



The Open Feed Line

Volume 4, Number 3



Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby



FALL 95

"The leaves are covered with snow, the HALLOWEEN pumpkins are gone, and the sound of trick and treaters have been replaced with a harsh feeling cold Northern wind"; November must be here! For us Ham's, fall is that special time of year, when we decide to study for that elusive upgrade, work that rare of rarest DX, and for a very small number of folks, accept nominations for offices in their Amateur Radio clubs. That's right, come this November 9th, MARA will open up the nominations for the December general elections. Serving on a club's board is a wonderful way of seeing how the other side of your club operates. Looking out for your fellow ham's interest, isn't an easy task to do, but, hey, your a Ham. You already know how to best put your skills to good use, right? So, ponder what your willing to contribute to the club your invested in. Fall is a wonderful time to begin renewal.

CW and technology

by Jim O'Keefe, WE6V

The CW mode has little intrinsic to it that mandates its preservation.

Sure, we all know about its frugality of bandwidth, its ability to get through in bad conditions, and the way it allows hams who do not share a common language to communicate. But CW is old. And in this society, being old is the kiss of death.

When I learned Morse as a boy, it was a mark of distinction. Years later, when I became a ham, I found that I still remembered it. But by this time I had a hearing problem. I soon discovered that CW is easier to understand than speech—a reason for preference unique to the aged.

Some demean CW precisely because they associate it with the old operators. To the scoffers, loyalty to CW seems akin to stubborn espousal of outdated views. C.S. Elliot termed this denigration of things old "chronological snobbery."

Others say CW ought to be done away with simply because technology has superseded it. The guiding principles here seem to be that more complex is better, and that eliminating the human element is the aim of technical perfection.

Today's radios have advanced beyond our ability to repair (indeed, for some of us, even to see clearly). One result is that homebrewing has largely become the province of underdeveloped countries.

But when it pares away human participation, a technological marvel often produces sheer boredom. For me, CW offers beauty, rhythm, and economy of expression; it is language stripped to its essentials.

Wordiness is left to keyboard ops and those courtly hams whose courtesies occupy the greater part of

their QSOs. But that's okay; I'd far rather listen to them than to the cops in an SSB DX pileup. (On CW, even the obscurities acquire abbreviations.)

An image excites me still. An operator shrouded in a blanket hunches over his key at local midnight, straining to hear a faint signal from some far corner of the world, where the stars look different.

I'll not disparage other modes. I only want to suggest that those who must judge, judge CW by standards other than efficiency or modernity. Those who operate CW do so because they enjoy it. In a hobby, isn't that reason enough?

And many of them aren't old. I believe the people attracted to CW today are the same sort that found it fascinating 75 years ago. But a person must be exposed to a bug to get bitten. That's why live demonstrations at county fairs, Boy Scout jamborees, science museums and schools are so important. Does your club do that?

from the March '95 NW Ohio Chapter "QCWA Newsletter"—Ken Wright, W8NOT, Editor. reprinted from ARNS Sept. '95 page 10.

What the "95" in Windows 95 really stands for

based on a posting by Leon Murr

1. Its completeness percentage when it ships.
2. Number of floppies it ships on.
3. Megabytes of HD space it occupies.
4. Megabytes of RAM it requires.

5. CPU MHz required to run it.
6. Percentage of users who must upgrade their hardware to run it.
7. Pages in its "Easy-Install" manual.
8. Number of minutes to install.
9. Number of tech-support calls needed.
10. Number of people who actually pay for the upgrade.

from Leon's 9/94 Internet posting.
 Leon's e-mail
 address: marr@minerva.cis.yale.edu.
 reprinted from ARNS September 1995,
 page 10.

CLUB NEWS

Our club members certainly have been busy catching up with late antenna projects. Bill N8OAR finally installed his "Eagles Nest" atop his tower. Chuck Lemarbre couldn't stand seeing his HF rig "just sitting" there, so he too put up a HF antenna and now you can find him on 80 & 40, while Bill is knocking himself out trying to work DXCC. Eddy W8ZNW and Andy W7PG also got into the act, by helping Jim Norton, KA8SHZ put up a HF vertical. Serge Lisk, N8NFZ surprised everyone by suggesting we all put our computers away for awhile, and get on HF again. We haven't seen such HF activity since Field-Day operation.

Len N8NEK has wondered why nobody is using 10 meters locally. I'm happy to report, that each week, usually after the Thursday night net, you can find Chuck N8LDY, Bob N8JXB, Mike KG8QQ and even Bud, KG8BK on 28.350 MHz. So, to the rest of you folks who wondered where the club is hanging out, give a listen (usually around 8:45PM). What a wonderful way to start the fall season of Ham radio. Good going guys, hear you on the air.

The MARA BBS packet system also has been upgraded. The 2 meter antenna is now perched on Bill's tower and the range has increased three fold. We're now attempting to forward to a packet system in White Cloud. Not too bad for a system that just came on line last year. Talking about the BBS, a lot of members are

chatting amongst themselves on the board. It's wonderful to see a club project being utilized by so many club members. The other club system, the MARA N8OAR repeater has a new Hustler G6-144 vertical as it's main antenna. The original antenna's feed line system was cracked and was responsible for all the "snow static" that was present. But that's all gone now. Chuck N8LDY, offered the club his 2 meter vertical at a steal. We all owe a heart felt thanks to Bill N8OAR, the ground crew for the repeater, Tom N8DGD, Bob WD8KWT, Chuck N8LDY and all the others present during the several attempts at correcting the problem.

"From all of us repeater users, we Thank You for your fine efforts".

On September 7th, the MARA executive board met to bring the by-laws up to date with the rest of the club. They addressed the family membership plan and also created a club trusty to take care of the club's FCC license. We also had to address a ever shrinking treasury. (see N8VWI's article) Dues did go up, but only to cover the existing responsibilities the club has taken on. The club will make available a copy of the adjusted by-laws at both the November and December club meeting.

A lot of club equipment has been replaced since our last club meeting. Dan N8NIJ and Richie W8SHJX donated, permanently, a 14.4 modem for the BBS. Bill N8OAR, went ahead and bought a new VHF radio for the 2 meter side of the BBS. We will have to repay Bill, but the system got a deal on a new rig, and Bill gets his own 2 meter radio back. Good deal for all concerned. We're not finished though, we still need coax for the 2 meter side and perhaps, a little later on, coax for either a 2 meter beam or a UHF beam for backboning the traffic. The MARA BBS packet system is going places.

How about finding out where your already at? Bill N8VWI has graciously offered to use his Global

Positioning Satellite unit, to find out exactly where your location is, in degrees of latitude and longitude. If your willing to make a donation to the club, He'll visit your home and check out your location. Neat huh. Give Bill a call to work out all the details.

73 Richie W8SHJX

The Presidents 2 Bits

by Richie W8SHJX

It's time for me to speak up. I've been your president for the last 2 years, and man oh man, the things I've seen. I've seen folks who wouldn't even talk with each other, put their differences aside, and by golly, work together on a task that will ultimately, benefit the entire state of Michigan. I've seen "the other club" in town, bend over backwards to help us out in absolutely any way they can! In fact, I've never ran across any club that wasn't willing to freely offer help whenever we needed it. (Boy, did we ever need it! hi)

I guess I can sum up my last 2 years as your club president as truthfully saying they have been the most joyful time I've ever had in ham radio! (yes, it surpasses passing the extra). "What did I get out of it?" Well, WE (I can't say I, cause so many folks have benefited from all that has gone on in this club the last 2 years) have learned more about computers than any person has a right to know. We have also learned how to set up a packet system, from the ground up. What it takes to put on Field-Day, maintain a repeater, put out a quality Newsletter and of course, just being hams. That's the fun part. There is also a work part to being the president and it can take up loads of time, if you let it.

The easiest part of being prez was discovering that YOU, the club members, did want to participate locally, and nationally in ham radio. Everything that has gotten done in this club came about due to the willingness of individuals who wanted to make it happen, and then simply did it. It's that simple.

Presidents 2 Bits cont.

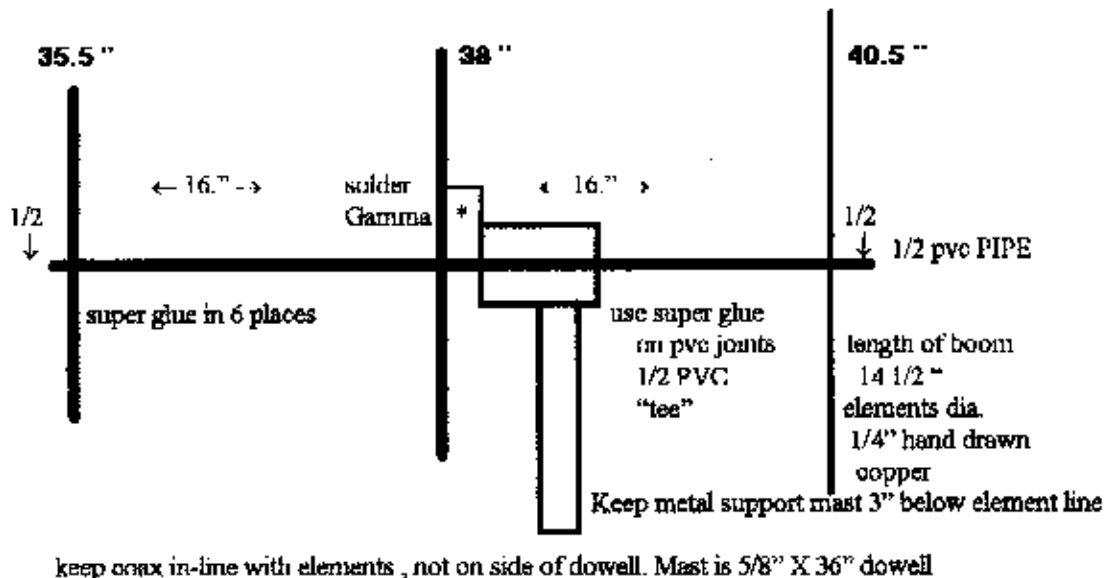
That's why I can't really take credit for all that this club has done these last 2 years. If I was at the helm, there were 20 other folks holding the ship together, powering the props and just keeping things going. For example, do any of you folks know

what K5MRO, Bert Bourma does for the club? How about Larry Ambruz KB8MZR? The list of who does what in this club, would fill over 50 pages, in small print! The point being that WE are the club, no matter what position we hold and we should, as

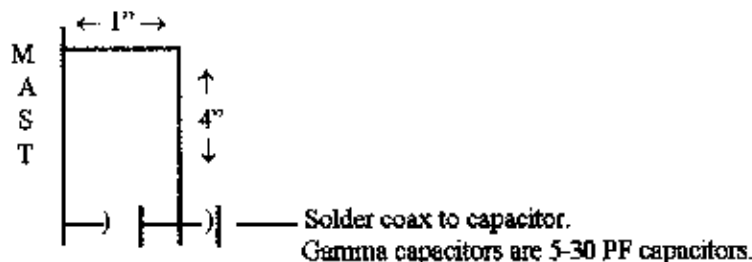
we have in the past 2 years, continue to work together. Within a short period of time, MARA will have a new president. I hope, we all our help, he will have the time of his life. Just like I did.
73 & I THANK YOU FOR A VERY SWELL TIME. Richie WB8FLX

Direction Finding Antenna

Terrible Terry, *WB8ZNO*, has been flooded with requests for the following D.F. antenna design. It originally appeared in The Independent Repeater Association's Purple Crystal (July 4,1982). So, he gave Abe *WB8HVG* a call, and got permission to reprint the design in the Open Feed Line. Thank You Abe *WB8HVG*.



GAMMA DETAIL



*This is a simple Direction Finding 2 meter antenna. If you have any questions regarding assembly, you can FAX Terry at (616) 892-5351 or give him a call at his voice number. He's made this antenna and it works great! Thanks again Terry *WB8ZNO* for taking the time to get permission from Abe *WB8HVG* to print this. Trx Abe. 73. Richie *WB8HJX**

Ham Word Search Puzzle

The Ham Words are hidden in this grid. They may run: horizontally from left to right and vertically from top to bottom: horizontally from right to left and vertically from bottom to top and also, diagonally in all directions. I am trying this program out, so let me how you like it. The Ham CrossWord puzzle will be back next issue. 73 Enjoy
Richie WB8HJX

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JUEMVZHLKCEAEOXVXFAYVSQ
ARARGFPMJUMBCMBFPRMAEBW
KYBG BXAE ZDQV CXOWRRD DJDE
AQDX KZCV XP YB AX KL IEA DPEX
LCIR WKO F HV BH HN KI Z XWLUF R
MMOF AS FAOD AUIY ACG ACEGFH
AMDB NKUC EU NGFD INR AQ I IKS
GLEU OQELJ THE AX JIF KYFSXB
PMDA ZS LENT VO IDAR MAHLLAF
LKFN AWS BKT YU XGAME COCFAN
HNSM KSF IST HAMMARL UNDHLY
MEMB BYTSZT XGIFCBI GMVIKA
LGAV LZENOE GFLWF ENVNIG
QGLTYQCOOM RGLTHK NECTUW
VLJTHCDYV COHGE YW EF XAYO
QOWRUKYIAJ IIZND JM RV JRWR
FBZ TXGIGT LCTNI AD APRVZE
BEUEDBGTPW HYEZ RCV LOZKYM
CPZDECNAVD AIVA XRI IVMRVL
HNPCNXS SALCART XEL APGEJE
AKOAWMQTXY CRAL QQC FNICGE
NQSZR FMC GD TUWE DFE XJRJTS
    
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****Ham Words****

FALL HAM RADIO	CW	MARA	AM	GRARA
FM	LARC	SSB	HEATH KIT	GENERAL
KNIGHT KIT	TECHNICIAN	AMECO	NOVICE	GLOBE
ADVANCED	HAMMARLUND	EXTRA CLASS	DRAKE	ARRL
SWAN	QCWA	DIODE	SSTV	YAGI
BEAM	FIELD DAY	ELMER	VHF	FOX HUNT

GUNG-HO? Bob Wild, N8JXB's phone has been ringing off the hook lately. Our Net Director isn't getting calls about the net, rather, his CW transmitter rings his phone every time he sends. His wife thinks its wonderful her husband is so popular. A AC line filter did the trick, but Bob doesn't have the heart to explain this to his wife. Lets all give Bob a call and volunteer to take the Net. It will make his wife awfully happy.



Jamboree 1995

On October 21th and 22th, the World Organization of the Scout Movement held their 38th Jamboree On The Air. This event, which is held world wide, provides an opportunity for scouts to contact other troops and packs, and share information, while getting acquainted with Ham radio. Locally, troop 135 and pack 3307 participated at GRARA's radio shack, while Lee WC8O operated the station. "You should have seen their faces when 6Y5MV, Jamaica, made contact and asked to trade patches with them." Lee was glad he had volunteered to open up the station for the kids, and was reminded of another time, long ago, when he had his first experience with on-the-air contacts via Ham radio. "These scouts are going for their Radio Merit badges, and will not only learn the CW, but will now get a Ham ticket!". To help insure that they will, he passed out copies of ARRL's "Now Your Talking!" manuals to the adults and also gave them his phone number for further information on when classes will be held. One of the most lasting moments of the whole weekend was when a mid-western station said he was going to send QSL cards to each person in the troop! Talk about Ham good will. This event was so successful locally, the troops and packs are going to be asked to participate in next summer's Field Day 96. "Lets all show up and show them what Ham's are really like!"

County Hunting

Greetings MARA members. Richie WBSHJX waited little time in putting new members to work. This is a quick outline about County Hunting. I didn't have time for more on such short notice. The United States of America County Award (USA-CA) is sponsored by CQ magazine. It is issued at 500 county increments toward a final goal of 3076 counties and a plaque. The basic certificate for 500 counties is very colorful, larger than most certificates.

You can collect counties from random QSO's and contests. You can also monitor the County Hunter's Mobile Net on 14.336 MHz which meets 365 days a year. Most mobiles can QSY to 40 meters if the skip is too long on 20 meters. We have our own QSL bureau to help cut the costs of QSL-ing. Several conventions are held each year to eyeball all the mobiles that help out with those real rare counties. Working 3076 counties is far from impossible. Approximately 875 USA & DX hams have done it. More information later if anybody is interested in County Hunting.

73 Mike Eiler K8OOK

M.A.R.A. 1996 Coffee Stop Project

"Hi!" My name is Bill Zaidel N8VWL. My wife, Connie N8WKQ (his boss!)

and I joined the club at the August meeting. At the meeting, President Richard asked if I would look into the possibility of getting rest stop for a MARA coffee stop, and later he appointed me project chairman. As you read this, the paperwork has already been sent to the Michigan State Police, to get us on the list, to receive permit applications in January. The rest area we are going after is number 520 Cutterville, on Northbound 131, just North of 68th street.

Now for the big question, "Can I make it happen?" **THE ANSWER IS NO!**, but **WE** can. As a club, as a team, we can make it happen and make some money for the club. These coffee stops have a potential of bringing in several hundred to several thousand dollars to the clubs treasury. But the most important reason for having a coffee stop is to promote highway safety, save lives and inform the general public about amateur radio.

At this time we do have available a support vehicle, a 100 cup coffee pot and a 5 gallon cold drink cooler. What we will need is about 3 or 4 30 cup percolators, so if you have one in the attic or closet, please don't get rid of it, your club will need to borrow it. Also, if you have friends in the food service industry, talk up this project. We will be looking for donations of cookies, lemonade, coffee, paper cups. (continued)

Remember, donated supplies don't have to be paid for out of profits. And most importantly, we will need people to work at the coffee stop, in groups of 2 or 3 for 4 hour shifts. Please keep this public service project in mind, when you start making plans for the 1996 holiday weekends. Memorial Day will again be a 3 day weekend, but because of leap year, the Fourth of July will be on a Thursday, so that will be a 4 day weekend. We will need a lot of help.

We have already received some very generous offers. Our friends at the Lowell Amateur Radio Club will be getting the coffee and hot cups for us. Also, the GRARA coffee stop chairman has offered his assistance. Thank you to both groups.

There will be more information coming, as we get into 1996. If you have any questions or suggestions, call me at home, mornings, or catch me on the repeater mornings or late nights, as I work 2nd shift.

Thanks and 73
Bill N8VWI

TERRIBLE TERRY'S CORNER!

I don't know about the rest of you, but I didn't get anywhere near all the things done I had wanted to do this past summer. I had a couple of antenna projects planned, but with the event of all the hot weather, all I did was come home and take a shower and lay around with very little clothes on. I kept saying maybe next week, and then I would say again, maybe next week. Well, they are all past and the end of all the weeks are here and gone and I still do not want to do anything. I guess I have grown used to not doing anything.

From what I have read in all the other newsletters, the same thing has happened all over the area, because all the newsletters say the same thing. It kind of went this way; the only thing done this year was done by only a few and the rest were just too lazy or something like that. HA! I really don't know what the weather had to do with it, but it was the only excuse I had, other than I work 6 days a week and live out in no man's land and just don't have enough time to get the things done around the house as it is. For those of us that feel guilty

enough to only be able to only put in dues because we think that will justify a little for the use of the repeater I will give credit. I know how I feel when I read those newsletters, I feel like not even getting on the repeater and not even joining in at all. I wish that some times they would rewrite the articles to the fact that we understand that some and even the greater majority can not join in on every event or even on any because of the time that is taken up by everyday living. I have talked to a few that said that they do not plan on joining any clubs because of this fact. I really hate to see that happen because of the need of the members to keep the repeaters on line, so be like me, feel guilty. But ignore it to the best of your ability and keep on supporting the repeater. "We need you!"

I didn't even buy anymore Ham gear this year, so in that area, I didn't give support, so I do really feel a little guilty. HA! Don't have any money anyway, so you can guess just how guilty I feel.

I have talked to Ron AA8MW and he is now on packet and having a ball, but like the rest of us, is finding it all a little deep, but knowing Ron, he will overcome any problems that arise.

The latest article that Tom Radmacher had in the GR press on September 17th got me again. A few years ago, he really raked me over the coals for the wrong directions I gave him. Later, he came into my work place and asked me if I was mad and I told him heck no. I really like a good joke. I had better take it, because I really give it out. So when you see what he writes, please don't believe him when he writes about me. Hi. Also, Bob, K8XL's mother was good enough to bring me down the article that Tom wrote about me. I really think that was special. Well, anyway, she really is a special person. (She is the wife of silent key Bob Czarhosky K8EXG)

I have not been able to use my cw interface that Doug WB8ZSI put together for me, because of the down side of 10 meters, but my time will come. I am really looking forward to it coming back on line. A lot of the guys are using it for around town use and every once in a while, a opening comes along and they get to do a little Dxing.

Wayne K8RVOZ is in the thinking mode of maybe getting into 6 meters, so

if any of you people that are gun ho in that freq. would like to get a hold of him and give him a few pointers, I bet he would be very glad to accept.

Now, the subject of Richie Ranta WB8HUX and his midnight net. I guess there are a lot of other crazy people like him who sleep days and like to have a net at night. So those of you who do not know about it, I bet they would like to have a few more join them. That's the point, don't let Richie scare you away. Down deep, he's really a nice guy. I will have to say 10 hail Mary's for that one!

Len N8NEk who turned 70 last week is still out there pitching. he has been helping his friend work on his trailer to get it ready for the winter. I miss our coffee clutch in the morning, but I know he is doing a great favor for his friend Dalbert, and I think it is great. Len is one of those special people that would give his shirt off his back if you needed it. enough of this junk, he will get big headed if I go on.

Sometime next year, we want to sell out and move up north, mainly because there are more horse riding areas up there and my wife is a horse nut. For a gal her age, I think it is great. We do run into some older people than us still riding. In fact, a couple were in camp last week that were in their 70's, so there is still hope for us old guys. Don't give into it. this thing called old age.

Uncle Len Schaafsma was good enough to bring me down a picture that he took of me up on the hill on field day. I would like to see more of those taken, so we could make up a collection for the future. Just think some day they will look back at us and say "Wow, how did they do it with that old junk?" I guess I should stop at this point and say to you all "Have a good time!"

Terry Francis WB8ZNO

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Terry Francis WB8ZNO

MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

Membership Roster as of October 23,1995

CALL	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
KB8MNI	HAROLD ALLEN	56 Washington Street Sparta MI, 49345	887-8131
KB8MZR	LARRY AMBRUZ	2288 Olde Farm Dr Jenison MI49428	669-9211
N8YZM	DOUG APPLGATE	4792 Hunsberger NE Grand Rapids MI 49505	361-9856
N8XHH	JIM BENTZ	641 Coit St NE Grand Rapids MI 49503	380-8969
K5MRO	BERT BOUMA	1610 Stilesgate SE Grand Rapids MI.49508	245-8511
WC80	LEE BURGESS	46 Indiana SW Grand Rapids MI 49504	458-9297
N8KVX	STEVE BURNS	1485-A3 Preston Ridge Grand Rapids MI.49506	791-2294
WD8KWT	ROBERT DANIELS	3924 Flamingo Wyoming MI, 49509	532-8392
KG8PI	BILL DELLS	3531 Briggs Blv NE Grand Rapids MI, 49505	361-2498
KB8WJW	SUE DELLS	3531 Briggs BLv NE Grand Rapids MI.49505	361-2498
KB8VOZ	WAYNE DOWLING	2442 West Collier Ave Kentwood ML49546-6115	957-4641
K800K	MIKE EILERS	3565 4 Mile RD NE Grand Rapids ML49505-9714	
WB8ZNO	TERRY FRANCIS	9731 Stanton Zeeland MI.49464	895-7075
W8KQM	GLENN GIBBONS	1035 Kentwood DR NE Grand Rapids MI, 49505	363-9515
N8NEK	LEN GONGALSKI	214 Richards NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	235-9735
KB8EHM	LYLE GRIFFIN	3846 Hazelwood SW Wyoming MI.49509	538-1171
W7PG	ANDY GUSACK	1852 Ranch DR NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	791-0451
N8XHA	BOB HAMMOND	0-461 Port Shelton Grandville MI.49418	457-3554
AA8PW	LLOYD HANSEN	P O Box 678 Nashville MI.49073-0678	
N8DGD	TOM HANSEN	1302 Walker NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	454-0630
KB8UKD	SKIP KONDRAAKI	3321 West River DR NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	
N8LDY	CHUCK LEMARBRE	17295 Algoma Road Cedar Springs MI.49319	696-4399
N8NFZ	SERGE LISK	307 Auror SE Grand Rapids MI.49507	241-2488
W8NZW	EDMUND LOMASIEWICZ	271 Lenora NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	453-0451
N8NIJ	DAN MARKOWSKI	343 Brandywyne NW Comstock Park MI.49321	784-5973
KG8BK	BUD OWEN	7685 Chickadee SW Jenison MI.49428	
KB8QAT	TOM PIKAART	2187 Lee SW Wyoming MI.49509	
N8OAT	DENNY PURTEE	362 Gardener Sparta MI.49345	
WB8HJX	RICHARD RANTA	812 Graceland NE Grand Rapids MI.49505-4363	361-5975
WD8JMF	SCOTT ROWE	2206 Horton SE Grand Rapids MI.49507	
W8SPX	LEONARD SCHAAFSMA	2243 Lake MI DR NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	791-9190
K8RAN	COLUMBUS STEWART	P O Box 88273 Kentwood MI.49518	
KG8QQ	MIKE TIMMERMAN	334 Holister SE APT #1 Grand Rapids MI.49506	
K8ZAZ	PETER VANDUIVENDYK	2840 Knapp NE Grand Rapids MI.49505	361-0853
N8FP	JOHN VISSER	4897 Gretchen NW Comstock Park MI.49321	785-0523
N8ZVB	LOUIE WHITE	1713 Vinecroft NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	784-1189
N8JXB	BOB WILD	1354 Eastern PL NE Grand Rapids MI.49505	363-9631
N8OAR	BILL WISNESKI	1845 Herrick Ave NE Grand Rapids MI.49505-4866	361-6349
N8VWI	BILL ZAIDEL	1660 Elizabeth NW Grand Rapids MI.49504-2002	363-5536
N8WKQ	CONNIE ZAIDEL	1660 Elizabeth NW Grand Rapids MI.49504-2002	
N8LUF	PERRY ZIMONICK	823 Veto NW Grand Rapids MI.49504	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