

# Air Scoop monthly

**Delta County Amateur Radio Society Inc.**

**9560 CHAISON – N. ROAD**

**JULY - email GLADSTONE, Michigan 49837**

**2004**

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**Delta County 2-meter Repeater – 147.150 + K8ZAS – Tone 107.2**

Our Web Site - <http://www.geocities.com/k8zas/index.html> Jeremy Reese N8YP

**Specialties:** General Interest, Contests, 2 – Meter, local Repeater, Digital Modes. We have Communications available for **Emergency or Community Service Functions**. We welcome all, Anyone interested in “Amateur Radio” to our Monthly Meetings. Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each Month at “Bay-De-Noc Community College, Room #963 at 7:00 P.M. (Harriman Building) South Side.

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## **July 19th 2004 - Meeting**

### **Club Officers - 2004**

**President – N8YP Jeremy Reese**

**V. President – KC8NUR Tony Marietta**

**Treasurer – N8OYR – Rich Thompson**

**Secretary-Newsletter Editor- KG8SQ Les Elder**

All Newsletter information and Ideas can to be sent to Newsletter Editor Via E-Mail. [Kg8sq@uplogon.com](mailto:Kg8sq@uplogon.com). All letters, comments, stories, will be discussed before publication. Your help in making a great Newsletter will be greatly appreciated by all.

JEREMY OUR PRESIDENT ARRANGED AND MADE POSSIBLE A LISTING THAT ANYONE CAN ACCESS AT - [WWW.YAHOOGROUPS.COM](http://WWW.YAHOOGROUPS.COM). ANYONE OR MEMBERS CAN GO TO [WWW.YAHOOGROUPS.COM](http://WWW.YAHOOGROUPS.COM) AND SIGN UP FOR A MEMBERSHIP. SEND AN EMAIL TO [dcars-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:dcars-subscribe@yahoo.com) and request to join. STORAGE SPACE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICS AND MSSGS TO OTHERS AND MASS MAILINGS FOR MESSAGES OR NEWS CAN ALSO SENT OUT WITH THIS FREE SERVICE PROVIDED BY YAHOOGROUPS. **“EVERYTHING IS FREE”**

The **air scoop** is a monthly publication and will be distributed by E-Mail From our Master, DATABASE in PDF format. Anyone wishing a newsletter can download a copy from [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) or email your request to [kg8sq@uplogon.com](mailto:kg8sq@uplogon.com) or check with any of our club members.

**Our Club, once called – Bay-De-Noc Radio Club was formed for the purpose of having an Upper Peninsula Wide, Ham-fest in 1964. This first Ham-Fest for Escanaba became a reality in 1965. On September 1<sup>st</sup> 1970, local members met at the Northern Michigan National Bank and decided to affiliate with the ARRL, received its Charter on February 15, 1971. At this time, the name, DCARS or “Delta County Amateur Radio Society” was chosen.**

PLEASE ADDRESS ALL U.S. MAIL CORRESPONDANCE TO: DCARS – TREASURER, RICHARD THOMPSON, 9560 CHAISON N. ROAD, GLADSTONE, MI 49837. INDIVIDUAL EMAIL CAN BE SENT TO OUR CLUB OFFICERS OR MEMBERS. IF WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS, PLEASE NOTIFY OUR CLUB PRESIDENT, VICE-PRESIDENT, TREASURER OR SECRETARY AND LET US KNOW OF ANY EMAIL CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS THANKYOU

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DCARS – NEXT – MONTHLY MEETING – (3<sup>RD</sup> MONDAY OF THE MONTH) – August 16th 2004 – BAY COLLEGE DANFORTH ROAD, GROUND FLOOR, ROOM 963, HERIMAN BUILDING, SOUTH SIDE. MEETING STARTS AT 7 PM. PLEASE JOIN US.

DELTA COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY INC.

*JULY MEETING REPORT*

**Secretaries Report – August 2004.**

**Minutes: Meeting of July 2004**

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm by Jeremy N8YP.

Jeremy welcomed everyone to our meeting of DCARS.

All club officers were present, with the exception of Les, kg8sq who was out of town IN Minnesota with his family.

Our club president took the minutes of the meeting for Les.

After introductions by everyone and their call given, the meeting got underway with:

**Additional News from Our President just received:**

On Monday I emailed the officers of the club. Due to personal reasons beyond my control, I am having to leave the office of President. This will be effective after the next meeting, allowing for time to find a replacement. If you have any desire to help out your club, please email Tony, KC8NUR; Rich, N8OYR; or Les, KG8SQ and let them know. I will not be able to do the duties following this next meeting.

On a more positive note, the date for the club picnic is going to be moved. That way more can attend as two vacations are during the normal meeting week. The new date is August 23rd, and we have the pavilion from 5 - 8 pm. Plan on eating at 6pm or so. Bring a dish to pass also, club will provide the meet.

To let you know, the ham-fest was profitable. Even if we had to pay the help, we would have made some money, there were only four members helping and two wives. A better turnout from the club would have helped split the workload, but the event went relatively smoothly.

Hope to see you on the 23rd, down at Ludington Park in the Pavilion.

Thank you and 73,

Jeremy Reese, N8YP

**The Treasures Report by Rich N8OYR.** Motion to except by Hank W8ZMN, Seconded by Dave -N8DP - passed.

**Correspondence:**

Nothing to report from Mail or Emails.

## **FIELD DAY JUNE 2004**

SINCE JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup> ROLLED AROUND AND LEFT, FIELD DAY PASSED US BY IN A FLASH. SEVERAL PEOPLE TOOK PART IN FIELD DAY AT RICH THOMPSON'S HOUSE AT THE LARGE FIELD TO THE SOUTH.

A LARGE TREE LOOMS OUT OVER THE ENTIRE AREA AND STANDS TALL RIGHT SQUARE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AREA WHERE SEVERAL HAM FEST FIELD DAYS WERE IN PAST YEARS. SEVERAL TENTS WERE ERECTED AND ALSO MANY DIPOLES WERE STRETCHED OUT OVER THE ENTIRE FIELD AREA FOR OUR CONTEST.

SEPERATE INDIVIDUAL ANTENNAS WERE ERECTED FOR EACH AND EVERY BAND THAT WAS USED FOR OUR CONTEST. THERE WERE PLENTY OF RADIOS TO GO AROUND WITH TUNERS AND A GENERATOR WAS PROVIDED BY RICH THOMPSON FOR THE ENTIRE EVENT OF THE WEEKEND.

ESTHER (RICH'S) WIFE GAVE HER EXPERTISE IN COOKING AND PROVIDING AN EXCELLANT FOOD MENU FOR THE HUNGRY PEOPLE THAT OPERATED. HAMBERGERS ON THE GRILL WERE THE SPECIALITY AND REALLY HIT THE EMPTY SPOT. PLENTY OF COFFEE AND INCOURGEMENT KEPT EVERYONE GOING THAT ATTENDED. JEREMY, TONY, RICH, DON, LES, HELPED MAKE IT A GOOD BUT SMALL FIELD DAY EVENT. MANY PEOPLE THAT SAID THEY WOULD SHOW UP REALLY DIDNT WHICH WAS REALLY DISPOINTING WITH THE REST OF THE CROWD THAT WERE THERE.

SEVERAL VERY GOOD CONTACTS WERE MADE EVEN-THOUGH THE BANDS WERE REALLY BAD AND HAD LOTS OF STATIC AND WITH VERY LITTLE BAND OPENINGS. DON WORKED CW, WITH JEREMY WORKING SSB ON 75 METERS AND LES WAS WORKING SSB ON 20 METERS AS WELL AS 40 METERS. LOGGING WAS DONE WITH A LOGGING PROGRAM AND LES HAD LOGGED ABOUT 45 CONTACTS WHEN HIS OLD LAPTOP COMPUTER, (BATTERY OPERATED) GAVE OUT WITH A HARD DRIVE CRASH. LES LOST ALL OF HIS CONTACTS FOR SATURDAY...MOST CONTACTS WERE FROM THE ENTIRE WEST COAST, NORTHWEST AND SOUTHERN REGIONS AND HAD LOGGED OVER 17 STATES.

NEXT YEAR, HOPEFULLY MORE HAMS WILL SHOW UP FOR THIS FINE EVENT. DELTA COUNTY HAS APPROXIMATELY 128 OPERATORS OF OUR GREAT HOBBY. EVEN THOUGH SOME DO NOT OPERATE ANY MORE FOR OTHER REASONS, ITS STILL A GREAT GET TO GETHER FOR ALL.

## **Items for sale**

1. Johnson Matchbox (large model) vintage, excellant conditions (1000 watts input) complete with manual and extras. \$400.00.
2. Kenwood TS-50S Mobil all band rig with car bracket, DC cable, Manuals, schamatics. Used very little, Better than average condition. \$569.00 new plus tax, SELL FOR \$400.00 ...
3. GE VHF Transceiver with Cable and control head. 110 watt unit, very good condition and Recently had 36 channels and tones programed into the control head unit. Complete ready for installation as a base setup or mobile rig. Comes with a 40 amp power supply for use In your house. \$400.00 for all or best offer.

**Contact kg8sq, Les at 906-789-1543 or email to: [kg8sq@uplogon.com](mailto:kg8sq@uplogon.com)**

## North Carolina Utility Ending BPL Field Trial; System Shutdown Pending

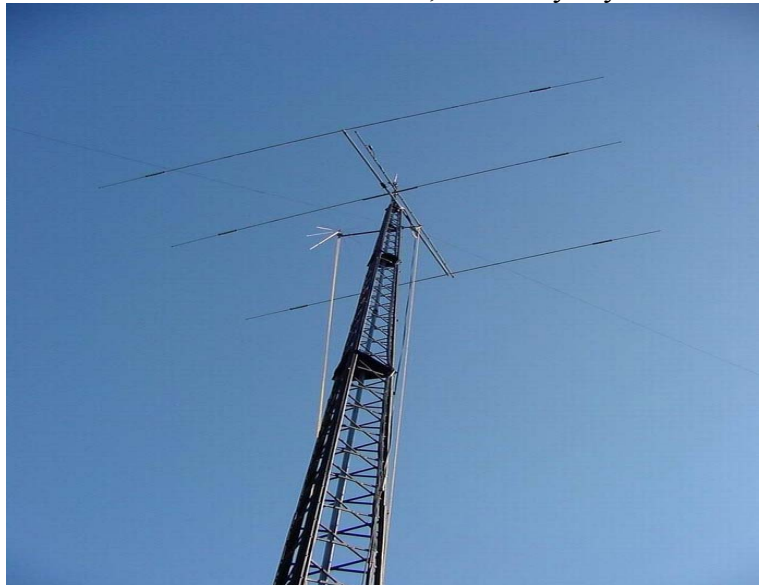


**Last March, FCC Chairman Michael Powell took a firsthand look at a BPL-provided Internet connection in the home of Bud Howard in Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina. EarthLink has been marketing the service.**

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 6, 2004--Progress Energy Corporation (PEC) says it's completed Phase II of its broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Raleigh, North Carolina, area. In an August 4 PEC internal memorandum made available to ARRL, the company said its program to "test the viability of providing broadband service to communities it serves" will wrap up by the end of August, although PEC still plans to explore "several key strategic issues" regarding BPL through the end of this year. The company reportedly will shut down the system once it's able to move its BPL customers to other broadband providers.

"Currently, the company does not have plans for a large-scale commercial rollout of BPL in the company's service territories," the memorandum states. Progress Energy's decision comes on the heels of announced shutdowns of BPL field trials in Penn Yan, New York, and Cedar Rapids , Iowa.

PEC Vice President of Energy Delivery Solutions Lisa Myers said the utility obtained significant information about the design, construction and operation of a BPL system. "Overall, this has been a successful test for us," the memorandum quotes her as saying. "We have gathered valuable information about broadband over power lines and its potential." During its six-month Phase I and Phase II tests, the utility says it offered



Kg8sq's Tower of Power – 77 ft to the top of his fold over base Rohn. X50 diamond dual band 2-440 on top, Cushcraft 13 element horizontal 2 mtr beam, TA-33 Mosley, two dipoles at 62 ft, Scanner Ant.

Installed on August 5<sup>th</sup> 2004. By his son Mark and "Dad". Tower was in Escanaba 6 years prior to when living in Escanaba. After 6 years in the country, finally the tower was re-installed in our present location, Now the fun really begins....Notice rotor is near the bottom, so I dont have to climb only to

Hit the grease fittings once a year on the pillow block bearings....73s

] Earlier this year, FCC Chairman Michael Powell visited the BPL field trial to promote the technology, and local radio amateurs spoke briefly with him about their interference concerns (see ["North Carolina Hams Experience Close BPL Encounter with FCC Chairman"](#)).



**Progress Energy has been operating its "Phase II" trial in three neighborhoods south of Raleigh since early January.**  
**[Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, Photo]**

The PEC memorandum acknowledged Amateur Radio interference complaints. "BPL has met with vocal opposition from amateur or 'ham' radio operators who are concerned that the service will interfere with the radio frequencies they use," it said. "Some complaints were filed with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) during Phase II by ham radio operators using mobile equipment in search of BPL signals."

Responding to one complaint, the FCC earlier this summer took measurements in the field trial area, and FCC Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) Deputy Chief Bruce A. Franca said the FCC had concluded that PEC's BPL trial "is in compliance" with FCC rules and that the company's ham band notching efforts "are effective" to avoid the potential for harmful interference. The ARRL has requested clarification of certain claims made in Franca's July 22 letter, however (see ["ARRL Seeks Clarification of FCC Response to BPL Interference Complaint"](#)). The memorandum cites PEC Director of Emerging Technologies Matt Oja as saying the utility conducted its BPL trial "strictly in accordance with existing FCC limits and measurement procedures." Oja said the technology PEC selected--by Amperion--"allowed us to address all complaints by changing the settings to mitigate interference."

Despite the apparent "clean bill of health" from the FCC, Pearce says he believes the specter of interference loomed large in PEC's decision to not deploy a full-blown BPL system at this point. "We kept pointing out to them that things probably would be much worse if they deployed in a large area," he said. "Maybe that's what they saw. It's hard to tell--

they're really not saying."

Pearce acknowledged that Progress Energy and Amperion personnel worked closely with local amateurs to notch out interference on HF amateur frequencies. Effective notching turned out to be more difficult than anticipated, however. Even following the FCC's visit to take measurements, amateurs continued to report strong BPL interference on the high end of 20 meters as well as in the HF international broadcast bands.

FCC measurements indicated notch depths averaging 24 dB below Part 15 emission limits, which Franca characterized as "sufficient to eliminate any signals that would be deemed capable of causing

harmful interference, including interference to amateur operations." ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, asserted in response that Part 15 device operators "must eliminate all harmful interference, and therefore in some cases must achieve more--in certain cases, considerably more--than a 24 dB reduction in order to be in compliance."

A news report on Progress Energy's BPL decision appeared in the August 6 editions of the [Raleigh News & Observer](#).

### **The K7RA Solar Update**

SEATTLE, WA, Aug 6, 2004--Average daily sunspot and solar flux numbers dropped dramatically from last week to this week. Average daily sunspot numbers were nearly 56 points lower at 42.4, and average solar flux was down more than 53 points at 88. Now that we're in August, we can look at July's numbers compared to previous months.

Over the past year, October 2003 had the highest monthly average of sunspot and solar flux numbers. Relative to the solar cycle decline, the July 2004 numbers were really quite high--no doubt due to the large number of sunspots over a two week period ending around July 26. In fact, the numbers for July were higher than for any period since October-November of last year.

The monthly averages of daily sunspot numbers from August 2003 through July 2004 were 114.3, 82.6, 118.9, 103, 75.7, 62.3, 75.6, 81, 59.3, 77.3, 77 and 87.8. The monthly averages of solar flux for the same period were 122.1, 112.2, 155.5, 140.8, 116.1, 114.1, 107, 112.1, 101.2, 99.8, 97.4 and 119.8.

Geomagnetic conditions have been nice and quiet over the past week, with the A index in the low single digits and periods when the K index was zero at all latitudes. Over this weekend, we could see a rise in geomagnetic activity to unsettled levels. The predicted planetary A index for August 6-10 is 8, 15, 15, 15 and 8.

Solar flux is expected to remain under 100 over the August 7-8 weekend but slowly rise to a predicted peak of around 120 August 14-19. An increase in activity after August 12 is expected because of the return of Sunspot 652, which came into view July 17 during its last transit across the sun and disappeared after July 29. It was squarely facing Earth July 23--just after the peak in sunspot and solar flux numbers for the month.

Sunspot numbers for July 29 through August 4 were 32, 33, 39, 40, 39, 52 and 62, with a mean of 42.4. The 10.7 cm flux was 99.7, 88.7, 86.4, 83.4, 84.5, 87.6 and 85.4, with a mean of 88. Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 7, 9, 8, 8, 5 and 4, with a mean of 7.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 6, 7, 7, 9, 5, 2 and 2, with a mean of 5.4.

*Amateur solar observer Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, Washington, provides this weekly report on solar conditions and propagation. This report also is available via WIAW every Friday and an abbreviated version also appears in [The ARRL Letter](#). Readers may contact the author via [e-mail](#).*

Here are some other **Frequently Asked Questions** about Ham Radio



Sounds interesting....

## Where Do I Start?



The rules for earning an Amateur Radio license vary depending on which [country](#) you live in. In the US, there are three license levels, or "license classes" ([Technician class](#), [General class](#) and [Extra Class](#)). These licenses are granted by the [Federal Communications Commission](#) (FCC).

### **It's Easy to Get Started**

The most popular license for beginners is the Technician Class license, which requires only a 35 multiple-choice question written examination. The test is written with the beginner in mind. Morse Code is not required for this license. With a Technician Class license, you will have all ham radio privileges above 30 megahertz (MHz). These privileges include the very popular 2-meter band. Many Technician licensees enjoy using small (2 meter) hand-held radios to stay in touch with other hams in their area. Technicians may operate FM voice, digital packet (computers), television, single-sideband voice and several other interesting modes. You can even make international radio contacts via satellites, using relatively simple equipment.

Getting started in Amateur Radio has never been easier. First, [locate a radio club in your area](#). Some radio clubs offer ham radio licensing classes, or they can find a club volunteer to answer your questions. You may even be invited to attend a local radio club meeting.

Do you learn best from a manual, a teaching videotape, an in-person course or an on-line course? Which of these choices will fit better into your busy schedule? You can choose what will work best for you because ARRL has it all! ARRL produces popular ham radio [license study guides](#), fast-paced [learning videos](#), and even a brand new [on-line course](#). You'll learn the things you need to pass the license exam and have fun with Amateur Radio.

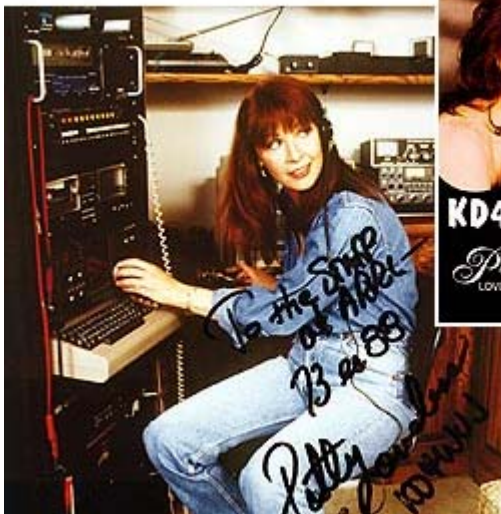
The Amateur Radio license examinations are administered by ham radio volunteers. When you're ready to take your exam, you'll need to locate an [exam session near you](#).

## The American Radio Relay League

Who are we? The 170,000+ members of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) are among the most active and enthusiastic amateurs in the country. Headquartered in Newington, CT, ARRL speaks on behalf of its members in Washington and internationally as well as providing direct [member benefits](#).

To Learn more about Amateur Radio and about the ARRL, explore *ARRLWeb*, [the ARRL Web site](#).

**ARRL, The national association for Amateur Radio --  
Helping Hams Get Started Since 1914.**



**and even  
entertainers!**

Getting started in ham radio has never been easier! We invite you to explore the following information and learn about Amateur Radio, and a little about us, the ARRL... the National Association for Amateur Radio, a non-profit membership organization. We've been helping hams get started since 1914! We know you'll enjoy

this fascinating world of Amateur Radio, and we hope to have the chance of meeting you on the air--when *you* become an Amateur Radio operator!

**Special notice:**

Next weekend is Lighthouse weekend....If your interested in operating, you can go to Marquette On August 20<sup>th</sup> on Friday and see Pete or Greg at the Marquette Lighthouse. They will be operating Friday, Sat, Sunday. You may operate and take part, please bring a friend .....

End of Newsletter for July 2004

Signed: KG8SQ, 73 [KG8SQ@UPLOGON.COM](mailto:KG8SQ@UPLOGON.COM)