

LCDRA Immediate Plans and Needs



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LCDRA is at a crossroads. There is the opportunity to move the 145.39 repeater back onto the WKAR tower in Okemos at a height of nearly 600 feet thanks to LCDRA president John Imeson N8JI. The 145.39 repeater was located at the WKAR tower until it was taken down during the installation of a new tower on the same site. It was quite expensive to transfer at the time and new agreements needed to be made with MSU Land Management. The 145.390 has been installed on the Potterville tower for the last decade rent free and recently has only been operational due to the graces of the Eaton County Amateur Radio group. They have allowed LCDRA to use one of their antennas, taking the D-Star repeater offline, while LCDRA is investigating interference issues. Using separate antennas for receive and transmit reduces the interference.

This brings forward an exciting possibility coupled with a serious need. LCDRA has the permission to move its flagship repeater back to a prime spot at nearly 600 feet, adding to the already substantial footprint. This move, though, comes with some new reoccurring costs. WKAR owns the tower and requires all tenants to pay for power and carry insurance. Monthly bills have not been part of LCDRA finances or planning for at least the last 20 years. Current LCDRA membership dues would only cover about half of the projected cost of power and insurance. Even though LCDRA has the current funding to move to WKAR, it can not fund staying on the tower.

This means that we need you. LCDRA is in need of more members and LCDRA is in need of more funding. This being new territory, the Repeater Association is looking for new ways to help fund what could make a staple of the Mid-Michigan Amateur Radio community (the 145.39 repeater) more prominent for years to come. LCDRA operates repeaters that are open and free to use for public service events, Skywarn activations, and general amateur use. Because of this, LCDRA is asking for members to consider giving more, and non-members to consider joining. One-time gifts can help, smaller monthly gifts on a recurring basis could help even more. With enough sustained funding LCDRA can move forward on exciting projects to increase our local communication footprint. If you have ideas, please let LCDRA know (contact@lcdra.net)! If you would like to become a member, the form is available at <https://w8bci.org/information/membership-form/>.