

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 MI.49428	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
WC8O	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 MI.49546-6115	957-4641
K8OOK	MIKE EILERS	3565 4 Mile RD NE Grand Rapids MI.49505-9714	
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
KF8AN	COLUMBUS STEWART	P O Box 88273 Kentwood MI.49518	
KG8QQ	MIKE TIMMERMAN	334 Holister SE APT #1 Grand Rapids MI.49506	
KA8ZAZ	PETER VANDUIVENDYK	2840 Knapp NE Grand Rapids MI.49505	361-0853
NF8P	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

The Open-Feed-Line is published quarterly by the MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

GREAT LAKES AWARD

Are you a Paper Chaser?

Like many of you, I am a paper chaser. The attraction of landing that distant station or special event station keeps me up well into the night. My wife Kim has learned to sleep well at night without me by her side and has been a very good sport about my antennas and guy wires strung here, there and everywhere. I started out chasing WAS, then WAC. DXCC came in 1993 and now I spend my time chasing the many special event stations. As a MARA member, you have heard of the Great Lakes Award and the Gold Wings Award. Our club is proud of these awards because they are now world famous. We have granted these awards to 12 countries and 26 states. The funds raised by this award amounted to \$480.00 for club projects. The Great Lakes Award is a good place to start your paper chasing and it is also a great award for the seasoned amateur: you can go for the award via QRP to make it even more challenging. Now a word about the Gold Wings Award, which only a few good men at MARA, have earned: KA8SHZ Jim Norton, N8LDY Chuck Lemarbree, NF8P John Visser and N8NIJ Dan Markowski. "How do you get your Goldwings?"

Just contact me when you get proof of earning the WAS-DXCC-WAC awards. That's right! You must have all three awards to earn your set of wings. I have a pair waiting for you. Just let me know when you want them.

Amateur radio is a truly interesting hobby, some of us like just chewing the rag, others like CW or QRP or chasing Satellites across the star blazed sky. Paper chasing is just one part of this hobby and it is very rewarding. You make many new friends around the globe: it is also a test of your patience and pocket book! Paper chasing need not be expensive. There are QSL bureaus that are slow, but do take a big bite out of postal expenses. So where does one begin chasing? Well, you could start with the Great Lakes Award! I have earned this award in less than 24 hrs, so it can be done. Many of your fellow members already have this award hanging in their shacks and I have one waiting for you. Join the adventure and come with us as we navigate the great lakes via amateur radio.

73 Chuck Lemarbree N8LDY

Chuck is MARA's Great Lakes Award Manager. For further information on MARA's Award program, write MARA N8LDY GLA's P.O.Box 670 Comstock Park MI.49321-0670

PRESIDENTS 2 BITS

This is my first article as the president of MARA.

I would like to take a few minutes to outline my goals. First of all, I would like to see more participation at our monthly meetings. We have a new meeting site which should serve to better meet our needs. For those of you who may not know where the site is, it is the Saint Adalberts Aid Society Hall, located at the corner of 5th street and Davis NW. This location offers more privacy than the club has had in the past and there is plenty of room. Secondly, I plan on having a club activity at each meeting whether it be an amateur radio related video or some other item of interest to all. I do not intend to have the business portion of the meeting last more than 30 minutes unless there is some pressing business. We also have plans to have some fund raisers this year so that we can make necessary upgrades to our equipment and be able to make repairs in the event of breakdowns. We have plans to have a coffee stop this year on one of the major holidays. Obviously the most important asset to this club and its success is you the membership. We need the participation and cooperation of the majority of our members to make our club successful. I would also like to see our membership rise to at least 50 members during 1996. This club will only be

As most of you have probably already heard, the **Digital-Voice-Recorder** has been installed and is mostly functional, except for the “Message for” and the “ID”-ing portion. The reason for this is that the controller is not able to talk to the DVR over the serial port for some reason, but I’m in the process of trouble shooting this. I would like to thank all of the people that were involved in this project; N8VWI Bill, WJ8T Sam Nabkey, N8WKM Dan Thompson, WB8VOJ John, KA8YSM Tom Werkama and W8HVG Abe. If it wasn’t for these few peoples’ efforts, this project would not be where it is today. **“KUDOS GENTLEMEN!”**

The Field-Day site has been secured for June 22 and 23. We are putting together work groups for this event. If you are interested in lending a hand in one of the clubs most enjoyable events of the year, contact me and I will make sure you are put on the list. We will need people for settling up, cooking, operating (all shifts) and helping to tear down: many hands make light work! So, join in and see what you have been missing.

To close, if you did not receive the commands for the DVR yet, check out your

newsletter mailing label to see if your dues are due. This feature is for members and contributors only, we can only upgrade the system by your support.

*Bill Wisneski N8OAR
Club Trusty*

ANTENNAS

The fan antenna

by Ralph Williams N3VT

The fan antenna looks like a lady’s fan. Marconi used giant fan antennas in some of his experiments early this century. The fan also saw Radio Amateur use on 200 meters as early as 1922.

The fan puts lots of conducting material high in the air, a big advantage at low frequencies, where any antenna must be substantially shorter than one-quarter wavelength. The fan’s numerous conductors high above the ground provide high capacitance “to space” raising efficiency higher than other antennas of similar height. Another type, the umbrella antenna, works even better, but it requires a more complex support structure.

Current ham practice does not include operations on wavelengths longer than 160 meters. But on 160 meters, where a quarter wavelength is

130 feet, a much shorter fan would be effective.

To build a 160-meter fan antenna, you would stretch a horizontal cable between two tall objects about 40 feet apart--to support ten or so fan conductors, each about 45 feet long. You bring those fan conductors together at their lower ends, and connect them to the loading coil the system requires to achieve resonance. Low-frequency antennas take a lot of wire-in this case nearly a tenth mile in the air, and as much again for the ground radials or counterpoise.

The fan antenna produces vertical polarization. That’s fine for Dxing, but if your intent is local work, a horizontal wire, even though quite low in wave-lengths, works better.

Fan antennas seem to have lost their appeal except to radio historians. Why that is so is a mystery. They are simple, easy to construct, and they work. And the need for two supports isn’t a problem if you have tall trees in your yard.

from the December ‘94 Peconic ARC (Peconic, NY) “Peconic Amateur Radio Club Newsletter” - Ralph Grover, NS2S, Editor.

The fan behaves as a loaded quarter-wave vertical, like an HF mobile whip. So it’s important to minimize ground losses. That means lots of radials, or a large above ground counterpoise.-

AF6S

(reprinted from ARNS FEB,96.vol.XLV no.2 with permission)

TERRIBLE TERRY'S CORNER

Well the flu season is here. Lets hope by the time this writing comes out it will be over. I sit home here without a radio and now that I am on the down side of this flu, I am really upset that I am not on the air. For you see I have not kept every thing in working order. What would happen if I really needed it for an emergency purpose? Well this ought to tell you something for sure. Keep all your gear up to date just for these times.

I have had my flu shot but it covers only the bad stuff so they tell me. But what of this thing I just had? It felt like the bad stuff for sure. But it is still important for older people like myself and people that have any other health problems to have that shot every year so that you won't have those problems that could cause you more trouble than you would want to have.

Now about FAX. I have not come to the conclusion that I am dumb about computers, it is a known fact, and the fax is just a small part of it. I am hoping to be able to take some classes after I retire, but the next question is will I understand what I will study? I am to the point that I think not. HI. I am wondering if I am alone in these negative thoughts or are there more of you out there? Every time I learn something it causes more questions. "Is there any end to it all, or is there a magic answer to it all?" Time

will tell. I have a special friend named Terry Larson whom has bailed me out in more than one crises and I have no way of paying him back. He is another one of those special people that will help others and not really expect payment even though it would be right. He is the type that we need in the ham radio world. I can't seem to get him interested in it.

I got some bad news the other day. I found out that I am not going to receive my social security till May. I really was looking forward to ending my job in March. I really wanted to get this thing done so that people like Bob Wild N8JXB would not be able to rub my nose in the fact how great retirement is. HI.

Wayne Dowling KB8VOZ asked me tonight how I was coming on my article, so here I am trying to think of something funny to write. But that did bring up a point about how much credit we should give those guys that run the NET. I think they do a great job and they should be given a very special thanks. Not that it's funny, the only funny thing would be if I ran the net. Now that would be funny. I know I would not be very good at it. I would really goof things up.

I'm already hearing about the planning of Field-Day and those of you who have not ever gone to it, please do! It is really a lot of fun.

I have been asked if they could use my generator, and yes, they may. Only thing that would goof it up would be if we moved or some crazy thing like that. Not that I would not want them to use mine, but it would be nice if we could think of some project or some rich person to buy us one. Any of you have any ideas how we could purchase one for the club so that there would not be any reason for not having one for any reason. This topic is on fishing and I have a famous teacher and his name is Len Gongalski N8NEK. He gave away his famous fishing spot, which I am going to give the secret to all of you. The secret place is called Dornbos lake and is located on Leonard ST. At this writing I can not locate it. I am hoping that someone out there could direct me to the location.

Len used to own the Dive Shop on Fulton St. He has been a teacher for years and has done extensive diving all over the state. We had a very good friend that was killed while down in South America looking for the Inca gold. Someday we should get Len to tell us about some of his experiences in the diver world. I know there are a lot of people out there that have had a lot of experiences that we would all like to hear about. So here is your chance to write a article in the MARA newsletter. Go to it!

Terry Francis WB8ZNO

Let's dump the degrading label

by Peter Coffee AC6EN

The divisive adjective "no-code" has become a liability for Amateur Radio. Long ago, the terms "radio ham" and "amateur short-wave telegrapher" were synonymous. So the novelty of a ham license with no Morse requirement was worth a little attention--at first.

But Technician Class licensees now dominate entry into the Amateur Radio Service. And because of their large numbers they are more visible to the general public than hams of all other license classes combined. Adding to this, Technicians tend to be active in public safety and other volunteer efforts.

I can think of no other hobby or service in which the entry level permit is known by a negative label. No one calls a student pilot's license a "no-passengers" ticket, despite the fact that it is an accurate description. The label "student pilot" has only positive connotations.

The same holds even for non-hobby activities. An ordinary driver's license isn't called a "no heavy trucks" permit. Its label merely suggest the privileges it grants--as does the "learner's permit."

So why should we call a licensed Radio Amateur a "no-code Technician"? Now that Technician Plus is an FCC-recognized license class, the term Technician is not ambiguous. It needs no adjective.

I cringe when I hear someone say, "Our 'no-code Tech' class starts next week." and I get angry when a fellow ham makes a disparaging remark about "no-coders."

Who deserves more encouragement: someone who "might get a license some day," or a person who has already made the effort to earn our service's entry-level license? Yet from the way some hams treat one group versus the other, I know they have never

considered the situation in terms of the salesman's expression, "qualified lead"--meaning someone with genuine, rather than casual, interest.

My concern boiled over recently following a pleasant QSO on a six-meter repeater with a Technician who makes his living in digital audio production. We discussed the crossover that is taking place between high-end audio technology and ham radio equipment--the use of digital signal processing in the 11-kHz last IF stage of the new Kenwood TS-870 transceiver, for example.

The Technician said he had been interested in radio for some time, and had made several tries at getting a license. Finally, he resolved to take a three-day, intensive class, despite his heavy work schedule. He said he intended to upgrade, but has not yet found the time to learn Morse or the more advanced written material. But it was obvious he is a technically savvy and pleasant fellow, who I am glad to have met on the air.

When our QSO ended, another ham made an unidentified transmission on the repeater that deprecated "no-coders." How ironic that this ham put down another, violating both the spirit and the letter of amateur Radio regulations, because the other ham had not yet arrived at the same level on the ladder we all climb--usually with help from each other.

My dictionary defines *class* as "of high quality, integrity, status, or style." Let's all take that definition to heart, and behave accordingly. We can start by calling Technician Class licensees by the title they have earned. And by giving them the welcome they deserve to our ranks.

From Compuserve's Hamnet Roundtable, via The Blackstone Valley ARC (Woonsocket, RI) "The messenger"--Rick Fairweather, K1KYL, editor (pared somewhat by AF6S. Taken from ARNS page 8, vol. XLV no.2.

Gal Stuff

Womanspeak English

* You want...	You want...
* We need...	I want...
*It's your decision..	The right decision is obvious..
*Do what you want..	You'll pay for this...
*We need to talk..	I need to complain..
*Sure, go ahead..	Don't do it...
*I'm not upset...	Of course I'm upset, you moron.
*You're so manly..	You need a shower...
*You're so attentive..	Is sex all you ever think about?
*Our kitchen is tiny.. new	I want a house..
*The dog is barking..	Go out and see what's wrong...
*Do you love me?	I want something expensive..

---collected from America Online by Susan Barton, KA6SEH. Taken from ARNS Feb.1996 Vol.XLV no.2. with permission.

Susan's quotations

by Susan Barton, KA6SEH

CLUB NEWS

Gosh, it sure has been a long, hard, cold winter. While the club has begun showing videos around ham related events, illnesses have kept many members home. Len W8SPX is down with a bad case of the flu. Len N8NEK is recovering from a stroke he had last week. The list goes on and on. I don't know a single member who hasn't been ill with something this winter. "What's going on here?" This sure gets one thinking about what is really important in this life. Maybe now is the time to think about how grateful we should be for all we have, and take care of each other as they deserve.

As I said, the club is starting to show videos, and so far, we've seen the view from 2 of our members ham shacks, and a short video on Kenwood's new TS-870 transceiver. The best is yet to come though, the ARRL promises to get their video files back on line, and we can get oodles from them. And with our new 1996 board, we're having shorter business meetings. This all adds up to a more friendlier atmosphere during the meetings. So now is the time to come back and see what your missing

Len N8NEK doesn't have a phone in his room, but does have a handi-talkie. Give him a call on our

repeater, 145.410MHz. The last report I had was that he is doing better each single day, and is still threatening to cook for all of us this coming Field-Day96. We're all wishing you a fast recovery and yes, we'll all taste your cooking.

90-77-70-83-81-77-70.

No, these are not the latest Lotto winning numbers. These are the ages of several of our members as of February 22,1996. Respectively, W7PG Andy, W8NZW Eddy, N8NEK Len, K5MRO Bert, W8SPX Len, KA8ZAZ Peter and AA8PW Lloyd. We were going to bake one huge birthday cake for all these guys, but the Grand Rapids Fire Dept. wouldn't issue a permit for all that fire to be lit at one time in one place! Next time you hear these guys on the air, wish these Living treasurers a Happy Birthday. They deserve it!

During the January club meeting, our president, Dan N8NIJ, suggested we offer a code class. This would be both for entry level folks and also those tough birds who wish to get their general and extra licenses. This is still in the discussion stage at this point, but perhaps now that the club has a repeater, maybe we'll start having Morse Code practice over the air once again. Richie WB8HJX provided on-the-air CW

practice through the GRARA's 146.760 repeater a couple of years ago, but the radio simply wasn't constructed to withstand the heat: it is also sick. We'll keep you informed of developments.

The 1995 MARA Packet BBS report is in. There were a total of 10,985 connects to the system. Days of week usage was, Sun-14.26% Mon. -14.86% Tues.-16.29% Wed-13.58% Th.-14.60% Fri.-13.06% Sat-13.32%. More in the club's BBS pamphlet which is being finished as this is being printed.

73 *Richie WB8HJX*

THE NET

Here is the new schedule for the MARA Net. If you can't make your shift, please give me a call at 363-9631

<u>Wayne KB8VOZ</u>	<u>3-7-96</u>
<u>Richie WB8HJX</u>	<u>3-21-96</u>
<u>Louie N8ZVB</u>	<u>3-28-96</u>
<u>Bob N8JXB</u>	<u>4-4-96</u>
<u>Wayne KB8VOZ</u>	<u>4-18-96</u>
<u>Richie WB8HJX</u>	<u>4-25-96</u>
<u>Tom N8DGD</u>	<u>5-2-96</u>
<u>Louie N8ZVB</u>	<u>5-16-96</u>

Stay tuned to the Net for further announcements.

73 *Bob Wild N8JXB*

CLUB DUES DUE

It's that time of year again. That's right, your club dues are due. Look at the mailing label on the front of this issue to find out when your dues expire. If there is

a conflict, let either the
secretary or our treasurer
know.

See you in the Spring!

One difference between genius
and stupidity is that genius has
limits. --*anonymous*

“Never” tempts fate.-*anonymous*

Taken from ARNS Feb.1996

Vol.XLV no.2 *with permission.*

as successful as the
membership makes it.

Dan Markowski

N8NIJ