



## The Open Feed Line

Serving the West Michigan Amateur Radio Community  
Through Service, Safety and Information



The Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance P. O. Box 670 Comstock Park MI 49321

### FIELD-DAY 95

"I'm going to get that guy!" NF8P sat hunched over the radio, his face lit by the eerie glow from the Kenwood's LED's. He patiently waited for a break from all the other stations calling KH6DD and then gave a short call: he made contact! 1:14 AM on a Sunday morning should be a lonely time, but not if you were at the MARA ARRL Field Day site. The day began with Bill N8OAR hauling up his Dad's trailer and then giving us all a lesson by stringing up antenna's by using a compound bow! Talk about personal initiative! We used Bill's complete HF station once again, and Dan's Kenwood TS-440AT for 40 meters. Lee, WC80, whose call we used this Field-Day brought his Kenwood TS-520, which promptly burned up! Bob Daniel's, WD8KWT brought his old rusty Drake TR-7 and also, his brand new Kenwood TS-850. We used these rigs as replacement for Lee's, which as of this writing, still isn't working.

We also had a first: 2 meter's SSB /AM/FM!. Courtesy of Steve N8KVX. We had a information table set up and it was put to good use by the large number of visitors we had. It felt and even looked like a circus at times, what with the crowds going through our Field-Day site, and asking questions and

observing the operators. Everyone agreed this was better than last year's effort, and the tabulation of our logs verified that: 1600 points this year compared to about 1200 last year. But our greatest success was when a father and son came into the trailer and observed Dan and Rickie operating HF while Bill explained how radio waves travel the globe and the different forms of communications methods we use. Nobody was sure which, the father or the son, had the biggest gleam in their eyes when they left. We're looking forward to hearing from both of them soon!

Of course, while Field-Day is to test our preparedness in times of National and regional emergencies, that seemed second to just plain having fun with our friends and work the HF bands!

"There is nothing like sitting in a tent, swatting away mosquitoes, while sipping warm COLA's and trying to work 160 meters while using a 80 meter vertical!". Bob WD8KWT was having fun! Oh, and by the way, he finally made that 160 meter contact, even if it did take 32 minutes! Bud KG8BK sat next to Bob taking turns logging and operating. This was Bud's first year with Mara's F-D, and he was having so much fun, he left early: 1:25 AM.

Louie N8ZVB and Tom N8DGI sat transfixed at the 2 meter station, making contacts as far away as Wisconsin. They both took turns rotating the 2 meter beam, while they were listening for signals. For a first time effort, the 2 meter station was very successful, we totaled over 100 actual contacts.

When we realized how many points we could get by actually operating a CW station, Dan N8NIJ, Bill N8OAR, Rickie WD8IIX operated Dan's TS-440AT rig on 40 meters.

As for the bands themselves, they went from " Oh, that's hot!" to " is the rig turned on?!"

Directions to the site were provided by Chuck N8LDY and Steve N8KVX, who kept a watchful ear to the 145.410 repeater and also were the events gofers.

Our chef once again was a very tired Bill N8OAR. Due to vacations on part of our members, once again, Bill was left to carry this years' Field-Day to completion. We all thank you Bill, for a very difficult and hard job! But it was worth it!

Elsewhere, you will find a listing of the participants for this years F-D. The ink isn't even dry yet, but we have already lined up a chef for next year, and plan to use satellite communications.



When this club formed back in August 31, 1991, one of the first club offerings was the creation of THE GREAT LAKES AWARD. Chuck N8LDY created many of the endorsements that we offer for the GLA. One of the awards which was talked about, was the Worked All Capitals. This used to be offered, but either through lack of interest or not enough individuals to manage the program, was dropped. Presto! MARA is now offering this award once more to the Amateur Radio Community. John Visser NF8P is now MARA's Awards Manager and is eager to send you information on how to get this endorsement for your GLA certificate. We also offer special endorsements for club members, such as the Golden Wings Award, a special award for those hearty souls who work DXCC, WAS, WAC and yes, The Great Lakes Award. For more information on our club's awards program, write:

MARA  
Att: John Visser awards Manager  
P.O. Box 670  
Comstock Park MI 49321-0670

"Happy Hunting"

## CLUB NEWS

When you receive this newsletter, two more of our members will have become members of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. To belong to the QCWA, as Andy Gusack W7PG can testify to, you have to have been licensed for at least 25 years. Lee WC8O upon being reminded that he had "made it", stated, "I have grand children and have grand children who are expecting, but I never thought I'd ever make it to QCWA. Isn't that for OLD FOLKS?". hi hi

"Can you list the other members of MARA who belong to QCWA?" Answer next issue.

Larry Ambruz KB8MZR is keeping busy in his retirement. He has been giving speeches to retiree labor groups, such as C.A.P. and UAW chapters. He even made a trip out to California just to attend the chapter elections. While he is getting horse, Bob Hammond N8XHA is working on his new travel home. He, like Larry, plans to see the country, but is going to save his voice.

Another MARA member who just entered retirement is Bob Wild N8JXB. Bob's first week of retirement started out with a bang, as he passed and upgraded to Advanced Class. "Good for you Bob!". Bob hasn't decided how he will continue with his retirement, he is too busy using his new frequency privileges.

"Congratulation Bob!"

Some of our other members have been on the sick list lately. Eddy W8ZNW is feeling under the weather, while Len N8NEK's back wants to go south, while he's up north: Ouch! Peter Van's arthritis is keeping him close to home lately. Tom N8DGD and Louie N8ZVB are helping Pete out. "God bless you guys".

For some reason, this time of the year has certainly struck several of our members who have arthritis. John NF8P, Richie WB8ILX, Lee WC8O, Bert K5MRO, Terry WB8ZNO, just to mention a few, have really be laid up lately, with the "Minor aches and pains of arthritis". Wouldn't you like to meet the guy who first said those words! hi

Chuck N8LDY has been down to the E-Room several times, both for himself and his son. But is doing fine now and will be moving into his new QTH shortly.

Harold Allen is busy still trying to contact folks he knows out in California on 20 meters. Seems he has some old friends over where he took basic training for the Marines ( the Marines, you know, those are the folks who couldn't pass the Navy entrance exam!).

Dan N8NUJ has been spending Quality time with his dog by camping and visiting storm damaged areas ( this is what he told me!). Terry WB8ZNO recently received help with his computer. I'm told it may be working shortly! hi hi.



"What do I think of FIELD-DAY?" Well, it was really my first one ( only once before have I ever visited while one was in progress and that was in Grand Haven a number of years ago) and I found that the spirit of togetherness was something that is not seen very often, people of different lifestyles working together and even having fun at it: "Without this class difference that I have been seeing so much of as of late! It made me feel real good inside to say the least.

A lot of work goes into setting up one of these things, but of course it seems like a lot more in the taking down. But everyone seemed to know what to do without being told and when someone needed help they were ready to drop what they were doing and help. Too bad that can't be the case in everyday living!

Well, to close, I saw the same thing up at Lookout Hill, and I even joined in a little and took in some of that fun. I had brought up my generator for them to use and felt that it was doing my part, but there is more to it than that. As I found out, I'm glad that I went up just to observe because I think I found out something that I was missing, and only you can find it for your self's, so I won't go into that right now, but.....

Say, I attended one of the local biggie swaps and I tell you, what with my bad back, I had all I could do just to walk to the swap area. I saw other folks, who were worse off than me. "Why can't somebody at these shindigs provide handicap parking areas?" Am I the only one who sees this need? How about letting our Swap folks know that there are a lot of other folks out there, who would love to come, but not if they have to push a wheelchair 1000 feet! Come on, let's help each other out. That's it for this month.

## TERRIBLE TERRY WB8ZNO



## SATELLITES

"What does Larry Ambruz KB8MZR, his son Rich and BoB Daniels WD8KWT have in common?" Why, working through Satellites. Larry and his son have been spending lots of time trying to contact each other as the "Birds" pass by over head. Bob, who got bitten by the ham radio bug at our Field-Day event, listened to the contacts that were being made and decided to give it a try. While Larry and his son both have all mode vhf/uhf rigs, Bob is using 10 and 15 meters to make his short, short contacts. So far, his biggest thrill was working KF8OR through RS-12. He is located also in GR, but the radio path they used traveled some 27000 miles!

If you are interested in giving the "Birds" a try, you can find the necessary to find when they come overhead in the ARRL's Radio Amateur Handbook. If you want something more workable, give the STSPLUS program a try. It is "like" the display/tracking program NASA uses in tracking their spacecraft. Contact either Lee, Bill or for "what's it like in!" give Larry and Bob a call. They'll talk your ears off!

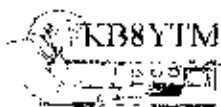
## NET SCHEDULE

Bob Wild N8JXB

DATE	NET-CONTROL	CALL
9/21/95	Wayne	KB8VO
9/28/95	Mike	KG8QQ
10/5/95	Richie	WB8HJX
10/12/95	club meeting	
10/19/95	Louie	N8ZVE
10/26/95	Bob	N8JXB
11/2/95	Larry	KB8M2
11/9/95	club meeting	
11/16/95	Wayne	KB8VC
11/23/95	Mike	KG8QC
11/30/95	Richie	WB8HJ
12/7/95	Louie	N8ZV
12/14/95	club meeting	
12/21/95	Bob	N8JXB
12/28/95	Mike	KG8Q

Please note, if you should have a problem with being Net Control for any of these dates, the earlier you can let me know the better. My phone number is 363-9631, feel free to call me.

MARA appreciates your service to your club. 73  
Bob Wild N8JXB  
MARA NET Director



## Across the Bands

One of our best read Ham publications needs your help. The Amateur Radio Beacon, The Bimonthly Digest of Hams for CHRIST may have published their last newsletter unless they find one brave person who is willing to take on the position of Art Director. If any of you has desk-top publishing equipment, especially compatible with Macintosh computers, and are will to assume this responsibility, please come forward and let Milt Poulos KA9FON know. Please contact him at:

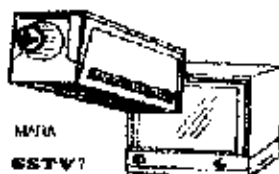
Milton Poulos KA9FON  
P.O.Box 452  
Sparta MI 49345

Let's help keep Ham's For CHRIST flowing in the mail.

## Vanity Call-Sign?

The Vanity Call-Sign program is still not in operation. The ever elusive form 610-V has not been printed. Yet! Hopefully, the program will be started within the next 2 months. "Have you given further thought to what call-sign will grace our club's activities?" The time is drawing near for us to decide upon all of the call-signs that are acceptable for our club. Bring your ideas to the next club meeting, August 10th at 7:00 PM.

Taking about call-signs, if you have upgraded, or just passed your first license, and can't wait to find out what your call-sign is, give the ARRL a call at 1-(800)-326-3942 between 8 AM and 4 PM Eastern time to find out what the status is of your license. Please wait at least 7 days after you have taken your exam before you call.



While I was busily typing away, entering our Field-Day scores into the computer, Bill N8OAR had an idea for the club to get into. "Us folks produce our own video's on Ham Radio and our club." When Bill made this suggestion, cable channel 23 was airing "Steel Rails", a video produced by a local railroad hobby club. Twice a week, Grand Rapids TV 23 airs their videos. The neat thing is, they don't charge for airing the programs and they even check out interested and responsible parties on the use of video equipment. The only catch is, it is on a first come first serve basis. But, just think, we could produce videos of our Field-Day, what's it like to actually operate a station, and just about any other amateur related event. Now it's up to you. What do you think? "Are you interested in helping your club get into lights?" Speak up either at the club meeting, or on the net.



## MARA BBS

Richie WB8UJX is still working on a BBS pamphlet. This pamphlet is being designed for the experienced operator, or the person with two left toes. Keep listening to the Thursday night Net for the exact date when it comes out. Till that time, here's a short list of the new and up to date files I have uploaded to the system. (Remember, to DOWN LOAD a file, use D filename.extension: example; D part97.txt) To view the file section contents, just enter the W command.

We now have DXCCRULE.TXT & DXCCLIST.TXT. If you want the latest listing of DX countries and the rules, these are the files. Everybody's favorite, PART97.TXT. The most current and complete FCC part 97 rules regulations, dated as of July 1991. NETDIR95.TXT is the latest version of the ARRL's complete Net Directory. SOURCE.TXT contains a listings of help for physically challenged individuals. The one file everybody needs to have, USERMAN.DOC. The complete list of ALL commands for the system. Enjoy these files. They were put there for YOUR use! 73

# APRS

Amateur Radio is a hobby composed of operators, volunteers, pure, fun-in-the-sun users ( Yeah! ), technical pursuits and to a smaller degree today, experimenters. Several years back, Robert Bruninga, WB4APR, wrote a software program he entitled, APRS. The

## Automatic Packet

Reporting System. Bob, who still is the ARRL Maryland-DC Section Technical Coordinator, created a map based packet program. Basically, this program allows users to visually "see" where the other packet station is. If a user couples a GPS location device to it, as he moves about, whether it be in his car, boat, plane or simply mowing the lawn, it will be displayed on the screen. It can also track storms, report weather conditions and be an enormous help to both Sky-Warn stations and intruder searching groups. This program is so sophisticated, it can show the elevation of either a plane or a person's QTH. Now that is one neat trick to do with a old dog like good old AX .25. But, for this system to be practical, ALL STATIONS MUST BE ON THE SAME FREQUENCY.

Already, this system is in place in Detroit, Chicago and is going up on the west side of the state. The interesting thing about this growth, is that so far, there isn't any club involved in it's use ( at least in MI.). When this system first came on line, it started on 145.790 MHz. in the Maryland-DC area. Others have simply followed suit and placed their systems on 145.790 MHz. This frequency is in the ARRL's Band plan as experimental and miscellaneous

use. As I typed this article, 3 more stations have shown up, as they say when using APRS, in the Grand Rapids area. This seems to be a very fast growing phenomenon, almost like when repeaters first showed up in the West MI. area.

## SIMPLEX 145.780

If you belong to MARA, you know that the club has been using 145.780 MHz for it's simplex use. If there is one thing that is certain, FM voice and Packet-Racket are not compatible, even if we are 10 KHz apart. So far, our members have graciously moved their 2 meter traffic to 145.770 MHz. This is a testimonial to our members willingness to adapt and work with the other amateur's in this area; we didn't hold an executive meeting, or call a special meeting to decide this; we simply agreed.

Our club's president Richie WB8IJK called the ARRL and talked with Jay Mabey N1LOX and Steve "The Doctor is in..." Ford, WB8MY in the hopes of discovering if there was any attempt at coordinating this New system. Unfortunately, no one has done anything at the national level, yet. There are many problems in attempting to coordinate one single frequency for a specific use. Look at how 146.520 MHz has turned out. Some parts of the country, it is used as a simplex chat freq, while in other parts, it is still the national calling freq. Another problem lies with the fact that the ARRL VHF Band plan, is a closed planed system, while the FCC's Emission categories are open-ended ( This simply means, we can experiment

with modes and systems that are not even being dreamed about at this time, and the FCC's emission category will already cover it, while the Band plan doesn't provide for it's use).

After a nice informal chat Steve and Richie discussed the impact this system could have on the amateur community and both are excited by the prospects it has in serving the communities.

## RESULTS

The end result of this is, that West Michigan now has a fully operational Automatic Packet Reporting System, which also is linked to 30 meters for across lake connects and the MARA members have shifted their VHF simplex frequency down 10 KHz. "Wouldn't life be grand, if all our problems could be dealt with that easily".

Perhaps what has just occurred in the West Michigan area can serve as a model of cooperation between amateurs' who have different views and needs. After all, we have to live together.

## WITH CLASS...

Once again, you know fall is too far away. Lee WC8O and KG8IC are once again going to teaching a Novice and Technician class at the American Red Cross Building. If you know anyone who is interested in becoming a Ham, September 18, 1995, from 7:00 PM -9:30 PM, is the date to remember. The class will last 12 weeks. "Will there be Morse Code practice once again?"

# FIELD DAY 1995

**Operators:** N8DGD Tom Hansen, Louie White N8ZVB, Chuck Lemarbre N8LDY, Lee Burgess WC80, Bill Wisneski N8OAR, Dan Markowski N8NE, Bob Daniels WD8k WT, Bud Owens KC8BK, Mike Francerman K8GQQ, Tony S. K8ROYI, Tim Wilkins K8SOYI, John Visser N8FI, Richie Ranta WB8HJX, etc. (see namesheet for complete list, please accept my apology, it wasn't in the master sign-in sheet)

**BAND TOTALS:** 2 METERS = 101 contacts, adjusted for dupes. 150 METERS = 1, but we lost the log! 80 METERS = 32, 10 METERS = 35, 20 METERS = 101, 40 METERS = 76, 10 METERS = "What Paddy shot at! 2 METERS-PACKET = 1.

The above figures are not adjusted, nor are dupes accounted for. This is what the operators logged.

**THE VISITORS:** Leonard W8SPX stopped by to chat. He's been in and out of the hospital for By-pass surgery and eye treatments. Eyle Griffin K88FHM stopped in, but couldn't operate due to a tennis engagement! There were many other visitors during the event, however, the sign-in sheet wasn't always where the people were at. Next year, several sign-in sheets!

**THE GEAR:** For directions to the site, Louie White N8ZVB brought his Icom 2meter rig, and Chuck Lemarbre N8LDY had his multi-band Icom to monitor while moving between stations. Steve Burns N8KVN brought his Icom 2 meter all mode rig for our VHF station. Bill Wisneski N8OAR had his 2 meter packet station, and once again, his entire Ten-Tech Argosy station. It was used between 20 & 40 meters. Dan Markowski N8NE brought his Kenwood TS-440, which we used side by side with Bill's on 20 & 40. Lee Burgess WC80 brought his Kenwood TS-570, which he provided a prepared demonstration on what a multi-band rig can do when I turn up! Bob French W8RSKWT saved the day when he brought a Drake TR-7 (my old rig) and a brand new shiny Kenwood TS-850, loaded! The generators were: Bill's N8OAR's Honda, and Terry's WB8ZNO Big Briggs (new Cat's that we call a generator). Food supplies, Richie's Lauren 25 amp, Steve's N8KVN's Big Avion 50 amp.

**ANTENNAS:** Stevie's 30-110 vertical. A 1.35 foot dipole, fed with 450 ladder line. A 40 meter dipole and for 2 meters all mode, a log, using the Hansen-White rotor system!!!

**NEXT YEAR:** We absolutely, positively need a volunteer to handle gear security. More untiring 3rd shift operators, a chef! In a word, we badly need to divide the responsibility on all aspects of holding our field-day. When members loan equipment out for an event like this, they certainly deserve to know that everything will be looked after and cared for and operated in a safe manner. This isn't a hope, just something that badly needs to be addressed during the next 10 months before Field-Day '96.

Be sure to look up our placement within our category, 3A, in the November QST. See you folks next June.

**Last Minute:** ... On Thursday, July 26th, our very own Tom Hansen, N8DGD, was appointed Assistant Emergency Coordinator as the Net Control Cadre leader. Let's all do what we can to help him in his new position.

## The Open-Feed-Line

Editor: WB8HJX Richie Ranta. Contributing Editors: WB8ZNO Terry Francis, N8LDY Chuck Lemarbre, N8KVN Bob Wild, N8FP John Visser, N8OAR Bill Wisneski. Design Artist: N8NE Dan Markowski. The MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE holds their monthly meeting at the 34th St NCO club, at 7 PM on the 2nd Thursday of the month. All are welcome. Please send all articles c/o MARGA PORTER 6701 Comstock Park Rd. 49721. '93 till next month!

# MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

Membership Roster as of July 24, 1995

CALL	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
KB8MNI	Harold Allen	56 Washington Street Sparta MI	887-8131
KB8MZR	Larry Ambroz	2288 Olde Farm Dr Jenison MI	669-9211
N8XHH	Jim Bentz	641 Coit Street Gr Rpds MI	380-8969
K5MRO	Bert Bouma	1610 Stilesgate SE Gr Rpds MI	245-8511
WC8O	Lee Burgess	46 Indiana Street SW Gr RpdsMI	458-9297
N8KVX	Steve Burns	1485-A3 Preston Ridge Gr Rpds MI	791-2294
WD8KWT	Bob Daniels	3924 Flamingo Wyoming MI	532-8392
KG8PI	Bill Dells	3531 Briggs Blv NE Gr Rpds MI	361-2498
KB8WJW	Sue Dells	3531 Briggs Blv NE Gr Rpds MI	361-2498
KB8VOZ	Wayne Dowling	2442 West Collier Ave Kentwood MI	
WB8ZNO	Terry Francis	9731 Stanton Zeeland MI	895-7075
W8KQM	Glen Gibbons	1035 Kentwood Street NE Gr Rpds MI	363-9515
N8NEK	Len Gongalski	214 Richards Street Gr Rpds MI	235-9735
KB8EHM	Lyle Griffin	3846 Hazelwood SW Wyoming MI	
W7PG	Andy Gusack	1852 Ranch Dr NW Gr Rpds MI	791-0451
N8XHA	Bob Hammond	0-461 Port Shelton Grndvile MI	457-3554
AA8PW	Lloyd Hansen	P O Box 678 Nashville MI	
N8DGD	Tom Hansen	1302 Walker NW Gr Rpds MI	
KB8UKD	Skip Kondraaki	3321 West River Dr NW Gr Rpds MI	
N8LDY	Chuck Lemarbre	2640 North Vale DR Apt 101 Gr Rpds MI	365-8015
N8NFZ	Serge Lisk	307 Auror SE Gr Rpds MI	241-2488
W8NZW	Ed Lomasiewicz	271 Lenora NW Gr Rpds MI	453-0451
N8NIJ	Dan Markowski	343 Brandywyne NW Comstock Prk.MI	784-5973
KG8BK	Bud Owen	7685 Chickadee SW Jenison MI	
N8OAT	Denny Purtee	362 Gardener Sparta MI	
WB8HJX	Richard Ranta	812 Graceland NE Gr Rpds MI	361-5975
KG8QQ	Mike Timmerman	334 Holister SE apt 1 Gr Rpds MI	
KA8ZAZ	Pete Vanduiwendyk	2840 Knapp NE Gr Rpds MI	361-0853
NF8P	John Visser	4897 Gretchen NW Comstock Prk MI	785-0523
N8ZVB	Louie White	1713 Vinecroft NW Gr Rpds MI	784-1189
N8JXB	Bob Wild	1354 Eastern Place NE Gr Rpds MI	363-9631
N8OAR	Bill Wisneski	1845 Herrick Ave NE Gr Rpds MI	361-6349
N8LUF	Perry Zimonick	823 Veto NW Gr Rpds MI	456-8660

President	Richard Ranta	361-5975
Vice-President	Lee Burgess	458-9297
Secretary		
Treasurer	Dan Markowski	784-5973
Awards Manager	John Visser	785-0523
Net Director	Bob Wild	363-9631
Club Trusty	Bill Wisneski	361-6349