

# Air Scoop monthly

Newsletter of The Delta County Amateur Radio Society

MAY 2005

## Minutes of April 2005

Welcome to our Meeting - D.C.A.R.S. Inc., April 18th 2005 - Bay De Noc Community College.

Our meeting opened promptly at 7:00 PM., With President, Dave Palmgren – N8DP.

Dave welcomed all members and non-members to Bay College for the evening. Officers present were Les Elder KG8SQ, secretary / newsletter editor, Treasurer – Marshall Seawright N8VBA. Absent, Vice President – Mark Blau ND8X.

### Self-Introductions

Dave Palmgren – N8DP  
Les Elder – WA8LE New VCall – old call (kg8sq)  
Marshall Seawright – N8VBA  
Duane Puro – K8AO  
Ed Peterson – Prospective ham  
Tony Marietta – KC8NUR  
Lowell Seeley – KA8RPB  
Rich Thompson – N8OYR  
John Anderson – WD8RTH  
Steve Fritz – KC8ZDY  
Howard St. John – W8HSJ  
Don Brackenbury – K8GMW  
Steve Soderman – KD8BJD – New Ham Tech  
Mark Seymour – N8XAH

### Secretaries Report

It was moved, and approved to wave the Secretaries report. It will be included in all monthly newsletters.

### Treasurers Report

Marshall N8VBA gave the financial condition of the club. All bills submitted were paid, along with income received from new members, the 50/50 receipts, were added to our treasury. A motion was made by Tony – KC8NUR, seconded by Don K8GMW to except, motion carried.

(Submitted by Marshall Seawright N8VBA – Treasurer

### OLD BUSINESS

#### DCARS – First test session for 2005

Dave Palmgren gave a thumbs up to the VE's that helped in completing Delta Counties first Volunteer Examiner Session for our club this year. With help and advice from the ARRL our sponsor, along with two members from HARA at Marquette, who came to assist us in our first exam, everything went without a hitch. We want to thank N8GBA – Rich Schwenke, and Gregg Hanson K18AF for the help in completing the vast amount of paperwork and over-seeing that everything was completed before sending into the ARRL. They drove here from Marquette to assist us and to make sure we had (3) Extra class examiners available on site.

The volunteer examiners that helped in DCARS first session on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2005 were Tony – KC8NUR, Dave – N8DP, Joe – W8JRT, Les – WA8LE, Gregg – K18AF, Rich – N8GBA.

We had 2 persons pass during the first session, one from the Gwinn area, and one from Escanaba. We also had one member N8VBA – Marshall pass his element 3 written exam (General). Marshall has 365 days to complete his code (CW) at 5 WPM. Our new Delta County Ham is Steve Soderman – His new call is – KD8BJD. (Nice jobs fellas)

DCARS testing for 2005 will be on July 9<sup>th</sup> 2005, and October 8<sup>th</sup> 2005. Interested persons are asked to contact our club officers for further details on what room at Bay College testing will be for that session.

Submitted by Les Elder / Secretary

### FIELD DAY – 2005

Joe Thompson, W8JRT, will be Field Day Chairman for the June 2005 event. Joe is asking for the handouts that are filled in, bring to Mondays meeting or see that this information is passed along. We need everyone's input as to your new ideas and location for this event. Anyone with trailers, tents, antennas and towers that would like to donate and help set up for field day are asked to email Joe or call him on the 2 meter repeater 146.700. Joe Thompson's phone is 428-2051 or email to: [w8jrt@arrl.net](mailto:w8jrt@arrl.net)

#### Web-Site – K8LOD – on the Internet

[www.geocities.com/k8zas](http://www.geocities.com/k8zas)

Dave Palmgren thanked Joe Thompson – W8JRT, our new web site administrator and web-master, For a very nice job in getting our web-site up to date and adding all of the newsletters for your reading enjoyment.

Dave encouraged everyone to read and help with articles, pictures and ham radio events that we can add to our web-site. Send in your JPG's or whatever you have to Joe and he will put them into the web-site.

#### CLUB LIBRARY

Tony KC8NUR explained to new attendees of the nice library that the club has and can check out any of the manuals or books as they wish, and return them when they are done with them. Tony is our Club – Librarian. Any information you might need also for antenna building or projects, books are available from our club library. Included in our club library will have available our DVD – Technician Class complete program. Additional books are added monthly by members that no longer have room in their own library. Thanks members for your help.

#### Club Repeater – 147.150

A discussion of the problems with the club repeater again came up regarding interference and not being able to access the repeater from various areas of Delta County. A lack of system maintenance and the system being un-usefull To members prompted a discussion to move the repeater to another location for testing and see if all

the interference goes away. Rich and Tony will get with Mark – n8xah and set a time to have the system moved out to Perkins for testing. A report will be given at the next club meeting as to the repeaters problems and if changes should be made to correct problems.

A suggestion at the Meeting was brought up that the club should think of purchasing a new up-to-date Motorola Repeater and make payments. More Information on this will be discussed.

A new system would surely improve what we now have and have had to use in past years. This would also give the club an opportunity to look into getting access on a cell tower or FM Radio tower system. Having new equipment without continued breakdowns would be a real asset to the club.

Bring your ideas to the next meeting for discussion.

#### Project Nights - Weekly

Project Nights at the Electronics Lab at Bay Community College began on March 28<sup>th</sup> 2005. Anyone with electronic projects can attend. Please bring your own solder and small tools. Mr. Marshall Seawright, Bays electronic instructor will be available to help those in need. Anyone else that would like to help out is urged to attend.

The Lab will be open at 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Don't be bashful. You can put together one of your kits or work on "not working radio equipment. See you there.

50/50 RAFFLE – Won by Howard St.John W8HSJ.

#### RACES –

Discussion about our Races Coordinator not being involved prompted a note to be sent to John Hurshek to ask him to send a letter to the club showing that he resigned.

Tony – KC8NUR asked to be given the opportunity to head the Races team for Delta County. (A consensus of members was ok'd) by all.

NEW BUSINESS – None at this time.

E-Mail from Dale Williams – Great Lakes Division – ARRL  
Any questions regarding the attached article can be emailed to:  
[Wa8efk@arrl.org](mailto:Wa8efk@arrl.org)

I recently sent Dale questions and his reply was as follows:

Les:

I have attached a rewritten version of the bill and the press release which defines the need for it. It takes away no "rights" of radio amateurs and eliminates some very severe problems the existing law has caused. At least twice a year, some un-informed police officer arrests a ham and confiscates the radio amateur's radio because it scans the police freqs - despite the fact that the law says it is OK for the ham to have it in his car. This has happened several times in Livonia, and last year in Sterling Heights as well as other communities.

Crooks don't care about the law, they have the scanners anyway, so the point of the law as it stands today is really moot. The new version results in a penalty for USING the information heard on the radio in the process of committing a crime. It does not prevent any citizen from listening to public service frequencies in his car. It removes the existing severe restrictions so now my wife can legally drive my car with my radio in it; today she can't because she is not a licensed amateur and the radio tunes the public safety freqs.

I hope this assists in making the intent of the bill more clear.

Thanks for your input.

Dale

## **Elsenheimer bill cuts bureaucracy**

*Measure scraps permit system for mobile radio scanners*

Law-abiding citizens will no longer need permission to have radio scanners in their vehicles under legislation introduced by state Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer. House Bill 4544 eliminates the requirement for an amateur radio operator license or permit from the state police to carry equipment that receives assigned public safety frequencies.

"The current law is a well-intended effort to keep criminals from hearing what the police are doing," said Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire. "The reality is that anyone with criminal activity in mind will not ask for a permit, so only law-abiding residents are going through the paperwork and red tape. We need to ensure the bad guys are punished, not make it difficult for people with a hobby."

The bill eliminates the requirement for individuals to acquire a permit from state police and simply makes using a radio scanner for purposes of committing a crime illegal, punishable by a \$1,000 fine and one year in jail, the same penalty currently for not having a license or permit for the radio.

The House Judiciary Committee is reviewing the legislation.

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SUBMITTED BY LES ELDER WA8LE

## **Air scoop Monthly**

Air-scoop Monthly is the official newsletter of The Delta County Amateur Radio Society serving it's

County community. Original articles, art and photos are welcome. Copy- righted material cannot be printed without the permission from the appropriate legal authority. Please include such disclaimers in all materials submitted.

Submit articles to:

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Website is:

[www.geocities.com/k8zas](http://www.geocities.com/k8zas)  
webmaster – [w8jrt@arrl.net](mailto:w8jrt@arrl.net)

## PROGRAM BY MARSHALL SEAWRIGHT – BASIC ELECTRONICS

Marshall Seawright – N8VBA gave a stunning performance in Completing several diagrams on basic electronics, ohms law, and various circuits dealing with resistance, reactance, and voltage. Those of you that missed this program might persuade Marshall to do this over in the future.

## PROFILE OF THE MONTH

This month's ham profile spotlight is on **Lowell Seeley KA8RPB**, Lowell's earliest attraction to radio came very early when watching Jungle Jim movies starring Johnny Weissmuller. These movies made in the late 40's and early 50's featured a radio station that used to communicate with "base". Lowell later joined the Navy where he worked on the boiler systems on aircraft carriers. After the Navy he worked in the power generation field until he retired in Houghton and moved back to the Gladstone area. Lowell purchased the Heath kit ham radio study course back in 1980 or so and received his Novice license soon after. He then studied for and received his General class license and has held the call sign KA8RPB ever since.

Lowell has an ideal ham location with few neighbors and enough land to put up antennas. He recently put up a full sized 160-meter dipole and has dipoles installed for 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters and uses the 40-meter antenna on 15. His station consists of a Kenwood TS 450S, A Heathkit HW-8 and an antenna tuner. Lowell operates mostly SSB.



Our Organization, 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 “Ham” 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 MAIL CORRESPONDANCE TO:  
DCARS  
RICHARD THOMPSON  
9560 CHAISON N. ROAD,  
GLADSTONE, MI 49837.**

**INDIVIDUAL EMAIL CAN BE SENT TO OUR CLUB OFFICERS OR MEMBERS.**

**PLEASE NOTIFY ONE OF OUR CLUB OFFICERS OR THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR OF ANY MAIL OR EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGES.  
THANK YOU.**



**DCARS is an  
ARRL Affiliated Club**

**Excellent good news from ARRL on Jamming Case. A case long over due.**

**Gerritsen Bond Set at \$250,000 in Radio Jamming Case**

NEWINGTON, CT, May 6, 2005--Now off the air and in federal custody, reputed Los Angeles-area repeater jammer and former Amateur Radio licensee Jack Gerritsen will have to put up \$250,000 in cash or property to gain his release while awaiting further court action. Acting on a criminal complaint, FBI special agents, accompanied by personnel from the FCC Los Angeles Field Office, arrested the 68-year-old Gerritsen without incident early May 5 at his home in Bell, California. Federal agents also seized Gerritsen's radio equipment.

"A criminal complaint filed Wednesday afternoon charges Gerritsen with a felony charge of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license," said a May 5 [statement](#) from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. "The two charges carry a potential penalty of 11 years in federal prison." A criminal complaint contains allegations that a defendant has committed a crime.

Assuming that Gerritsen is able to make bail, a spokesman in the US Attorney's office said it would be several days before the necessary paperwork is ready. Once released on bond, Gerritsen would be subject to home detention and barred from possessing any radio equipment, the spokesman said, adding that Gerritsen's residence would remain subject to search to make sure.

Unless Gerritsen is indicted beforehand, a preliminary hearing in the case is set for May 25, with arraignment to follow on May 31.

The criminal complaint said an FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen "often transmits his prerecorded political messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often making it impossible for

licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies."

Gerritsen already faces a total of \$52,000 in FCC-imposed or proposed forfeitures for alleged interference. In March, the FCC denied a *Petition for Reconsideration* and upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. Gerritsen has yet to pay the forfeiture.

An FBI affidavit sworn out this week in advance of obtaining a search warrant of Gerritsen's residence indicates that FCC agents have been investigating multiple instances of unlawful radio transmissions and malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen over the past four years. FCC agents on a regular basis have been monitoring radio transmissions said to be coming from Gerritsen. They've also spoken with him in person and asked to inspect his station, although earlier FCC documents say he refused that request.

In addition to Amateur Radio repeater communications, Gerritsen is alleged to have interfered with Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) transmissions. The FCC also reported that it has received complaints from other government agencies that Gerritsen interfered with local and state police and fire agencies, the American Red Cross, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and other radio services. A MARS training exercise in March had to be canceled as a result of interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Earlier this week, Gerritsen, who briefly held the call sign KG6IRO as a Technician licensee and still uses it on the air, was taken into custody by Bell, California, police officers on an unrelated contempt of court citation after violating the terms of a temporary restraining order (TRO) a local radio amateur had obtained to keep Gerritsen off a local repeater. He was released without bond after being held for a few hours and was reported back on area repeaters not long afterward.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast have been complaining for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los

Angeles-area repeater owners have taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Five years ago, Gerritsen was convicted in state court of interfering with police radio transmissions and sentenced to 38 months in prison. Following his release in July 2003, the FCC soon began receiving complaints about Gerritsen's activity on the airwaves, according to this week's criminal complaint.

Yang's office said the FBI "received substantial assistance" from the FCC in the case.

Taken from the web-site of the ARRL for newsletter use dated May 7<sup>th</sup> 2005.



**New Amateur Radio satellite in orbit** (May 5, 2005) -- HAMSAT (or VUosat) is the latest Amateur Radio satellite in orbit. It is India's first. "We congratulate all who have worked for the HAMSAT and its successful launch," said Sandip Shah, VU3SXE, AMSAT-India's treasurer, who was at the control

center in Bangalore, India, for the May 5 launch. The satellite went aloft from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR in Sriharikota. Going into space with the 42.5 kg HAMSAT was the primary payload--the 1560 kg Indian remote sensing satellite, CARTOSAT-1. The spacecraft were placed into polar sun synchronous orbit at an altitude of 632 x 621 km with an equatorial inclination of 97.8 degrees. HAMSAT is a microsat aimed at meeting the needs of amateur satellite enthusiasts in South Asia. The satellite will provide two new linear mode U/V transponders for SSB and CW use only. Only one transponder will be active at any given time. AMSAT-India indicates the UHF uplink will be in the 435.35 MHz range, while the VHF downlink will be in the 145.90 MHz range. Details are not yet available.

Dutch graduate student William Leijenaar, PE1RAH, who designed one of the transponders aboard HAMSAT, saw the PSLV-C6 vehicle carry the satellite skyward from SDSC SHAR. "It was very interesting to see how my radio finally went into space," he said afterward. "It is the best ham radio experience in my life." Leijenaar said reports he'd received indicated that the onboard

computer was showing the batteries and solar panels working normally. "We just are a few days away from 'CQ CQ HAMSAT' QSOs," he said. The satellite has not yet been given an OSCAR designation. There's more information on the [AMSAT-India](http://AMSAT-India) Web site.

## PRESIDENTS-MESSAGE

I've been pondering, what to write about this month? What's on my mind? Well let's see, It's May, time for the Dayton HamVention!

If you've never been there, it's something that you really should put on your to-do-list. If you have ANY interest in Ham radio I can assure you that you'll find something enjoyable there. Forty acres of flea market, 47 forums and several large exhibition buildings full of ham radio vendors. If it's ham radio related -- it's at Dayton.

With it being May, June must be around the corner.

Field day is coming up fast and we need to get our plans finalized. Instead of a program this month, we'll spend some time on our field day plans. See you at the meeting! 73 - Dave

## PROGRAM FOR THIS MONTH

### FIELD- DAY 2005

**Bring your ideas and suggestions with you to the meeting on Monday for discussion as to Your idea for a good location, and how many people you will be bringing along.**

### SUMMER PROJECTS

**Several tower projects are being put into place for the summer, stay tuned for an update shortly on where towers will be installed Your help will possibly be needed.**

**The .15 repeater has been moved to Perkins and at this time is working without interference. More testing from this sight will be forthcoming.**

**Kc8nur - Tony**

<http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/aprs/fix14439.html>

**D.C.A.R.S.  
9560 Chaison – N. Road  
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49837**

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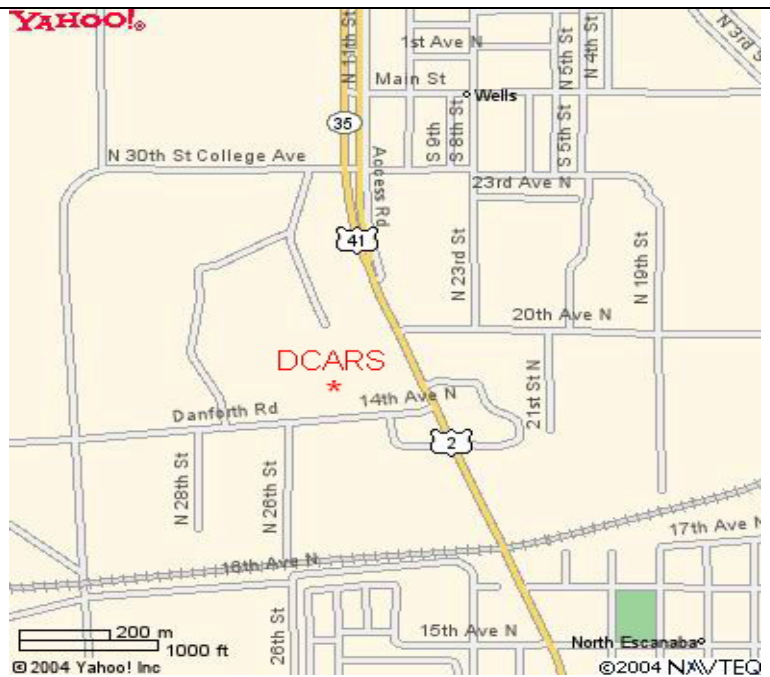
**The Delta County Amateur Radio Society,** will meet on the third Monday of each month. Our meeting starts promptly at 7 P.M., at Bay-De- Noc Community College, Room #963.

Located in the glassed in area at the Joseph Heirman University Center. You can park in the South Lot off Danforth Road. Just watch for antenna's on vehicles.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> – December 31<sup>st</sup> annually....Prorates 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. (We are looking to increase the height of the 147.150 repeater.



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