

CARS MEETING
April 20, 2010

Meeting called to order: President Jack Gunsett called the meeting to order at 1900 hours. Introductions were made and members signed in.

Members present: BILL TATE, KD8AAD, BOB HOWARD, N8JFH, DAVID FOSTER, W3IGT, DICK STANLEY, KA8VLN, EVERT WELLS, KB8ZVH, FRED BRUEY, KD8IXP, HARLAN COOLEY, N8RDP, JACK GUNSETT, KZ6ZZ, JIM KEESLER, K8EXF, JO-ANN VAN ALSTINE, KC8CLY, LARRY PHILLIPS, N8BNE, LEE VAN ALSTINE, KA8VMJ, LINDA STANLEY, KA8ZHV, MARK NIKUCKI, N8CDK, MIKE HALL, WB8ICN, ROSEMARY GUNSETT, KI4VO, STEVE RAUSCHER, KD8HIW, TIM BAIR, WD8PMD, MARK JAMIESON, KD8NOE.

Guest Presenter: First Lieutenant Jim Shaw, Michigan State Police.

Officer Shaw gave our club an excellent presentation of how law enforcement works together to maximize limited resources. He displayed some items that an officer would use, such as a taser gun, bulletproof vest, and the many items law enforcement officers wear on their belts.

He explained the different departments of the State Police, such as the Jackson County Major Case team, that receives help from Detectives, and Major Crime Task Force, to help in foot work, additionally they bring their perspective to the cases. This department also does crash investigations. There is a crime lab, forensic, and they can mobilize 20-500 troopers if needed. Each district helps each other, especially in public gatherings.

The Michigan State Police was established in 1917, during the outbreak of World War II, hence the name, "troopers." Statewide they have over 60 services available and have 2,589 employees. The State Police's purpose is to protect public safety in areas such as Homeland Security, Forensics, Detectives, Investigations, and Traffic Safety Division.

While on duty, Jim likes his officers to make contact with people each hour, not just issuing tickets, but warnings too.

There are specialty teams such as; canine, aviation, bomb squad, traffic crash reconstruction, crime scene investigation, fire investigators, underwater recovery, and emergency support team. There are even robot officers that can enter a house during a dangerous situation.

He explained in cases of a bomb threat at a school, that the school is actually a safe place to be, due to the cinderblock construction.

When asked if it was safe to have ones name on Facebook, he said that it should be done very cautiously, and to not have ones children listed on there, as predators look for clues of where they can locate children to harm them.

The Ride Along Program is good for citizens and officers. Citizens can give input that helps officers to stay on mark. Anyone interested in doing a ride along should contact Sgt. Bachmeier at the First District Headquarters, 3401 Cooper Street, Jackson, MI, for scheduling a ride along.

Amateur Radio Operators could be a great asset for the troopers in times of natural disasters as hams could provide communications as cell phones might be shut down as they were during the Terrorist attacks on 9-11-2001. Officer Shaw is going to look into this area with his staff.

Michigan State Police states, "A proud tradition of service, through excellence, integrity, and courtesy." For all that these Law Enforcement Officers do for us, this is true.

Break for Refreshments

Field Day: Mark Jamieson, KD8NOE, Camp Director for the Jackson County Intermediate School District at Camp McGregor offered that site for our club's Field Day this year or next. Even though the Astronomy Camp is scheduled at the same time, he said that our club could co-exist with them located on the east shore of Crispell Lake. The advantage of using this facility is that it is free, has plenty of ground space for antennas, about 300 yards, has buildings we could use if needed to have anything indoors, and a place to store anything we have. An ID tag would be needed for us to wear around our neck to separate us from the School group. A radio camp could be held at the same time. CARS members could also view a computer-generated telescope at the facility.

Meeting adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 2055. President Jack dispensed with the rest of the agenda because we ran overtime and deferred the rest of the agenda items to next month.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rosemary Gunsett, KI4VO
Secretary