

Air Scoop

Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society

www.dcars.org

February 2009

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Meetings

The next DCARS meeting will be held on

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DCARS provides a nice turnout for the Negaunee Swap & Shop

DCARS was well represented at this years Swap & Shop in Negaunee. The attendance in general look strong and the melt down in the economy didn't stop the U.P. hams from checking out the toys.

The Swap & Shop is a great way to put faces to many of the hams that we chat with and a great time was had by all.



In the foreground from left to right Walt, Jim, Les, Tony, Ken, & Rich

DCARS members included

- Lowell – KA8RPB
- John - WD8RTH
- Les – WA8LE
- Rich – N8OYR
- Tony – KC8NUR
- Scott – KB8PTF
- Walt – K8WLT
- Jim - W8JNL
- Ken – KD8DKC
- Ken – KD8DVL
- Todd – N8JWT
- Dave – N8DP
- Lee – WB8FUW
- Al – N8ZHC
- Al – W8FYZ



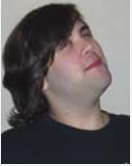
Technician classes have begun



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Hamfest Chairman

WD8RTH

John Anderson
wd8rth@dcars.org

By the time this newsletter reaches you, the classes to earn a Technician license will have begun. The classes started on Tuesday February 10th from 7 PM to 9 PM and will run for 4 weeks. We hold the classes on Tuesdays & Thursdays and is no charge for the classes.

Minutes from the January meeting

The January meeting of DCARS began at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were W8JRT, N8DP, K8GMW, K8WLT, N8OYR, W8JNL, K8AO, WA8LE, WD8RTH, KA8RPB, KD8DKB, KD8DKC, KD8DVN, KD8HOR, KD8IGY, KC8NUR, K8EMS, KD8HDG, W8HSJ, N1PWW, N8JWT, N8VBA, KC8ZDY, Jim Howard & Jason Germaine

Correspondence – QSL Card for K8ZAS

Repeater Reports – None

Treasurer's report read – Motion to accept by KD8DKC, Second by WD8RTH - Passed

Secretary's report – Motion to accept by WA8LE, Second by W8JNL – Passed

Old Business

W8HSJ & N8DP continue to experiment on 28.450 – 7 p.m. on Wednesdays.

New Business

Les – WA8LE reported having one more motel room available for the Dayton Hamvention. We have 9 committed to going.

Membership cards for DCARS were designed and created by Jim – W8JNL, Great job - Thanks!

Howard – W8HSJ asked about interest in ATV, A few expressed interest on going forward this summer.

Motion to adjourn made by WA8LE, Seconded by W8JNL – Motion Passed.

K8EMS won the 50/50 and donated the winnings to the club. Thanks Mike.

The program was a video on proper soldering techniques.

February's program is about QSL'ing, Eqsl, Logbook of the World etc.

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Web Sites of the Month

This month our focus is on logging and QSL'ing and there are some really fine logging programs available for free or little money. One of the better free programs is the N1MM program available at www.n1mm.com.

The software that we use for field day comes from Scott Davis N3FJP and he has a library of logging programs for most of the contests as well as a general logging program. There is a small charge for Scotts programs but are a great value. Check out his program at www.n3fjp.com.

There are also specialty programs for unique situations such as the NO5W Mobile logging program that is GPS enabled. You can find this at www.no5w.com.

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Happenings in Amateur Radio

"When News Breaks – We Fix It!"

ARRL APPROVES LIMITED USE OF CW SKIMMER

A big change in the world of contesting. Following months of review, the ARRL has decided to allow the use of the controversial CW Skimmer program, but only for multi-ops and single operators using assistance in ARRL contests.

The rules change on multi-channel decoders like CW Skimmer was approved by the ARRL Program and Services Committee, which met just before the mid-January 2009 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors.

In an interview with Radio-Sport dot net, ARRL Contest Advisory Committee Chairman Dick Green, WC1M, said that this emerging technology will be permitted in ARRL contests, but not in the Single Operator category.

This decision mirrors a similar one made last year by the CQ WW DX Contest. The ARRL decision means that all major contests have now dealt with the CW Skimmer issue.

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NORTH DAKOTA TO OFFER STATE QSO PARTY IN MARCH

On Saturday, March 21 North Dakota always a rare state will hold their first QSO Party in 14 years.

"The North Dakota QSO Party (NDQP) is certain to put North Dakota on the map and hopefully off the Needed List of many a deserving amateur," said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. The contest is sponsored by the North Dakota Radio Association ([NDRA](#)) with help from several other North Dakota clubs.

The North Dakota QSO Party runs from 1700 UTC Saturday, March 21-0100 UTC Sunday, March 22. All bands from 160-2 meters (except 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters) are acceptable. Complete rules and forms can be found on the [NDRA Web site](#). Don't miss your chance to work one of the rarest states in the country -- get in on the fun of the North Dakota QSO Party!

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MIDWAY ISLAND TO BE AVAILABLE TO HAMS IN OCTOBER

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is offering amateur radio operators a limited opportunity to operate from Midway Atoll. To avoid any conflicts with atoll wildlife, amateur radio operations will be permitted for two weeks only, from October 5th to the 19th of 2009.

Radio operation will be allowed only within a designated area on the north side of Sand Island and the use of portable generators will not be permitted. 120 volt mains power is available at the operation site.

Any modifications to the island power grid or infrastructure must be approved in advance by the Refuge Manager and be paid for entirely by the radio operators. All participants will be required to attend a Refuge orientation shortly after arrival, which is designed to enhance visitor safety, wildlife protection, and overall enjoyment while visiting the Refuge and Monument.

This event will mark the first opportunity for amateur radio operators to broadcast from the atoll since 2002. More information is available by sending an e-mail to [@fws.gov](mailto:Matt_D_Brown)

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Airscoop

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

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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 +	100.0
	145.13 -	No PL
Gladstone	147.24 +	100.0
IRLP 4013	147.55 Smpx	100.0
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
Dave Palmgren
6132 Co 420 - 21st 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

Local News (and other stuff)

The heat is on once again in the clubhouse, Les - WA8LE filled the propane tank and I (N8DP) gave Les a hand installing a drip leg in the gas line. The heater seems to be working FB!

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The 147.24 Repeater is once again operational. If you have the .24 already programmed - don't forget to change the PL tone to 100.0 HZ.

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The group of local hams going Dayton for the Hamvention is now at 9 and we have room for one more. If you're interested, contact WA8LE - Les or myself N8DP - Dave

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Elaine - KC8VUY has been asking where is everyone? She checks in regularly on the 147.55 IRLP node but hasn't been getting any responses. I've been lax in monitoring it myself but will be doing a better job monitoring now that the '24 repeater is back on the air (I scan both).

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The Daily press ran an article about my ham radio hobby in its "Top of the Morning" section of the Saturday paper. The timing worked out nicely as it came out a few days before the Technician classes began. Even though the article had a few minor mistakes like talking about QLS cards, all in all it was a nice story.



Fun Stuff – Logging your Qso's

The program for February's meeting is a discussion on using the E-QSL service and Logbook of the World as well as ARRL's QSL bureau service. I think the first place to start however is logging your QSO's. I highly recommend that you log your long distance VHF and UHF QSO's as well as most of your HF QSO's. Why you may ask? Lets say in the future you decide to work towards different awards such as DXCC (working a hundred different countries) or WAS (worked all states) or VUCC (working 100 different grid squares on VHF or UHF) having your contacts logged will allow you to go back and QSL previous contacts.

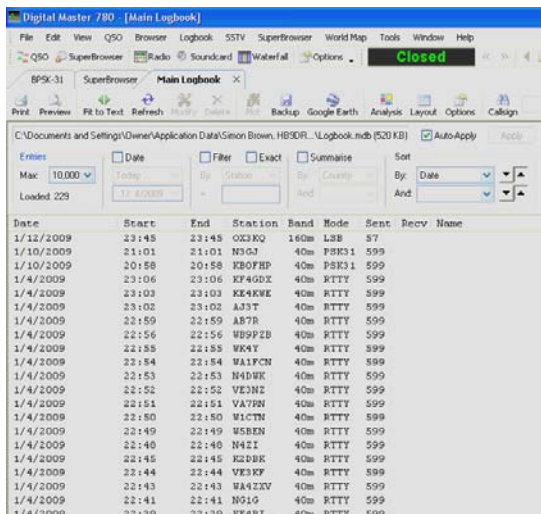
Another reason would be if your neighbor starts to complain about television interference and if he kept a log of when he received the TVI – you could see if you are the source and if so, what frequency seems to be the culprit.

So how do you keep the log? Well basically there are two options. One would be using a paper logbook. This can be a simple spiral bound notepad or a commercially made logbook. The second and probably better choice is

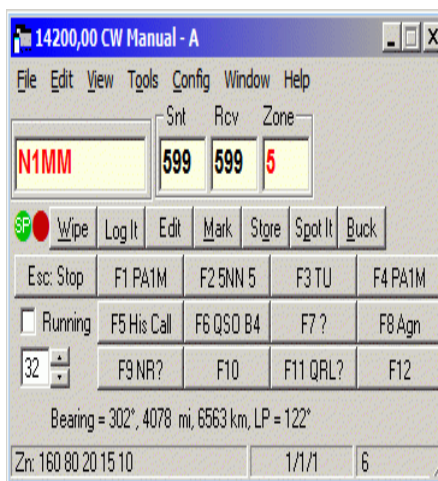
use a computer logging program. The advantage of computerizing your log is that searching for information can be much easier as well as the ability of uploading your log to the different services like Eqsl or the Logbook of the World.

What do I log? Well a few of the items to include would be the callsign of the other station, the mode and frequency & the date and time (more on this later) and your transmit power of the Qso. Both of the signal reports (his and yours). This would be the minimum information, you may want to include his grid square, his QTH, his QSL manager.

The date and time of the Qso – what could be simpler? Well it's not as easy as you may think. What date is 2/11/2009? February 11th right? Not to most of the world! They would see it as November 2nd! Spelling out the month may be the way to go. How about the time? I'll just use UTC and that should be simple to figure out – not so fast. Let's say you work a DX station at 9 pm local time, You figure out that UTC is 0200. Did you remember to add a day to the date? Most computer logging programs will calculate this stuff out for you.



The logging program that I use is the one that comes with Ham Radio Deluxe, it gets the frequency information from the radio and automatically fills in most of the data.



This is the entry screen for N1MM.

V. E. Testing

Gladstone

Apr 11th
9 am EST
Gladstone Library
Howard St. John W8HSJ
(906) 428-9476
w8hsj@dcars.org

Marquette

Mar 14th
8:30 am EST
Marquette Co. Health Dept.
U.S.41
Rich Schwenke N8GBA
(906) 249-3837
n8gba@chartermi.net

Kingsford

May 2nd
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 **\$15**, Please bring exact amount or a check.

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

Upcoming Events

Michigan Qso Party
April 18th

Dayton Hamvention
May 15th – 17th

Field Day
June 27th – 28th

U.P. Hamfest
August 1st

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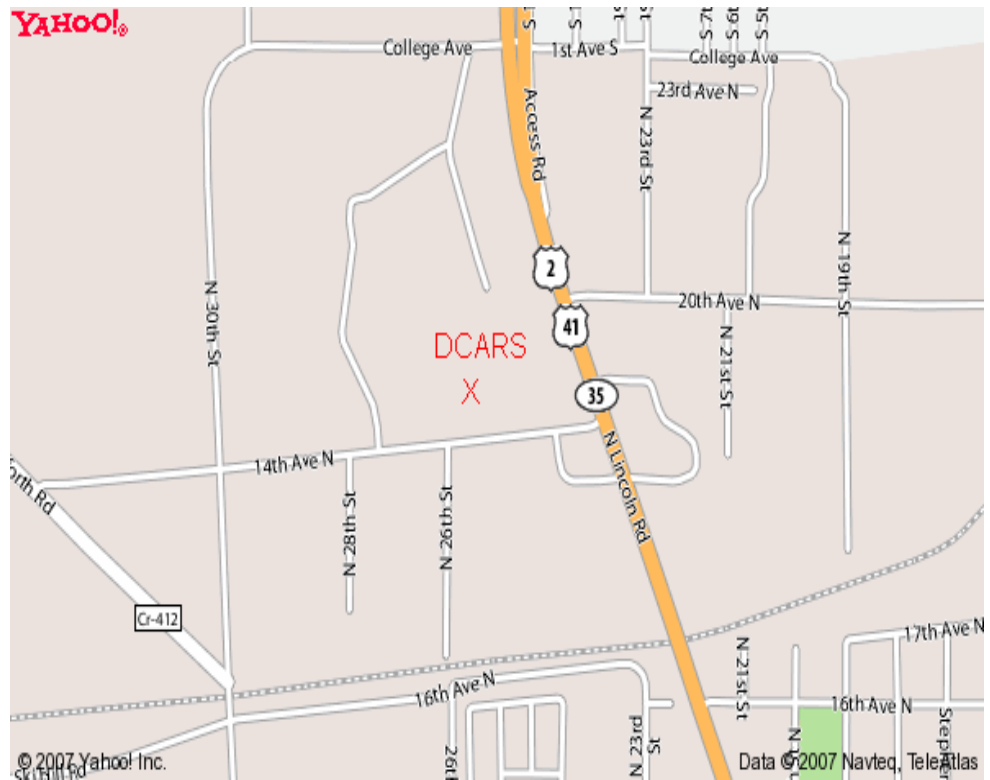
Meetings

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 Dave Palmgren
6132 County 420 – 21st Road
Gladstone, Mi.
49837

Stamp

Label