

Air Scoop

The monthly Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society, Inc. December 2007

**Air Scoop Monthly – is the official newsletter for
"The Delta County Amateur Radio Society Inc"**

Monthly Meeting - Monday, December 17th 2007.

Our Christmas Meal/Meeting for December will be at The "Great Northern Buffet, at 521 North Lincoln Road Escanaba. Members, be sure and bring a guest.



DCARS – WWW.DCARS.ORG

Joe Thompson – Webmaster

NOTE: ALL NEWSLETTERS ARE UPLOADED MONTHLY TO OUR WEBSITE – BY OUR NEWSLETTER EDITOR ON OR ABOUT THE FIRST WEEK PRIOR TO MONTHLY MEETINGS HELD ON THE 3RD MONDAY OF EACH MONTH YEARLY UNLESS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE DUE TO OTHER COMMITMENTS BY OUR EDITOR, WA8LE, OR A SPECIAL MEETING IS CALLED BY OUR PRESIDENT – DAVE – N8DP

LOCAL REPEATERS

147.150 + now on the air – tone 107.2

145.130 – Escanaba
147.240 + Gladstone

IRLP – simplex link 147.550 tone 107.2
146.700 – Cooks, MI
147.030 + Trenary, MI
APRS DIGI 144.390
146.640 – Gwinn Mi linked to Mqt 147.27 -100.0

2007 DCARS – OFFICERS

President - Dave Palmgren – N8DP
V. President - Tony Marietta – KC8NUR
Treasurer - Rich Thompson – N8OYR
Secretary - Joe Thompson – W8JRT
Newsletter Editor - Les Elder – WA8LE
Club Librarian - Tony Marietta - KC8NUR
HamFest Chairman – Richard Thompson – N8OYR

Future Testing Schedule – Upper Peninsula

V.E. TESTING:

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications.

12/20/07 Iron River: 7:00pm central time, Iron River Lutheran Church (after club meeting)

NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9JG, at 906 265-4240 or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv

01/12/08 Escanaba: 9:00am arrival time with testing beginning at 9:30am, at Bay De Noc Community College. Contact Howard W8HSJ

**At 428-9476 or email hsj99@chartermi.net
Testing sight might change, so make a call prior to date and time. 2nd contact person – Les WA8LE at 906-789-1543 or wa8le@uplogon.com**

02/02/08 Iron Mountain: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802

04/26/08 / 09/27/08 Special Note: Testing in Houghton: Only (2) testing schedules for 2008. Any questions regarding new testing schedule, please contact – George Thurner for information. Location and time: 8:30am Eastern Time, Room G04 (In the basement) of Wadsworth Residence Hall at M-T-U (Michigan Technological University) Parking available (free) across Hwy U.S. 41 from this building, contact George Thurner W8FWG at 906 337-2542 or e-mail George at: w8fwg@arrl.net

U.P. News in Brief: V.E> TEAM UPDATE: HOUGHTON / HANCOCK , CALUMET, LAURIUM, S.RANGE, LAKE LINDEN, (COPPER COUNTRY AREA'S)

Saturday, December 1, 2007: Rec'd from George W8FWG via email **GOOD NEWS!**

Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF of Paavola just telephoned me. He is willing to take over the job as V.E. Team Liaison and new Team Manager for the CCRAA/HARC V.E. Test Team, with the ARRL/VEC..

This means: Ham radio testing WILL continue in the Copper Country.

We have some "mechanical details" to iron out, but effective today, December 1, 2007, Glenn is the new V.E. Team Liaison and will be announcing the 2008 Test Team Schedule in the near future.

Our thanks to Glenn, for helping out in this project.

I will remain on, as a team member and I would hope that all of the other Team members will give Glenn your support.

It means a lot to me, and to others who will now be assured that V.E. Testing WILL continue in the Copper Country.

This bulletin issued: Saturday, December 1, 2007 at 1300 hour EST. The (2) dates for 2008 are tentative only, please notify w8fwg@arrl.net for detail before you decide to test. The schedule could change!

73,

George R. Thurner, W8FWG
(906) 337-2542
E-Mail: w8fwg@arrl.net

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$14.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc.

DCARS - Meeting minutes for 11/19/07

Secretaries report discussed as written in the newsletter, Motion to accept by Rich - Second by Tony - Motion passed

Treasurers report read by Rich – Cost for Concrete for the tower base \$452 Motion to accept by Ken - Second by Les - Motion passed

Clubhouse update – Combination lock was poor quality – Will stay with keys, see Mike KD8DKA (TRUSTEE) for keys.

Correspondence

Corporation papers arrived for renewal. Amount paid to State for renewal.

Old Business

Duane K8AO SteppIR antenna is installed and working FB

Rick Williams – KD9HDG was present at meeting – New Tech

Report on trip to Green Bay - Dave, Don and Duane in attendance at N.E.W.D.X.A. and Q.C.W.A. Meetings

Discussed installing APRS node at Clubhouse Motion by Howard - Second by Rich - Motion passed

Clubhouse insurance discussed – Rich to get price quotes, Les to check with Steam & Gas club

Field Day discussed – We could do better

Dave to donate Ham M rotor to clubhouse – will contact rotor repair shop for cost estimates

New Business

Christmas in the Village – November 30 & December 1st – Signup sheet passed around

Les gave talk on his PPC (Powered Parachute) Ultralite ride over Riverland area. (Picture time opportunity) Color tour.

Discussed UP Hamfest 2008 – August 2nd Motion to hold Hamfest by Tony - Second by Howard - Motion passed. John Anderson will take over the chairmanship for 2008.

Motion to adjourn by Rich – Second by Tony – Motion passed

Program by Dave – discussed IRLP capabilities. Urged all hams to use the IRLP system. Be sure and pause before transmitting Since you will talking all over the world via Reflectors or direct. Have fun.

Submitted by Dave N8DP

APRS – UP AND RUNNING IN U.P.

Local ham wa8le who has an APRS station operating 24/7 With an Icom 28H at 45 watts and a Kantronics TNC does get A chance once in a while to make data connections via RF Conditions.

On December 10th in the morning, while monitoring his APRS computer, Les saw that Denis Barton wb8skp had his station on line.

Les with his station, Did a ping, and low and behold, Denis's station came back to show That this connection might be able to be made. Checking the APRS Mapping program by Peak Systems, the map did show that Denis was only 627.1 miles from Riverland. By clicking on His home station in Murray Kentucky, Les was able to find a good routing via wa8wg-10 and KI8CL's station this Side of Manistique.

Using the correct routing in the digi path, (wa8wg-10, Wd8skp-1) Les was able to have a two hour data conversation on the keyboards with Denis.

Early in the morning does give a much better advantage before all users get on the internet

which in turn starts slowing down the data packets in between Riverland and Tennessee.

Talking that distance was very interesting and also Les had talked to Andrew AB8ZJ yesterday in Ironwood Michigan via APRS.

The future holds bright for APRS in the Upper Peninsula. (See information in past newsletters)

With another Digi node being planned for Escanaba, this will add much better RF transmissions between The East end of the U.P. and the West end as well as good solid connections throughout Wisconsin and other states from here.

If you interested in APRS, please ask questions at our meetings about APRS.

Anyone interested in contacting Denis or Debbie in Murray Kentucky can call them on the 40 meter band on 7.258 mhz usually mornings if the band conditions warrant. (HF-SSB) Also Denis monitors local 440 repeater node # 207370 with Echolink in Murray. Denis and Debbie Barton moved to Murray Kentucky last year for their retirement.. Denis and Debbie were from the Manistique area and Denis is also an avid RTTY contester. Yoopers, be sure and give Denis wb8skp or Debbie w8ibt a call.

P.S. thanks for the chat Denis and Debbie.....73s

Several programs in the past have been About APRS. 73s and good luck with packet radio, wa8le

CHRISTMAS IN THE VILLAGE – U.P. STATE FAIR GROUNDS, ESCANABA - 11/30 – 12-1



Members of DCARS participated in the annual Christmas in the Village, sponsored by the Steam and Gas Engine Society Inc.

Members installed Christmas lighting on the telegraph building and opened the doors to the public during the two days, Friday and Saturday.



John Anderson – wd8rth, operating as K8ZAS

Several hundred persons and youngsters came through and looked at the telegraph and ham radio displays and also had a chance to listen to QSO's on the club station – k8zas. Local ham operator John Anderson worked the 20 meter band on Saturday. Brochures were handed out to interested persons.

All the buildings were lighted with Christmas lights and several members of the Steam and Gas came over to our telegraph building during this event. A horse drawn cart was provided by the Strohls of Bark River. Friday turned out to be rather cold and windy without snow and on Saturday, snow started to fall by 330pm and by 6pm we had almost a whiteout with a few inches on the ground. A white Christmas was evident. Large Pot Fires were provided to keep everyone warm. Members were urged to bring some canned goods for the Salvation Army and to drop them off at the General Store.

The Cook Shack was open and provided free food for members of DCARS as well as Steam and Gas members.

One of the best crowd pleasers was the "Rock Shop" which draws all the youngsters as well as adults. Most of all the buildings have wood stoves and with free wood, all buildings that were in use

Had some heat. Temp was around 12 degrees.

Thanks to all members of the Delta County Amateur Radio club for their participation in this yearly event. Also to Mike Brackenbury's mom, Rich Thompson's wife Esther, John Anderson and Kay for providing treats for The two day event. DCARS had a very good turnout from the public for this two day event and provided much exposure to Ham Radio for Delta County.

73s – editor wa8le

TELEGRAPH BUILDING – TOWER INSTALLATION – proceeding as planned.

A group effort by members of DCARS and the Steam and Gas, Recently got together on November 9th to install the 20 foot steel base section, And pour concrete for the new DCARS tower at the fair grounds.

Members of the install team, Al Chie and Tony Fudula of the Steam and Gas provided a fork lift and timbers for support, along with Tony Marietta, Rich Thompson, John Anderson, Mike and Don Brackenbury. Many thanks for a group effort to see this Hugh task is completed for our club.

If I forgot someone else for the installation, Let me know.....editor

This tower will eventually have a tri-band beam, dipoles, and an APRS station for its members to use. 2007 turned out to be a banner year for the Delta County Amateur Radio group. Lots of hard work by its members shows great success.



This tower was acquired with the help of Richard Thompson n8oyr from the Delta County Historical Society. The tower was taken down by a DCARS crew and a Ness Construction Crane.

The tower will be reinstalled by the same crane within a couple of weeks. DCARS members will then have the opportunity to "ham it up world-wide" from the Upper Peninsula State Fair Grounds, anytime of their choosing.

WORLD RADIO – DECEMBER ISSUE 2007

Please read an article by Mr. Jim Wades, the international president of the Morse telegraph club, from Allegan Michigan..Jim is a licensed ham with call letters K8SIW.

See page 34 of the December issue, titled - "Changing Times" This article shows the changing environment of Ham Radio and where will it lead regarding ARES and RACES? Will the digital modes and repeater systems stay in tune or falter? Will – Winlink become a reality for all hams in the future?

Note: Mr. Jim Wades was instrumental in providing telegraph equipment for our telegraph building at the Upper Peninsula State Fair Grounds and is an accomplished Code operator – International Morse and the American Morse Code.

A must article for reading – editor wa8le
Thanks Jim for very interesting reading.

Jim Wades new call sign w8siw is a recent change and anyone can contact Jim Wades via email at his old call at wb8siw@charter.net. Jim does get to the U.P. quite often and usually can be heard on the local repeater systems. (2 meters)

Editor: wa8le

Time has come for this editor to hand over the newsletter duties to someone else in the Delta County Amateur Radio Society Organization.

Its time to spend more time on Ham Radio doing my thing and that's making DX contacts out of the "good ole USA". Spending time doing the newsletter for the club has been a real monthly challenge gathering news and sorting news and making it appeal to club members. Spending a week during every month checking the various CQ, QST and World Radio magazines,

An effort was made to generalize the appeal to everyone with not only written articles, but also to incorporate digital pictures to all newsletters.

Also in the process, I had to get another camera as the Sony used with disks finally gave out after putting 8066 pictures through it. My camera purchased last Christmas was a fujifilm S5100 With a 10x zoom and the capability at 6 Megs was a very good quality 1024 pics per The 1 gig card. The new camera turned out to be a real asset for me.

Spending time this summer on the Telegraph Building for the club was a very interesting and fun project. I can say that I'm looking forward for the tower to be completed with a Tri-bander up on top, so I can spend time at the club station (K8ZAS) chasing some DX.

Even though the sun-spot cycle is at a low point, this winter and next summer will be a great time to spend on HF and psk31. (chasing rare DX)

My next summer project will be to help out at the U.P. State Fair grounds with the Steam And Gas club with the installation of 2 more buildings, namely the candle shop and the new rock shop. So I will be very busy as time permits.

During the last 3 years, our club was the first to go 100% email listing to all club members as well as anyone that sent me an email listing. With over 125 emails, we were able to see that the interest in ham radio continued to who - ever asked for a newsletter. Since the inception on the internet, DCARS was able to have a very good website, started by Jeremy Reese a few years back and then it was upgraded to www.dcars.org by Joe Thompson w8jrt who became its webmaster.

This past summer (2006) all newsletters were put on a disk and given to Joe for uploading to the website, to give anyone interested in past and up to date news via the web. DCARS has come a Long way in the last 3 years and every year ahead of us will be a real challenge to keep amateur Radio alive in Delta County.

73s and my best to the successor
Wa8le – Les Elder

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL DCARS MEMBERS AND
FAMILIES**

**D.C.A.R.S.
DELTA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO
C/o Richard Thompson - Treasurer
9560 Chaison – N. Road
Gladstone, Mi.
49837**

Stamp

Place Label Here

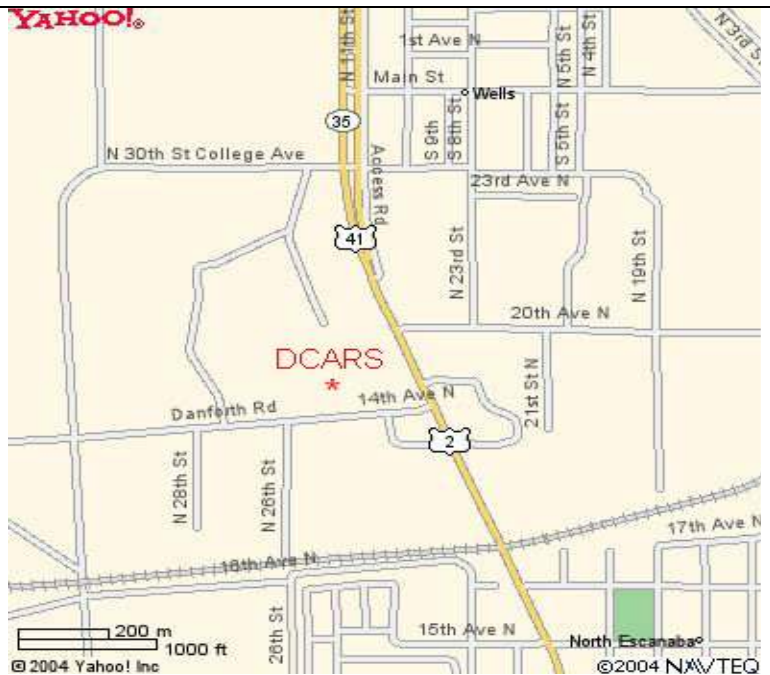
The Delta County Amateur Radio Society, will meet on the third Monday of each month.

Our meeting will be at the Great Northern Buffet, on North Lincoln Road, Escanaba. Our annual Christmas party and short meeting will be to elect new club officers for the year 2008. All members and families are urged to attend this Christmas gathering. Starts at 6:pm, meeting after dinner.

Annual Membership dues have been reduced to \$15 per year.

Associate Memberships are available to those living outside Delta County for \$10 per year.

Dues are January 1st – December 31st annually....Pro-rates during the year are not accepted unless you also pay in advance for the next years dues. You may also contribute to different on-going projects, the 147,150 repeater maintenance fund, or tower fund.



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