

# OPEN FEED LINE NEWSLETTER

" The humming from the Yamaha generator broke the quiet of the star filled night. Off to the North-West, lightning illuminated a nasty storm . " Paul KB8RFX and Louie N8ZVB sat huddled under a plastic cover that shone with yellow light. The Kenwood TS-530SP was being used on the 80 meter band, but the noise from the approaching storm made that band useless. The digital watch that Paul was wearing indicated 3:00AM. If their wives or family could spy on them at this moment, and ask them " Are you really having fun?". The answer they would get would be a resounding "YES!" This is how FIELD-DAY 94 went. From no bugs during the entire contest duration, to keeping a watchful eye towards the storm which would interrupt more than one Field-Day operation. This was the very first FIELD-DAY for many of our members. But, after the wonderful operating conditions, and even the rare DX that was worked: U090AR by N80AR ( a distance of over 4000 miles straight North!), and of course, that rare of rarest DX, W8DC & N8KMD in Cedar Springs, all agreed this was the best one they had had!. Bill Wisneski N80AR, brought not only his father's hunting trailer, but his entire HAM station up to the Field-Day site! We used 3A and could be heard on 80, 40 and 20 at the same time, while we also had a VHF packet station running. We had several distant guests at the site, one being Red W8ED who was visiting from his home QTH of AZ. While Steve Ireland N8SVU is responsible for getting the ball

rolling way back in January, Bill N80AR carried it through to it's end. We club members also had our very first YL official Field-Day logger: Karen, who came up to help Steve do all the writing ( she secretly told me he can't spell worth a hill of beans! hi hi). Some of the operators present during the event were Dan N8NIJ, Peter Van K8ZAZ, Len W8SPX, (who along with Dick W8SHJX, supervised the entire operation from our easy chairs! hi). Louie N8ZVB, who also was awarded a brand new copy of the ARRL's Operation manual, for being the most improved MARA HAM of the year, . Lee W880 supervised Len and Dick ( He said they needed it!) and Tom Hanson N8DGD also kept the air waves filled. Chuck N8LDY helped both with set-up & tear-down as well as fulfilling any need the op. folks required. John "Wheres-the-mike" Visser NF8P, burned the mid-night oils till well past sunrise. I could go on, and I would like to, but this Newsletter is limited to just so many pages. I plan to incorporate Field-Day experiences in the next 2 issues, so do not feel left out! If your story isn't in here now, it certainly will be. Personally, I want to share with all of you, that YOUR participation in this event made it the best I've ever seen or heard of. It is truly great to know so many warm, kind friendly folks such as you are. YOU MADE FIELD-DAY 94 what it was: a huge success. If you do not believe me, just wait till QST comes out next month, and see where we placed! The only complaint I know about was the lack of a CW only table. This

has already been taken care of. Eddy W8NZW, Dan N8NIJ, Chuck N8LDY and Dick W8BHIX have decided they will "KEY" a CW only table during Field-Day 95. Some of folks present during this years F-D: Bill N8OAR, Chuck N8LDY, John N88P, Red W8ED, Peter Van K8ZAZ, Tom N8DGD, Steve N8SVU, Louie N8ZVB, Peter H. K8BRFX, Jeff K88OYK, Lee W820, Len N8NEK, Bud K88BK, Tim N8NET, LEN W8SPX, Karen and Richie W8BHIX, whose call was used for the F-D. If you've never participated in Field-Day, please give a call to any of these folks, and ask them about all the fun they had!

## HAM-CLASS

If there was one thing that impressed all who were present at this past Summers Field-Day, it was what it was like to operate with a EXTRA CLASS License. Imagine, tuning practically anyplace on the band, and using CW throughout the entire Ham Bands! Staggers the mind, doesn't it. We hope that all that amazement has stuck with these folks,

'cause', **CW PRACTICE** is returning once again. At the May, June and even July club meetings, the members present felt they knew enough to pass the theory, but the biggest stumbling

block was the good old MORSE CODE. SO.... Starting in October, or earlier, Dick W8BHIX is once again going to be putting on Morse Code Practice on one of the local repeaters. The speed will be 20 WPM, 13 WPM and 5 WPM. But, what with the majority of folks in this area having the Technician Class License, a special amount of time will be spent on 13 WPM. Just exactly how this shall work out, is undecided, since the repeater used last winter is in the process of being moved to it's old site. But, I can assure you that 13 WPM will be WELL represented!

Now, for those folks slipping between the cracks, so to speak, we will ATTEMPT to offer a ADVANCED and EXTRA Theory Class. This class assumes you already have or will shortly be passing the 13 WPM test. The rest shall deal with theory, theory and then, just when you thought Christmas was here, THEORY! Our club, which was founded on giving the Novice/Technician classes, shall leave that to GRARA ( starts in Nov. ), Allegan ( starts yet this month ) North-Ottawa ( Starts in January ) and Muskegon ARC, (starts this FALL) There simply isn't any sense to duplicating what is already out there. So relax, enjoy the Fall, and we'll see you IN-THE-CLASS !

## CLUB-NEWS

This past AUGUST, MARA voted to make a donation to HosCom. HosCom is Hospital Communications. In the event normal communications are disrupted at any of the local Hospitals, us "HAMS" are ready to facilitate emergency communications until normal channels are restored. What we donated for, was what every HAM of sound mind should have: A polyphaser. After last weeks lighting display, and knocking off W8JLJ ( which is back on the air! ), this unit can offer protection that could save badly needed emergency equipment.

We at MARA welcome a opportunity to participate in community services.



Talking about Community Services, Speed Gray N8BV is coming to one of the Fall meetings, to talk about the newly formed KCARPSC :Kent County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps. Come to the October Meeting and learn more about it!

xxxx

We would like to offer a speedy recovery to Eddy W8NZW, who has had laser eye surgery, Harold K88NI who also had laser surgery and a very special speedy recovery to Dan Narkowski N8NIJ, who isn't sure what he has. Chuck N8LDY who also is under the weather with a persistent ailment.

## LITTLE BROWN JUG ?

During the last few months, the GRAND RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION and MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE have cooperated on several projects. Surely, you all remember the CODE PRACTICE session last winter, and currently the HosCom project and now, GRARA is once again allowing us to use their 146.760 or 147.260 repeater for CW practice. Well, several of their REAL SMART members, suggested, that maybe it was time, both of our clubs had a little competition in the form of a LITTLE BROWN JUG. This would be some sort of object, that both clubs would vie for during the year. Through ARRL contests, Field-Day points, and other club events, both clubs would tally points during the year, and at the end of the year, the JUG would move over to the club who had the most points. This is just a idea at this time, but, let us know at the Open-Feed-line how you feel about it. Who's in a contest mood??

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## CHAPTER II

This coming weekend of the 17th & 18th, the Middleville chapter will be holding a special event to commemorate Middlevilles Heritage Day. They will be using 3.90,7.250,14.250,28.400 and 145.780Mhz. For QSL, send QSL and SASE to CQ Heritage Day, PO Box 395 Middleville,MI.49333.

At the August club meeting, it was decided not to sponsor any other chapters. This was mainly due to the strain it would cause on the main chapter, which is responsible for mailings and keeping other records. The Middleville club is different, since, ALL of their members were enrolled in MARA's Novice/Tech class at the same time, and ALL passed! Talk about dedicated individuals. Paul Hernandez, KB8RFX, said the fever of Field-Day has caught on, and look for Middleville to hold their own next year.

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## MARA'S BBS

" The guys were crowded around the table, waiting for the computer to finish its' checking routine when it stopped, and PRESTO! MARA'S COMPUTER, which was voted on back in June, came On-Line ". A small technical detail, which was bugging the pants off Dick WB8HIX, was finally corrected, due to MARA's very own computer guru, "MIKE". Mike isn't a HAM yet, but I think with our constant calling for information, and help, he is bound to catch the bug we folks all have. What this all means is simple: MARA now has the newest, fastest Packet BBS in Western MI. It also has telephone access, for those folks who have ham licenses but no TNC ( simply call Bill and select a password!). We have installed the f-comm Call-Book server, turned on the GREPP function, which is a neat way of locating just about any zip code in the world! The G command can also be used on any data-base we presently have in our files section (use the W command!). We also can Forward through N8NET to the WORLD! This is the one thing Larry Ambruz KB8MZR has been waiting for! Now he can keep in contact with his son Richard, who also is a HAM. You see, there is something for everybody in maintaining a regional BBS. Another thing....

## COMPUTER CLASS

Last January, Steve Ireland N8SVU, said he would be willing to have a computer class for those folks who simply can't understand what they have. With the advent of our very own BBS, we are going to take him up on that and coming yet this FALL, we will have a class ( gentle class!) on just what a PC is, and what it isn't! Listen to the NET for more information.

## HAMWORD-CROSSWORD PUZZLE

"Yes, you knew that someday, we'd get around to finally putting in a crossword puzzle". But, what even we didn't know, was that we'd have the Soft-ware to actually generate them!. Through the courtesy of Amateur Radio Newsletter Services John Austin, KC4WCK, we now have the capability of making our very own crossword puzzles. " THANKS JOHN!" Enjoy your puzzle, the answer is on page 6. "Let us know how you like it!"

### ACROSS

1. Transmitter Component.
16. Oscar-Alpha
17. Very useful chip.
18. Dr.s Abbrv, sometimes.
19. Type of Oscillator.
21. Our State abbrv.
22. Stores electrons, plus a E?
27. United-Oscar
28. "The Heath \_\_\_ Company"
31. "it's wound with wire, sometimes."
32. Abbrv. for this part of Hemisphere.
33. Local club.
36. between a PC & a VHF rig?
37. Replaces tubes & single transis.
38. Abbrv. for airline company.
39. type of oscillator.
40. Abbrv. Peak-Inverse Power.
41. Charley-Tango
42. \_\_\_ Control: steady audio?
44. "On-The-\_\_\_" : sign.
45. Coffee-\_\_\_
46. We watch too much of it!
47. type of wire antenna.
51. Current X Voltage
52. Full abbrv. for a IOG.
54. Local club.
55. Capital of Norway
56. Coded Tone system.
58. National club.
60. Many signs say this??
61. A colorful rig part?
62. The BC band is called this?

### DOWN

1. What Ham's provide.
2. Very busy Hams, with a S
3. Real old CW transmitter?
4. Tango-Hotel
5. Alpha-Alpha-Hotel
6. Lima-Sierra-Alpha
7. Oscar-Echo Romeo-Charley
8. Sierra-Lima-Tango-Alpha
9. Type of Oscillator.
12. Inductor X Inductor?
13. Alpha-Oscar
14. " \_\_\_ be, or not \_\_\_ be!"
15. Type of integrated circuit.
20. Radiates the RF?
23. India-United
24. Used on the Internet.
25. Oscar-Tango
26. Romeo-Oscar
29. Local repeater club.
30. Tango-Alpha
34. It keeps voltage steady
35. opposite of battery power
42. type of modulation
43. PAPA-ECHO-PAPA-ALPHA
47. "HELP" on telegraphy
48. OSCAR-MIKE-ALPHA-NOI-SIERRA
49. Hospital room.
50. Airports use them.
52. A real square antenna.
53. rigs convert AC into this.
57. too much noise
59. it's below BC band?

This crossword puzzle software was written by Nicholas Petreley!.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16														
18				19										20
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AN ODE TO THE CODE  
 BY TROY WEIDENHEIMER, WBOROF

It's more than dots and dashes; it's a place—a sanctuary for those who've learned to love the mysterious magic of thoughts arriving in mile-long strings on roads of ether or wire. More, it's a peace, a shield from the disordered sounds of traffic, angry people—of industrial clutter clatter. Within its mantle we find soothing respite, and the patter of bright ideas, the sharp focus of others' thoughts from far beyond our vision's range. As in a dream, we sit so still. It floats in our ears and stirs our minds with concern, remembrance, speculation, and mirth. And code is music. From sounders and speakers it dances in the shack to each sender's inner clock, and comes butter-smooth, or deliciously swinging, or choppy staccato from a "fist" praising definition or perfectly metered, flowing from the gentle hand of an artist. A place, a peace, intelligence, music—so much more than dots and dashes!

(from the Quad County ARC "Parasitic Emission" via the February '94 Indiana County ARC "The Sine of the Times"—Shel Davis, W3FVU, Editor. from ARNS July 1994. Page 8. Printed with permission.)

## GREAT LAKES AWARD

What does Russia, Taiwan, Japan and Africa all have in common?? Sure, they're all on the DXCC list, but they are remarkable in that they have all applied for the GREAT LAKES AWARD! The GREAT LAKES AWARD also has endorsements for WORKED ALL STATE CAPITALS, which hasn't been offered to the Amateur community for quite some time. Fall is the time we all start thinking about working DXCC, the various contests, and it should include The Great Lakes Award. For more information on how to earn this beautiful certificate, contact our Awards Manager, NFRP John Visser, c/o MARA P.O.Box 670 Comstock Park MI. 49321. "GOOD HUNTING!"

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answer to HAMWORD #1

CRYSTALOSCILLATOR  
OA PHASELOCKLOOP  
MD A HARTLEY A  
MI R CAPACITORE  
LD KIT INDUCTOR  
NA GRARA TNC P I  
IC AA EC S PIP A  
CT P AG P P L  
AIR MUG E  
TV L SLUPER  
IE LPDS O MARA  
OSLO CTCS A D O  
N O O N ARRI  
STOP RESISTOR MW



(this puzzle created by Dick, WB8HJX. Hamword is the name of the puzzle.)

LAST MINUTE...

On the MARA NET of Sept. 15, 1994, Steve Ireland N8SVU tendered his resignation: Steve is packing up and going to sail down the Mississippi. He is going to take some time off and see the world. We will miss him badly. "GOOD LUCK STEVE. IN WHAT EVER YOU DO!" from all of us at MARA.

Lee WC8O is in Saint Marys Hospital, in serious condition. "WE HOPE FOR GODSPEED WITH YOUR RECOVERY".

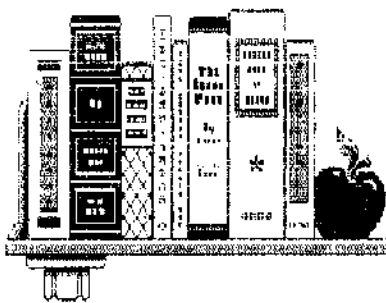
\*\*\*FROM THE EDITOR\*\*\*

"Did you like this Open Feed-Line?" We have sent this to YOU, in the hopes you will find news of your friends and neighbors. MARA is truly, a small club and we would like to keep on sending this to you forever. However, production costs say "NO WAY!". So, if you like what you see, or better yet, have ideas of what you would like to see in here, please take the time to write us or even call us and let us know your intentions. Dues to MARA, which include this newsletter being mailed to you, is \$12.00. But whatever you decide, let us hear from you. We really need to know how to improve what we're doing.

73 es cul DICK WB8HJX

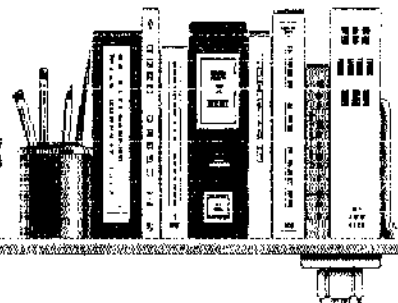
\*\*\*CONTEST?\*\*\*

Ok, I'm not through. Win a years subscription to the O-F-L, if you can name the little Green guy on the outside cover. "WHO IS THAT MAN???"



# MEMBERSHIP LIST

SEPT. 15, 1994 VOL. 3 NO. 3



VHF PACKET BBS SYSTEM 145.070MHZ. TELEPHONE (616) 458-0072  
 NET FREQ. 145.410MHZ THURSDAY 8PM SIMPLEX 145.780MHZ

CHAPTER #1				CHAPTER #2			
CALL	CLASS	NAME	PHONE	CALL	CLASS	NAME	PHONE
K88MNI	G	HAROLD ALLEN	887-8131	K88UYT	T	TIM WILKINS	795-888
K88MZR	T	LARRY AMBRUZ	669-9211	K88OYK	T	JEFF HERNANDEZ	795-9845
K5MR0	A	BERT BOUMA	245-8511	K88OYH	T	TONY SCIAFANI	795-7053
W080	E	LEE BURGESS	458-9297	K88OYI	T	TONY HERNANDEZ	795-9845
W88FND	T	TERREL FRANCIS	895-7075	K88RFK	T	PAUL HERNANDEZ	795-9845
W7PG	E	ANDY GUSACK	791-0451	****CHAPTER # 2 BOARD****			
N8XHA	T	BOB HAMMOND	457-3554				
N8DGD	A	TOM HANSEN	454-0630	PRESIDENT BILL WISNESKI K88OYK			
N8SVU	T	STEVE IRELAND		VICE-PRES JEFF HERNANDEZ K88OYK			
N8LDY	G	CHUCK LEMARRE	458-2091	SECRETARY PAUL HERNANDEZ K88RFK			
N8NFZ	T	SERGE LISK	241-2488	TREASURER TONY SCIAFANI K88OYH			
W8N7W	G	EDDY LOMASIEW	453-0451	AWARDS MANG. TONY HERNAND K88OYT			
N8NIJ	G	DAN MARKOWSKI	784-5973	**** CHAPTER # 1 BOARD ****			
K88BK	A	BUD OWEN		PRESIDENT RICHIE RANTA W88HJX			
W88HJX	E	RICHIE RANTA	361-5975	VICE-PRES STEVE IRELAND N8SVU			
N88PX	G	LEONARD SCHAAP	791-9190	SECRETARY BILL WISNESKI N8OAR			
K88ZAF	G	PETER VANOUIVE	361-0853	TREASURER DAN MARKOWSKI N8NIJ			
N88P	G	JOHN VISSER	785-8523	AWARDS MANG. JOHN VISSER N88P			
N8ZVE	T	LOUIS WHITE	785-1189	NET DIRECTOR CHUCK LEMAR N8LDY			
N8JXB	G	BOB WILD	363-9631				
N8OAR	A	BILL WISNESKI	458-9668				

The MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE P.O. BOX 670 COMSTOCK PARK MI 49321  
 chapter #1 meets on the first Thursday of the month at the American  
 Legion Hall, corner of 4 mile RD NW & Westriver DR NW: 7PM.

Chapter #2 meets on the 4th Monday of the month at Phil's Pizzeria in  
 Middleville MI. at 7PM. Chapter #2 address: 120 East Main Middleville, MI.

If you wish to participate as a NET CONTROL, please contact our NET  
 DIRECTOR, Chuck Lemarre at 458-2091.

The Open-Feed-Line is published 4 times a year. Editor Richie  
 Ranta, W88HJX. For further information about joining MARRA, or receiving the  
 newsletter, call Richie W88HJX at 361-5975 or write the