

# Air Scoop

Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society

[www.dcars.org](http://www.dcars.org)

March 2008

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### Meetings

The next DCARS meeting will be held on

**March 17<sup>th</sup>**

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## 147.15 Repeater back on the air!

After a few week absence, the 147.15 MHz DCARS repeater is once again on the air and sounding good. Joe, W8JRT (repeater trustee) brought the repeater and duplexers home to do some upgrading and tuning.

The repeater has had a 107.2 Hz PL tone decoder board installed and is now tone access.



The 147.15 repeater is the cabinet on the right, with the duplexer partially visible on the floor behind the wooden panel



From the archives the photo on the left shows Mike KD8DKA and Mark N8XAH installing the repeater antenna last year.

The antenna is at 170 feet on top of the water tower in Wells.

## President's Message



### President

W8JRT

Joe Thompson  
[w8jrt@dcars.org](mailto:w8jrt@dcars.org)



### Vice President

KD8DKA

Mike Brackenbury  
[kd8dka@dcars.org](mailto:kd8dka@dcars.org)



### Secretary

N8DP

Dave Palmgren  
[n8dp@dcars.org](mailto:n8dp@dcars.org)



### Treasurer

K8WLT

Walt Aho  
[k8wlt@dcars.org](mailto:k8wlt@dcars.org)



### Hamfest Chairman

WD8RTH

John Anderson  
[wd8rth@dcars.org](mailto:wd8rth@dcars.org)

Hello everyone. Hope you're all surviving the winter. Spring is just around the corner. I have to keep telling myself that. This weekend we spring ahead with our clocks; another hour of daylight. Have you seen the video airing on cable channel 20? A good promotion of our hobby. Dave started the amateur radio classes this Tuesday. There were 3 people in the class the first night.

Just think, It's March. Three months until Field Day. That isn't all too far off. It's time to start thinking about how we can make it fun. We have new options with the tower erected at the village. Would you like to be the Field Day Chairman? Think about it.

73 and we'll see you at the next club meeting. Joe, W8JRT

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## Minutes from the February meeting

The February meeting of DCARS began at 7 pm. In attendance were W8JRT, KD8DKA, K8WLT, WD8RTH, WA8LE, K8GMW, N8OYR, N8XAH, KD8FWJ, K8AO, N8DP, KD8DVL, KD8HOR

**Treasurer's report** read – Motion to accept by N8OYR, Second by WA8LE - Passed

**Secretary's report** – Motion to accept by N8OYR, Second by K8GMW – Passed

W8JRT gave a .15 repeater update - The Tone encoder board is being installed. N8DP reported the .55 IRLP node is down for a few days while repairs are made to the computer.

### Old Business

The newsletter being sent by snail mail appears to be a success. The 3 month trial ends in March and will need to be addressed.

KD8DKA reported no progress on obtaining insurance for the clubhouse.

N8DP received the repaired rotor, Motion to purchase the rotor was made by WA8LE, Second by WD8RTH – Passed

### New Business

No new business was discussed

The 50 – 50 raffle was won by N8DP

February's program was a 53 minute video showing the challenges and logistics involved with the Scarborough reef DXpedition.

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*"The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it is the same problem you had last year."*

John Foster Dulles, US secretary of state 1953-59

# Happenings in Amateur Radio

*"When News Breaks – We Fix It!"*

## MARYLAND SUPREME COURT TURNS AWAY TOWER CASE WIN FOR HAM

The Maryland Supreme Court has decided against being involved in the case where neighbors of John Evans, N3HBX, had sued after he obtained a permit and installed several 100 foot and higher radio towers as part of a contest station. The neighbors claimed the installation would devalue their property and that the installation was an eyesore.

The case began back on August 30th, 2004 when neighbors of Evans antenna farm went to the Board of Appeals on Aug. 30, 2004, less than a month after construction began on the towers. The Board dismissed the neighbors' complaint that the tower permit was issued in error in November 2004. It said that the 30 day window of opportunity to appeal the permit had passed. The permit had been issued June 23rd, but the neighbors claim they first learned of the project when construction equipment arrived on August 5th.

Two neighbors of Evans 44 acre property, Thomas Burruss and Alan Gaunoux, filed the lawsuit in August 2004. The case eventually wound up in the Maryland Court of Appeals, which upheld the Board's original finding that the neighbors were too late to contest the permit.

## HAM FREEWARE: WORKEDGRIDS FROM VE2ZAZ

Bertrand Zauhar, VE2ZAZ, has released his new freeware WorkedGrids, ham log grid square mapping software. The program runs only under Windows.

It displays a map showing the amateur radio grid squares contacted and logged in using third-party logging program.

It did instruct the appeals board to decide if not notifying the neighbors had denied them of their due process property rights. The board found that the neighbors did not have any due process rights to Evans' land. This is the decision the neighbors ultimately took to the Supreme Court.

According to the lower court findings, Evans, who said he has spent \$160,000 in legal fees, was within his rights to build the towers and followed the proper procedures. The county permitted the towers as an allowable accessory use, much like a swimming pool, detached garage or shed, according to county Board of Appeals documents and other published reports. His attorney Steven Van Grack says that as a matter of law, the towers were constructed legally.

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Up to four bands can be displayed concurrently on the map. The program reads plain-text ASCII log files generated by most logging programs.

WorkedGrids is directed towards the VHF and above operators who collect grid squares for contesting or award purposes. More is on-line at [ve2zaz.net](http://ve2zaz.net)

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## Airscoop

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

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### Submit articles to:

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n8dp@dcars.org

Please notify the Newsletter Editor of any address changes.

Visit our Website  
[WWW.DCARS.ORG](http://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 15<sup>th</sup> 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

### BREAKING DX NEWS: SPRATLEY ISLANDS COMING ON THE AIR

If you have waited a ham radio lifetime to work the very elusive Spratly Islands, wait no longer. This with word that Ed Sawyer N1UR and his wife Christine, KB1PQN are expected to be active portable 9M6 from the Layang-Layang Island Resort in the Spratly Islands. This, between 0800 UTC on, March 22nd through midnight UTC on March 30th.

The duo have already received their licenses. Once they get permission from the Navy, they will apply for a special 9M0 callsign. Activity will be on 160 through 10 meters, on CW and SSB.

100 watts to omnidirectional verticals will be used from the near-by beach and the operators will be moving bands frequently to take advantage of changing band conditions and openings. Sunset on Spratly is 1040 UTC with sunrise at 2240 by the middle of that week.

QSL cards for either operator go via Bob Tomkovich, Jr., K2RET, 405 Hemlock Dr., Lanoka Harbor, NJ 08734 in the USA. More information is on line at [www.n1urspratly.com](http://www.n1urspratly.com).

### March's Program - Discone Antenna

After the March meeting we will have a show & tell on the discone antenna.

## Technician Classes

Technician classes began once again on March 4<sup>th</sup> at Bay College. The class was smaller than usual (3) but is expected to grow next week as some of the perspective hams were unavailable for the first week. The video "Wireless window to the world" has been airing on cable channel 20 at 4 & 7 pm daily. The video does a nice job introducing newcomers to the various aspects of amateur radio.



# The Tower

A letter to an Insurance Company

I am writing in response to your request for additional information on my insurance claim. In block #3 on the accident reporting form I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following details will be sufficient:

I am an amateur radio operator, and on the day of the accident I was working alone on the top section of my 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and materials down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and materials into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 lbs. of tools. You will note in block #11 of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 lbs. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain.

At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed 20-lbs. I refer you again to my weight in block #11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. This encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools; and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand, and watching the empty barrel 80-feet above me -- I again lost presence of mind. I let go of the rope.

Submitted by N8DP

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V. E. Testing

Gladstone

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

Marquette

June 14<sup>th</sup>  
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

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## Upcoming Events

March  
Tech. Classes Continue

April 19<sup>th</sup>  
Michigan QSO Party

May 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>  
Dayton Hamvention

June 28<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup>  
ARRL Field Day

August 2<sup>nd</sup>  
UP Hamfest 2008  
Escanaba

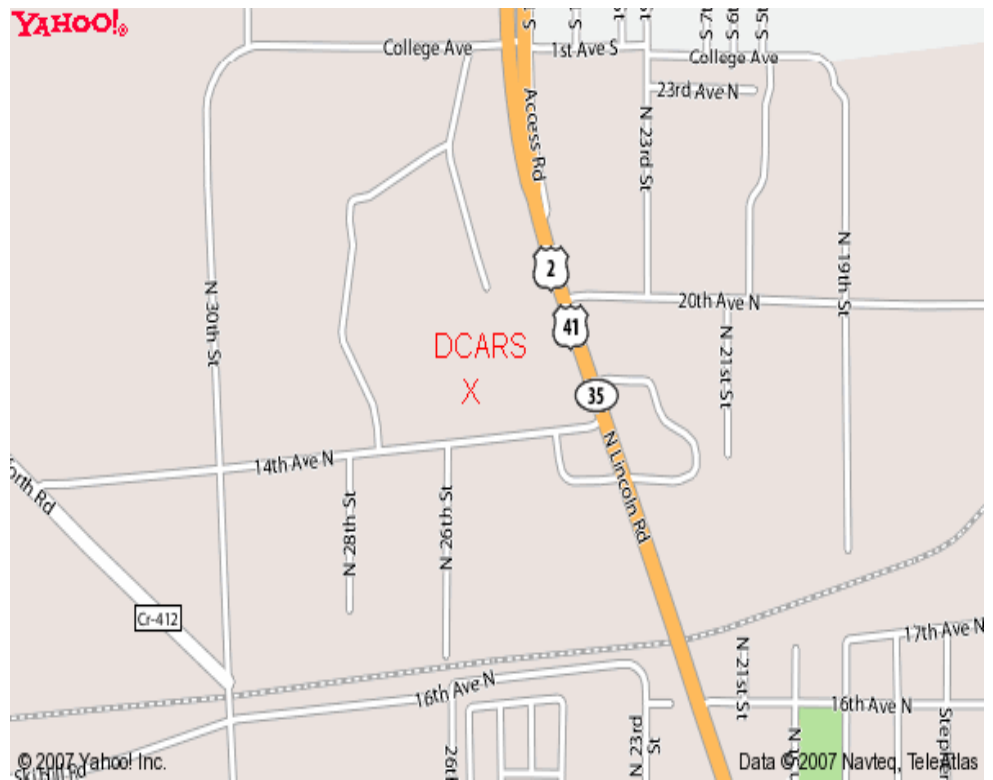
## Meetings

**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