams who enjoy working long distance stations, in other words, countries other than our own. Long distance is abbreviated DX for short. Working DX can be a thrill. To hear a station in Moscow or Berlin or Tokyo say your callsign over the air is something you never forget.

A person does not need beams and tall towers to begin having fun working DX. Dipoles or inverted V's, as high up as you can place them, work fine. The best two bands at this point in the sunspot cycle are 20 meters and 17 meters. Occasionally 15 meters will open up but for short periods of time.

Operating in a DX contest (radio sport competition) is a chance to work many different countries in a short period of time. There is a SSB contest coming up the end of February. It is called the ARRL International DX Contest. It runs for 48 hours from 7 PM Friday February 29 to 7 PM Sunday March 2. There is no requirement to send in your log of stations worked. The contest sponsor (ARRL in this case) always appreciates the log but it is not necessary. It is a chance to see how many foreign countries you can contact. You send the DX station a signal report and your state (example: 59 Michigan) and the DX station returns with a signal report and his power level (59 100).

Duane, K8AO, is happy to answer any questions on working DX or operating in contests. (k8ao@arrl.net).

(Submitted by K8AO) < ~ >

February's Program – Scarborough Reef DXpedition Video

Technician Classes

Classes to help newcomers obtain their Technician class license will be held beginning on March 4th at 7 pm in room 124 in the Math & Science building at Bay de Noc College. The 5 week course will be held on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 7 pm until 9 pm. There is no charge for the class and pre-registration is not necessary. Additional information can be obtained by calling Dave (N8DP) at 428-2271.

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U.P. Hamfest 2008

Contact Hamfest
Chairman
John Anderson
for information &
table reservation.

wd8rth@dcars.org



August 2nd at Escanaba Michigan

Sponsored by DCARS & Bay de Noc College
Events include Swap & Shop, Meetings & Door Prizes
Located in the Heirman University Center – Bay de Noc College
See web site for details – www.dcars.org

Build your own antenna installer

I've been wanting an easy way to install wire antennas over tree branches and I suspect using a fishing pole would not be a good fit for me. Using a fishing reel mounted on a slingshot seemed like a better idea but buying an already manufactured device can be a little pricey. How about making your own? I went to the neighborhood Walmart and found the items I needed. The slingshot is a Marksman Laserhawk model 3061. Price? \$9.96 The fishing reel is a Shakespeare "Durango" SC 15. Price? \$3.94 That's a grand total of \$13.90 plus tax. That's more like it!



I asked KD8DKC if he could cut me a piece of steel. The dimensions are 6" X 11/16" X 1/8". I drilled a 3/8" hole 7/8" from the back edge of the steel plate and then painted it a semi-gloss black.



After the paint dried I used an epoxy glue to attach the fishing reel to the steel plate. When the glue was finished curing I removed the screw and the top mounting bracket from the top of the slingshot installed the new steel plate and re-installed the mounting bracket and screw.



Results – It seems to work great, however since it's not antenna raising weather I haven't fully tested it in "action". The fishing reel comes with a 8# line. That might prove to be a little light. If I have problems with the line breaking I intend to replace the line with at least a 10# line. I also plan on painting the sinker a bright yellow to make it easier to find.



Submitted by N8DP

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HEARD ON 20 METERS

"Yesterday, my XYL said she'd leave me if I didn't give up ham radio. Over."

V. E. Testing

Gladstone

Apr 12th
9 am EST
Public Library
400 S 10th
Howard St. John W8HSJ
(906) 428-9476
w8hsj@dcars.org

Marquette

Mar 8th
8:30 am EST
Marquette Co. Health Dept.
U.S.41
Rich Schwenke N8GBA
(906) 249-3837
n8gba@chartermi.net

Kingsford

May 3rd
9 am CST
Dickenson County Library
Mark Lewis N8UKD

Bring a photo ID if available otherwise two forms of identification will be required.

Test session fees are \$14, Please bring exact amount check.

Bring your actual license or C.S.C.E. and a photocopy to be sent in for element credit

Upcoming Events

March 4th
Technician Classes Begin

April 19th
Michigan QSO Party

May 16th – 18th
Dayton Hamvention

June 28th -29th
ARRL Field Day

August 2nd
UP Hamfest 2008
Escanaba

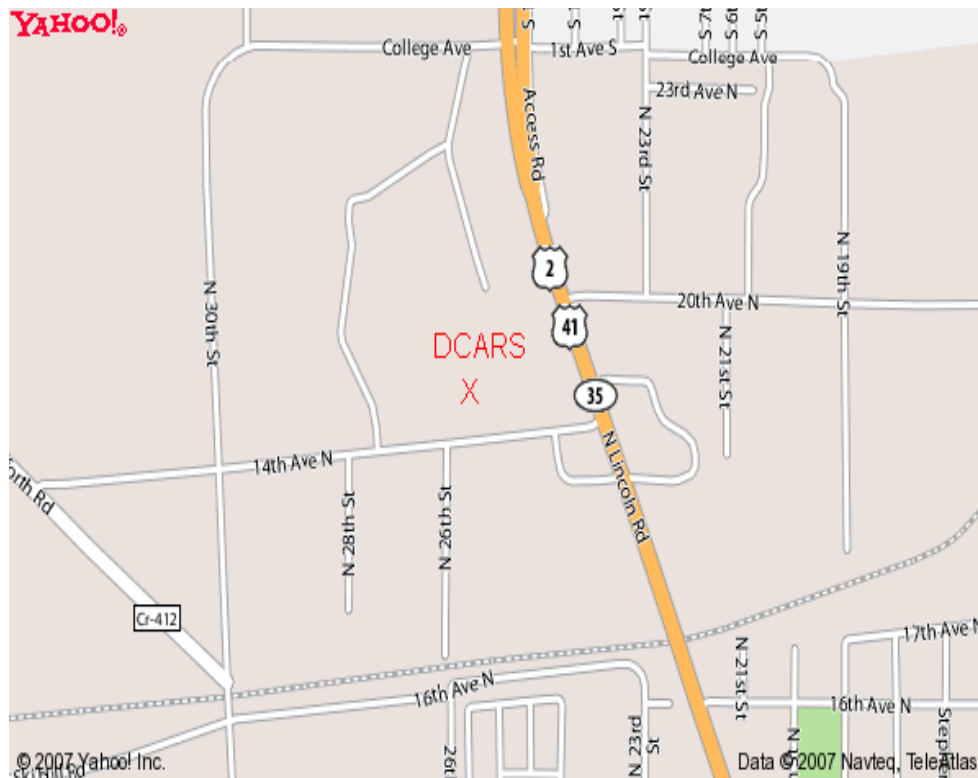
Meetings

The Delta County Amateur Radio Society meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. The meeting is held in the Joseph Heirman University Center, Room 963 at Bay de Noc College.

Annual Membership Dues are \$15

Project Nights

Projects nights are held on Mondays from Labor Day until Memorial Day. (except club meeting nights)



From US – 2 & 41
Turn West on to Danforth Road,
Travel one block and turn right into Lot D

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Delta County Amateur Radio Society

c/o Richard Thompson
9560 Chaison – N. Road
Gladstone, Mi.
49837

Stamp

Label