

*FRIENDSHIP, COMMUNITY SERVICE & ADVANCEMENT OF THE HOBBY*

# The Open Feed Line

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**THE MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE**

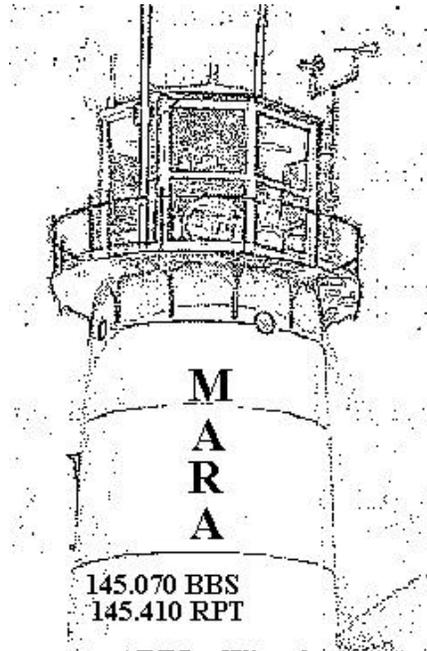
POST OFFICE BOX 670 COMSTOCK PARK MICHIGAN 49321-0670

## Project care

Hi there! The coffee stop is a reality. I now have the permits in hand. We have copies of the permit available, encase anyone wants one to try for a donation of supplies. We already have the coffee and hot cups donated from several suppliers, and have 100 gallons of fruit drink waiting. We still need about 10 to 12 cases of cookies. "That's a lot of cookies!" So if you know of a business that is willing to donate a portion of the supplies, please contact me for a copy of the permit. This shows them we are actually allowed to run an Operation Care rest stop. We will also send them a thank you letter for their donations.

"Workers, we need you!" At the time of this writing, we still have about 10, four hour slots to fill. The schedule is on the BBS, under MARA. Look at the available time slots, choose the one or more you want, then reply to the message. Bill N8OAR will update the list daily. Thanks Bill. You say you don't have

BBS access, don't worry, get in touch with either Bill



N8OAR or myself, N8VWI, and we will help you get signed up for a slot.

Remember, just as you would like to be relieved on time, so will the people you are replacing. Please be on time. The 145.410 repeater is the official frequency of the coffee stop. Please call the rest area to let them know you are on your way, and ask if they need anything, such as ice. The coffee stop will run

the club call sign, KB8YTM. We have decided to use the club call to get you used to it for Field Day. This is a club project: we need your support. The money from this project will probably be used to improve our repeater. If you leave it to the other guys to do it, maybe no one will do it.

Thanks and 73

**Bill Zaidel N8VWI**

(Article updated by Richie WB8HJX)

## Field Day mystique

*by Dave Watrous, WD2K*

What is it about that weekend in June that drives sane people to join other Amateurs in a lemming-like migration to the local Field Day site? Some instinctive drive makes them perform feats of strength and daring, erecting outlandish antennas and attaching them to every tree or other structure in sight.

(Continued on page 3.)

## Connie says...

Hi, my name is Connie, N8WKQ. My spouse Bill N8VWI was studying for his ham license, and he asked me to help him study. By the time he got his license, I felt I knew most of the questions, so I studied to get my license. On December 29, 1992, I got to sign my license and make my first contact, to Scott N8LBA. I do not use the radio very much, but it sure is nice to know it's there when I want to use it or if any emergency occurs. It sure is reassuring to know the radio is there when I leave for work in the middle of the night or when I go out of town to visit relatives. Now for the fun side of the hobby, going to Ham fests. Besides looking at the craft items, I become interested in the equipment we are looking for, as I too can operate it. Also when we are camping or exploring all the shops in a new town we happen to be in, we can go our separate ways, and still stay in touch with my new ht. But the best part of having my ham license is all the great people I get to meet. And with the coffee stops coming up and Field-Day in June, I hope to meet most of you.

*Connie Zaidel N8WKQ*

## Field Day mystique

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Attired in headgear emblazoned with callsigns, these otherwise staid pillars of the community swarm up shaky towers and undersized trees trailing masses of wire and coax, while chanting, "Only forty-five minutes left" and "Did anyone check the

generator?" or they implore each other to find "just one more barrel connector."

At ground level an equally fanatic group searches for the missing mike being carried around by another group looking for "the rig." But "the rig" is still in the trunk of a car now hurrying off-site to pick up the extension cord promised by the guy who just called on the repeater to say, "I can't make it before four."

At this time the need for the coffee maker becomes critical. The instructions to the appointed person: "Try to make it better than last year's mud." Soon after he measures the coffee, he screams, "nobody brought any water--again!" He disappears racing over the hill toward the potable water spigot at the far end of the campground.

As two o'clock nears, it becomes clear that all is lost. The classic cry goes up, "Let's get one dipole up, so we can start with at least one station on the air." Someone attaches coax to two pieces of wire that might be an antenna. Someone else fires up the generator, and runs an extension cord to a rig on a table where a forlorn group huddles over a mike in abject sorrow.

Soon the annual madness peaks; long time friends stop screaming at each other and settle down to logging QSOs, as they have for many years. The ritual again enacted, the gods of radio are appeased.

And soon someone sows the seeds of future madness with a simple remark like, "You know, next year we should move the beam a few feet west, to that rise yonder." The cycle, begun anew, will culminate a year hence in another irresistible urge to migrate to "the site."

from the May 95 troy (New Your) ARA "TARA News"--Jack Cullion, N2LBZ, Editor. Reprinted from ARNS May 96. P. 8. with permission.

## A \$300 HF station?

If you are like me, your first look at an Amateur Radio catalog gave you a severe case of sticker-shock. For me, the only item that seemed in reach was a basic 2 meter ht. After my "big purchase," I felt quite content to remain a no-code Tech, and "ham it up" on the local repeaters. Well, after a year and a half, this started getting old. I wanted to work the world or, at least expand beyond Michigan. So I decided to upgrade, and then do what I could to get on HF. I was successful, and hopefully my story will help others to see that you can get on HF for about the same cost as a new HT.

The first observation I made was that I had no room for a fancy antenna system. For me, a random wire strung through some trees seemed the answer. I purchased an antenna tuner capable of tuning random wires, and 100 feet of cheap speaker wire. This set me back about \$100. Now I needed to get a rig. Where does a poor amateur go to get a cheap rig? Ham fests! I saw several HF rigs for \$350 or less. I finally decided to go with a Yaesu FT 101EE. This is a hybrid rig, solid state and tube finals, and covers 160M -10M, SSB, CW and AM. The best part is it only cost \$200. You are probably saying to yourself, "Ya, but what can you work with a cheap 100 watt radio and a random wire antenna?"

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## A \$300 HF station?

Continued from page 3

Well, it is not a super contest station, that's for sure, but in 8 months I have logged 49 states, 6 Canadian provinces and over 40 countries. This is during the sun spot minimum and without any real serious attempts. One other point might also be of interest. I casually competed in the November sweepstakes with my setup. I scored 26,000 + points and got 68 of the 77 ARRL US and Canadian sections, in 15 hours.

So what is my point? A respectable HF station can be had for cheap. Just get a tuner, a simple wire antenna like a G5RV or random wire, then hit the swaps. Look for a clean older rig, either tube type or hybrid. Then get on the air. Hopefully, you'll find, like I said, that the fun of HF can be had without a \$2000 rig, a \$1000 set of beams and a \$5000 tower.

Good luck and 73

*Mike Timmerman KG8QQ*

## Terrible Terry's corner

Thoughts of spring: antenna projects. Oh yes, how great my antenna is going to look and work. I should be able to get out where I have never reached before. I can hardly wait till I can start on it. But there are a few things I need to pick up at the store. "Honey, can I have a blank check to pick up a few things I need?" "But, but, but but Honey I just have to get it done." "Why do I have to cut the lawn today?" "I really think my antenna is more important than what the neighbors think." "What do you mean, I have to take the lawnmower in for repairs before I can use it?" "Didn't we take it in for a tune-up last fall?" "I thought you were going to do it."

"What?, I have to clean the garage first just to get to it?" "No that stuff is not junk, and no, we are not going to have a yard sale!" "I need that stuff." "What for?, well...you never know when it will be needed." "Wash the car?, I did that last month. Do I have to do it again?" "What about my antenna?" "What do you mean then?" "I have to clean the basement?" "What about my antenna?" "Honey, do job jar?" "What about my antenna?" "Oh, I forgot about that one, yes I did last year." "Remember, I washed the windows?" "What, they need it again?" "Why?" "I can see out." "Who cares if they can see in." "What about my antenna?" "Yes dear....."

A lot of nothing has been happening in the fax world. I think it is just another of those things that comes and goes like the warm weather and sunshine in Michigan, with summer coming up, I bet it will just die out. Wayne, KB8VOZ uses it to keep in contact with his son and daughter-in-law in Minn. I use it to keep in contact with my nephew and niece in Kentucky. I find it a very handy tool to have in the radio shack.

A lot of work is going on in the back ground getting ready for the field day and the coffee stop. I for one am planning on helping as much as I can and wonder how many others of you have signed up. They need all the help they can get.

I got a call from a gentleman in Cedar Springs. His name is Charlie. Well, seems like Charlie heard me talk about selling my John Deere tractor on his scanner and found my telephone number and called me up about it. Which brings up a subject that has really

bothered me since then. I am wondering how many people are listening to us talk on 2 meters? I also wonder what they must think of us when we are discussing some of the subjects that come up. Most of what I have heard and of course, what I have talked about are mostly OK. Hi. But then some things I have heard have not been the nicest things. I heard one discussion on a different repeater, that a very disturbed person talked about certain people should be killed, and that some one was just likely to do just that. I guess they did not like the out come of a certain trial. Now that was a little over board. Now again comes up the subject of freedom of speech and I am all for it. But some times I think that we could tone down on a subject such as killing someone. I would like your thoughts on this. Either I am wrong and way off base or I am right. So go ahead and let me know what you think. Don't be afraid to tell me if you do not like what I say. I have broad shoulders. Hi.

*Terry Francis WB8ZNO*

## Net schedule

Date	Name	Call
May 23	Andy	N8HUB
May 30	Richie	WB8HJX
June 6	Wayne	KB8VOZ
June 13	Club Meeting	
June 20	Terry	WB8ZNO
June 27	Louie	N8ZVB
July 4	Andy	N8HUB
July 11	Club Meeting	
July 18	Richie	WB8HJX
July 25	Wayne	KB8VOZ
Aug 1	Bob	N8JXB
Aug 8	Club Meeting	
Aug 15	Terry	WB8ZNO
Aug 22	Andy	N8HUB
Aug 29	Louie	N8ZVB

## Great Lakes Award

As your awards manager, I thought it would be a good idea to provide you with an update on the winners of the Great Lakes Award. Below, is the complete list of Great Lakes Awards, awarded up to 4/14/96. It is our hope that one day soon we will be able to list your name as a winner!

**Chuck Lemarbre N8LDY**

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0001 N8LDY	0002 W8NZW	0003 AA6AG	0004 NF8P
0005 KB82LAI	0006 KB2JWD	0007 N8JXB	0008 N2MNA
0009 KB8EAP	0010 KB5GEK	0011 N4ZMP	0012 KA2BEE
0013 VE1MPF	0014 KB7MUP	0015 KC6TIO	0016 KC4MAI
0017 KM4QF	0018 KA8SHZ	0019 WA2DAX	0020 KD4BHH
0021 N8NIJ	0022 N2NTO	0023 N0KJO	0024 WX1B
0025 N2FKE	0026 W7PG	0027 KD4OOI	0028 LU1MIK
0029 KB0ADI	0030 KD4DPT	0031 KD4EKV	0032 KD4GLC
0033 N9MLF	0034 KB9HTI	0035 AA5WE	0036 WB9OHM
0037 0NL-4003	0038 S53EO	0039 KF7VE	0040 N8MOS
0041 PA0ANK	0042 KF8YU	0043 WB2UFF	0044 N2CWG
0045 N0OND	0046 KB8LWO	0047 N8PKC	0048 K6JJX
0049 KB9HSH	0050 KB6MIR	0051 N8MOT	0052 WA1WPR
0053 KA1UEA	0054 N8SGA	0055 KD1CJ	0056 KL7OH
0057 N2ROM	0058 K9UKN	0059 RA6YJ	0060 N1OPZ
0061 AA9FW	0062 WB4UIC	0063 KB9IDS	0064 KB8NRL
0065 F5JSK	0066 N4UOH	0067 LU1FBK	0068 N8PWY
0069 N8WOZ	0070 JH1IED	0071 BV7FC	0072 KE4HOS
0073 KI7CM	0074 N8OAR	0075 S51ZY	0076 DL5GCH
0077 JA1CKE	0078 HB9JNS	0079 WB9DRB	0080 KG8QQ
0081 BV7GA	0082 HR2AES		

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## MARA 2 meter net control forms

Welcome to spring 96. I have had many requests for the opening/closing Net Control statements. So, here is the new form I have come up with, which I hope better reflects the real purpose of having the 2 meter net. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 363-9631. 73. *Bob Wild N8JXB*

### MARA Preamble

Good evening. This is the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance, or MARA, 2 meter net. The purpose of this net is to provide information about MARA and to encourage and stimulate interest in our hobby. All Amateurs are invited to check-in to this net. Area ham groups other than MARA are also welcome to make announcements on our net. More information about MARA will be provided at the close of this net.

Your net control for this evening is: \_\_\_\_\_ and my call is : \_\_\_\_\_

If there is any emergency or priority traffic, please call: \_\_\_\_\_

Do we have any announcements from any of the area clubs?

Are there any MARA officers wishing to make announcements at this time?

When checking into this net, please wait for me to acknowledge each check-in individually.

Mobile check-ins:

General check-ins:

The topic for this evening is \_\_\_\_\_

### MARA NET CLOSER

On behalf of MARA, I would like to thank everyone for joining us this evening. This net meets each Thursday night at eight P.M. on this repeater. Our club meetings are held the second Thursday of each month and so there is no net. Meetings are at seven P.M. and are held at the St. Adalberts Hall at 5th St. And Davis NW. All amateurs and those interested in Amateur radio are welcome to attend. Further information about MARA can be obtained by writing; MARA P O Box 670 Comstock Park MI 49321-0670. Your net control this evening has been \_\_\_\_\_ and my call is \_\_\_\_\_. I now return the repeater to regular operation. 73.

## 6 Meters the sequel

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, 6 meters will be open on an almost daily basis. Certain gentlemen's agreements need to be explained. 50.110 MHz is the DX calling frequency. 50.100 MHz to 50.125 MHz is the DX window and should not be used for domestic QSOs. 50.125 MHz is the domestic calling frequency. This means you could call CQ on this frequency and when contact is made, move your QSO up the band. 50.125 MHz is usually for dead or marginal conditions. When the band is busy, answer a CQ or move up the band and call CQ. Another way to check for opening is to watch the beacon frequencies. Many of the beacons run 24 hours a day. Although you may hear a beacon coming in 59, if it is a weekday, many operators may still be at work. Some of the beacons that I hear quite often are  
50.077 MHz, N0LL, Kansas.  
50.073 MHz, VE1MQ, New Brunswick.  
50.069 MHz K6FU, Ca.  
50.065 MHz W0IJR/KA0CDN, Colo.  
50.060 MHz. W5VAS. LA.  
See the call book for additional listings.

A lot of hams rely on WWV's bulletin, which is broadcast 18 minutes after the hour. This number is no help in determining the occurrence of summer Sporadic-E skip. Just listen!

I am often asked about equipment. As usual, bigger is better. But I did quite well with 10 watts and a 3 element Yagi up 35 feet. Here is a list of DX I worked with that station: VP5,9Y4, HK4, PJ9, HC5, 6M, KL7, KH4, 63, 8P6, KP4, YV5, J37, FM3. I worked Australia with

the 3 element Yagi, but had a 150 watt linear to help.

You can make good use of a grid square map from either the ARRL or your favorite ham store. The 43rd parallel runs east to west, somewhere between Knapp street and Graceland. If you live north of that line, you are in grid EN-73. South and you are in EN-72. I have believed for a long time, that the line runs right through WB8HJX's house! Depending where it runs, Richie could work both grids by only moving his hands. Hi.

Good luck on 6!

*Mike Eilers K80OK*

*(Mike's next article will deal with DX-ing on 160 meters- The Top Band.)*

## Club Trusty

As most of you might already know, the Autopatch has been restricted because of some abuse. If you do not have your access number to open the controller for a general autopatch, contact me on the repeater or at 361-6349 and I will make sure your set-up. Please remember to Identify before and after all patches. This is third party traffic and must be handled according to part 97 of the FCC rules. If you have not heard by now, Gate 1 of the Vanity call sign program is due to open on May 31, 1996. The club is going to apply for a vanity call, but will have to wait for Gate 2 to open before sending in our request. So get your 610-V's in order because this is your chance to pick your own personal call sign. Well, that's about it from this end. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you at the Operation Care Coffee stops this summer.73

*Bill Wisneski N8OAR*

## Club news

The club members sure have made this club active since our last newsletter. Our first Operation Care coffee stop is this coming weekend, followed in four weeks by Field-Day. As of the date of this writing, 5/20/96, we still have some holes in the coffee stop event for Memorial day weekend. If you are willing to help your club, please give either Bill N8VWI or Bill N8OAR a call. These are four hour shifts and the club will have pamphlets available for the general public. We are trying to accomplish three tasks at once:  
1. Provide a needed rest and refreshing stop for traveling motorists. 2. Increase the public awareness of our club/Amateur Radio. 3. Find a way to raise funds for the clubs projects. Who knows, maybe we can stir the interest of folks into getting licensed. Now that would really be an accomplishment.

Good news. Both Len N8NEK and Len W8SPX are out of the hospital and doing great.

Mike Timmerman KG8QQ and Bill Wisneski N8OAR upgraded to Amateur Extra class. Congratulations guys. Go and enjoy all the vast privileges that come with the top ticket. This also brings us to this falls Morse Code practice. Most of you folks have expressed a desire to have the practice not just on the repeater, but also on HF. What we could really use right now is one person to take charge of this session and bring it and all the parties together. On page two of this paper, you will find the addresses of all of the MARA board. Simply let any of them know of your desire to help in this event and any other projects we have going.

73

*Richie Ranta WB8HJX*