
The Open Feed Line

Volume 6 Issue 2

May 1997

THE MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

Post office box 670 Comstock Park MICHIGAN 49321-0670

ARRL Proposes New Ham Classes

By *Richie Ranta K8JX*

ON January 31,1997, WIAW sent a bulletin that will be the hot topic of conversation for the rest of the year. The ARRL is proposing eliminating the Novice class, creating a new class of license and dropping the 13 word per minute code speed to 10 WPM. The Details of their proposal are in the March 1997 issue of QST and I have included the text from that bulletin in this issue. "Don't all put your boxing gloves on yet!" This is simply a proposal, and we all have the responsibility of not only talking about this, but actually writing the ARRL and express to them whether your for or against it. Now is not the time to lose one's head. Take your time, read over the bulletin and then decide.

(Continued on Page 4)

Scouting.A Father and Son's effort

By *Mark Scholten KC8CUU*

As some of you may know, I have wanted to start some activities in this area to help introduce Amateur radio to the young people. I am now working with the Boy and Girl Scouts to organize a station for the Boy Scout National convention starting on July 28,1997 through August 8th. I have talked to Ray Moyers at Fort A.P.Hill in Virginia about both the convention and Jamboree on the air. He has been very helpful to me as this is the first time for me being involved with this project. We are going to set up a radio station at the Boy/Girl Scout headquarters on Walker Avenue, just north of I-96. Following is the list of frequencies set aside for this event.

80M CW 3590MHz
PH 3940MHz
40M CW 7030MHz
PH 7290MHz
20M CW 14070MHz

PH 14290MHz
17M CW 18080MHz
PH 18140MHz
15M CW 21140MHz
PH 21360MHz
12M CW 24910MHz
PH 24960MHz
10M CW 28190MHz
PH 28350MHz

I hope everyone keeps this list for the week of the convention so contacts can be made if all else fails. The same frequencies will be used for the Jamboree on the Air (JOTA). JOTA is the 3rd Saturday of October and a station will be set up then also. Let's get the youth movement on the move and get these kids interested at an early age. Any volunteers? Please give me a call on the W8USA machine or on the packet system. Radio equipment and antennas are needed, but nothing sophisticated, just wires.

(Mark KC8CUU has finally achieved his goal of starting something for the youth in the West Mi.area. read about his son's involvement-Page3))

Denny's Dungeon

By Denny Purtee N8OAT

Picture a cold, wet weekend here in west Michigan. This year the weather in May is more like March. This year I have planned two or three different antenna projects, but the weather is slower than the calendar.

From down in my basement where I reload rifle and pistol ammo, tie a few trout flies there is a corner where a small home made table at which place my radio station and computer is located. This part of the house is **DENNY'S DUNGEON**. The Dungeon is where a lot of engineering connected with ham radio and the Internet are tested. This is a place where I can forget about work, bills, and other distractions. From the *dungeon*, I sent messages via packet and phone line. From the *dungeon* I am looking forward to adding a new HF rig even though the old SB-101 works well. From the *dungeon*, I plan on a big turn out for the coffee stops this summer and a big field day. From the *dungeon* 73 ... Denny

(Field Day 97 continued from page 1)

This Field Day is being chaired by Eric Moore KC8CCA. Eric started out on the right foot too: he upgraded to General class 2 weeks ago! "Congratulations Eric!"

Eric has already secured 2 HF rigs for sure and possibly 2 more! We will also have 6 and 2 meters, all modes. All the bands seem to be covered, but if you wish to donate your rig for our club's Field Day, please do. Eric said he has a tri band beam coming and we already have several wire antennas, especially one of the first wire antennas we ever used at field day, a bazooka!

Eric is asking if there is any kind-hearted individual out there who might be willing to chair the food department this time around. He's got his hands full calling folks and trying to pull this off without a hitch. If any of you folks are gourmet cooks, (ok ok, can you fry a hamburger without burning it?), give Eric a call at 454-5525. It would really help him and the club out if that responsibility were lifted off his shoulders. How about bringing a dish to share? Talk it over with Eric and listen to the Thursday night club's net and the Tuesday

night Ladies net for updated information.

The president and our Awards Manager, Chuck N8LDY, got together, and they are going to offer an award for Top Operator during Field Day. This would be for most SSB contacts, CW contacts, perhaps for both the 6 and 2-meter operation too. Stay tuned for further details.

Eric expresses all our interests when he asks that all interested folks come out and see exactly what Field Day is about. Who knows, maybe we'll get a new Ham from the experience.

(A listing of the band plan and more Field Day details are included in this issue- page 7)

President resigns

By Richie Ranta K8JX

On April 29th, Wayne Dowling KB8VOZ resigned as MARA's president. Wayne cited a need to fulfill a company project that was eating all his free time up and also wanting to spend time with his family. "The club members deserve more than I'm able to give them right now!"

(Continued on page 4)

(President Resigns continued from page 3)

While Wayne headed the club, he steered the club into areas nobody thought we'd ever get into. The first Ladies Net, helping Mark KC8CUU and Brian KC8DOC and Eric KC8CCA setup a Ham station for the Boy Scout National convention, creating with Chuck N8LDY the Friendship Award and the Top Operator Award for Field Day 97. He was also very active in making sure all that MARA accomplished last year, continued on this year.

He has been a very successful president in the short time he has been in office. We will miss his leadership, but he's not gone. Wayne has already made a commitment to the Thursday Night Net, and also is going to be as active as he can be in all the other club functions. He also is planing, when time permits, to continue working satellites, his first love.

Wayne, on behalf of all the MARA members, we wish you well in all that you're doing, and heartfelt thanks for all that you have done. As Wayne would say, "At Ease".

Operation Care

(Continued from page 1)

Below is the schedule of shifts for the Memorial Day Operation Care coffee stop. The shifts are only 4 hours long and we're only in operation for 40 hours. Each shift needs 3 people. Please make your selection early. All shifts are open, unless somebody has signed up already.

Date	Day	Time
5/25/97	Sunday	8:00 – Noon (setup)
5/25/97	Sunday	Noon – 4:00PM 1)Bill W. N8OAR
5/25/97	Sunday	4:00PM – 8:00PM
5/25/97	Sunday	8:00PM – Midnight 1)Chuck L. N8LDY 2)Dan M. N8NIJ 3)Rich R. K8JX
5/26/97	Monday	Midnight – 8:00AM
5/26/97	Monday	8:00AM – Noon
5/26/97	Monday	Noon – 4:00PM
5/26/97	Monday	4:00PM – 8:00PM
5/26/97	Monday	8:00PM – 10:00PM (tear down)

If you find a shift you'd like, call Bill N8VWI at 363-5536 or Rich 361-5975. Let's make this another successful club event.

Terrible Terry's Corner

By Terry Francis WB8ZNO

Poor Richie, I write Northern Exposure, and he adds "Over". I wonder about him? Over all though, we should give a pat on the back for all the work he does for the club.

About scouting, and what Mark and his son Brian (Doc) are setting up. Sounds great! I was in the club scouts and the sea scouts, and they were some of the best times of my life. Even at this old age, I can remember a lot of the things we did. Dale Le Pard from the Wyoming area was both my cub and Sea Scout leader and was one of the nicest people you could have known. From what I hear, sea scouting is just about done, what a shame, but that's life. Mark you and Brian are special people and I know if anyone can make this fly, I know you will do it. Thanks, maybe a lot of kids will have good memories like I have from scouting.

I wished that my wife could have gotten involved in a woman's club like Connie N8WKQ is putting together. Maybe it would

make her more interested in Ham

Radio. If nothing else comes of this, Connie, at least you gals could have a night out away from us all.

With Bill getting permits for the Field Day, I have already been asked if I would let them use my generator. The answer is yes. If it does not interfere with my wife's plans, maybe I could put the camper on and come on down for those days. "Time will tell".

I think I would like to say a few words about the coffee stops that Bill N8VWI has sent out applications for. Bill and his wife put a lot of time and efforts into these with out much thanks. They put more time in than any of us, so it would be nice if everyone would put in a little time to relieve them of all the burden they have. They were good enough to lend the club their motor home on top of everything else, so please see what you can do, to help them and of course the club. Thanks.

Good work on the awards Chuck and I noticed that you mentioned that we could lose some of the 2-meter band if it is not

used. Up here, the 220 and 440 is not used. I wish that I had not only the money but the know how to set up a repeater.

Then maybe it could be connected to 2 meters so that it would be used more. But I'm a 9-watt bulb and you know that's not very bright. I am a certified appliance operator. That's someone that takes his unit in to be repaired.

I can hardly wait till warm weather gets here and I can go fishing. (Not at Dornboss Lake!). We are surrounded by a number of lakes after having a 26-foot stammer cabin cruiser; I am now down to a 12-foot aluminum boat with a 3-½ hp motor. I went out to purchase a new rod and reel along with a fish finder. I left my other two on the bigger boat, so am ready to go out and kill them. I hope I do better than I did deer hunting.

I received my turkey permit this week and have a guide for hunting them. I have never been turkey hunting before. The gentleman is a neighbor. We have had a number of them show up at our feeder, but I won't hunt them that way, besides, that is against the law to hunt them over bait.

(Continued on page 6)

*(Terrible Terry's corner,
continued from page 5)*

For those that are against hunting, don't worry, if I shoot as good as I did on Pats they have nothing to worry about. I shot some nasty holes in the sky that day, I wonder if that's why we had so much snow this past winter?

Richie reminded me that it is close to the time I should have my article in, and guess what? I can't think of a thin to write about. I know some of you will find this hard to believe, but it's true!

I have a local friend named Bill who has taught me everything I know about computers. So now you know he is also dumber than a bag of rocks. Anyway, we have a lot of fun trying to figure out just what we are supposed to do and why it won't work. I have a very much dislike for computer books. They tell me that I have to look something up in chapter 13 and when I get there, I am supposed to turn back to chapter 3 and that area tells me I have to turn to page 22. When it's all done, I don't have the slightest idea what I was looking for in the first place. I purchased a couple of books called "Dos for Dummies" and "Windows for Dummies". And guess what? I still don't

understand! I wonder if they make books for "Double Dummies?" It's funny how when you learn something you find out that you now know less than you did before. I wonder why that is? ? And they call this fun? I am reminded about watching runners and the look on their faces. Don't they really look like they are having fun? Ha!

I am purchasing an old 81 Ford truck that has 4 wheel drive in the hopes that it will last a while so we can get out of this place in the wintertime. Doug WB8ZSI will like this. "Time will tell". I kind of miss what Bob, Conn and Doug have to say on what has happened on TV and their thoughts on all the movies that are out. Things like that do not happen up here. Scanners and 11 meters are all the talk. If the FCC or who ever has the say about it we would lose a lot more of our bands if they used this area to judge from. I can say this and I give thanks to the 160 machine, it gives us people that live far away from Grand Rapids main area and still gives us the opportunity to keep connected to a degree.

The second week of May a few of us are planning on going up to Rice Lake in Canada to do some fishing and I

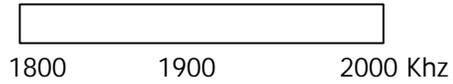
hope that Len Gongalski N8NEK will be able to go along. I wish I could get a recording of all the things Len has done in his life. Most of you don't know that he was a diver and owned his own dive shop called "Lens Dive Shop". Len has done and been places only we could dream of. This brings up a point. "Why don't some of you write about some of your own experiences?" I have been a bum most of my life, but I can say this, I would never want to miss a minute of it. I would use up all the pages telling you of all the jobs and the things I have done in my lifetime. To most of you, you would not have liked it. Besides that I would probably bore you. HA.

Seems to me that I started this article with the statement that I can't think of anything to write, and here I sit writing.

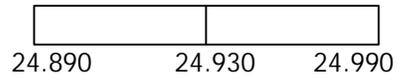
What I have to say is not a joke though. If I can sit here, writing all these things, so can you. So why don't YOU, the reading ham folks, jot down something that means something to you, and send it to Richie. I want to read what you have to say. Enough already.
Cul 73 WB8ZNO

US Amateur Bands

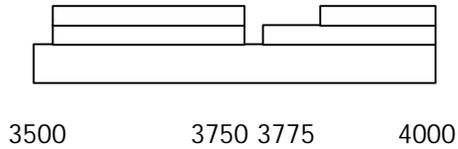
160 Meters



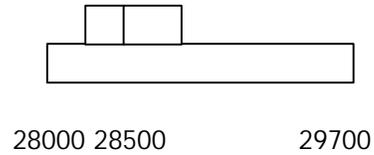
12 Meters



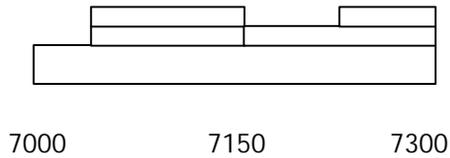
80 Meters



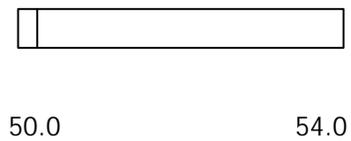
10 Meters



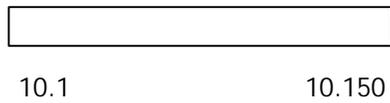
40 Meters



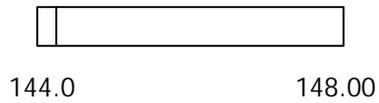
6 Meters



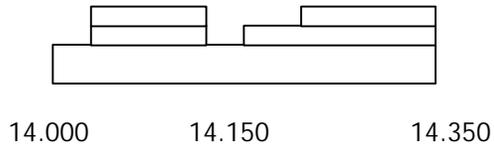
30 Meters



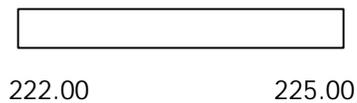
2Meters



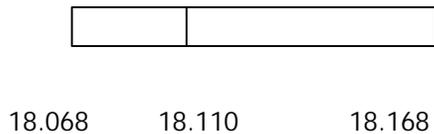
20 Meters



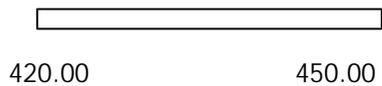
1.25 Meters



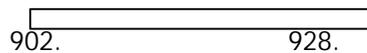
17 Meters



70 Centimeters

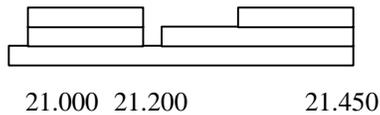


33 Centimeters

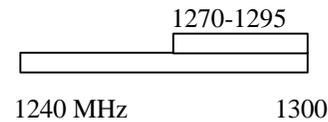


(continued on page 8)

15 Meters



23 Centimeters



Frequency Allocation: Class & Emissions

160-Meters: Extra Advanced General: CW,RTTY,Data,Phone Image

80-Meters:Extra 3500-3750 CW,RTTY Data 3750-4000 CW Phone Image

Adv. 3525-3750 CW,RTTY Data 3775-4000 CW Phone Image

Gen 3525-3750 CW,RTTY Data 3850-4000 CW Phone Image

Nov-P 3675-3725 CW

40-Meters: Extra 7000-7150 CW,RTTY,Data 7150-7300 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone Image

Adv. 7025-7150 CW,RTTY Data 7150-7300 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone Image

Gen 7025-7150 CW,RTTY Data 7225-7300 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone Image

Nov-P 7100-7150 CW

30-Meters Extra Advanced General 10.100-10.150 CW,RTTY,Data

20-Meters Extra 14.000-14.150 CW,RTTY,Data 14.150-14.350 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone Image

Adv. 14.025-14.150 CW,RTTY,Data 14.175-14.350 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone Image

Gen 14.025-14.150 CW,RTTY,Data 14.225-14.350 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone Image

17-Meters Extra Advanced General 18.068-18.110 CW,RTTY,Data

18.110-18.168 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone,Image

15-Meters Extra 21.000-21.200 CW,RTTY,Data

21.200-21.450 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone,Image

Adv. 21.025-21.200 CW,RTTY,Data

21.225-21.450 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone,Image

Gen 21.025-21.200 CW,RTTY,Data

21.300-21.450 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone,Image

Nov-P 21.100-21.200 CW

12-Meters Extra Advanced General 24.890-24.930 CW,RTTY,Data

24.930-24.990 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone,Image

10-Meters Extra Advanced General 28.000-28.300 CW,RTTY,Data

28.300-29.700 CW,RTTY,Data,Phone,Image

Nov-P 28.100-28.300 CW,RTTY,Data 28.300-28.500 CW Phone

For class and emissions above 30 megahertz, consult the ARRL's RuleBook or the FCC's part 97 rules.

On The Net

By Bob Wild N8JXB

This past winter saw many of our net controls sick with the flu or some other nasty winter time ailment. I want to thank all you folks who volunteered at the last minute to fill the vacancies. You made it all happen. Thank you. Below I've included the list for the summer. Hopefully, nobody will get the flu. Hi!

Date	Name
5/22/97	KB8VOZ Wayne
5/29/97	KC8FUW Brian
6/5/97	KC8CKZ Victor
6/12/97	Club meeting
6/19/97	N8VZB Louie
6/26/97	K8JX Richie
7/3/97	N8JXB Bob
7/10/97	Club meeting
7/17/97	KB8VOZ Wayne
7/24/97	KC8FUW Brian
7/31/97	KC8CKZ Victor
8/7/97	N8ZVB Louie
8/14/97	Club Meeting
8/21/97	K8JX Richie
8/28/97	KB8VOZ Wayne

Once again, thanks for making these nets the success they are.

73 Bob N8JXB

Ladies Net

By Richie Ranta K8JX

March 11, 1997 was a special day in the history of MARA. The very first Ladies Net took to the air! Connie N8WKQ, Lori Rowe KC8EKG, Mary Nestor

KC8EGF, Michelle Rowe KC8FQI and Sarah KB8UNO took part in the first meeting and the several others that followed. Connie, who volunteered to be net control, reported that everything went very smoothly, and encourages other women to join in. The Net was the idea of Wayne KB8VOZ. He wanted all of a ham's family to have at least the opportunity to participate in some form of local amateur radio. While the Net has only met several times since then, it hasn't been cancelled. Connie told me the reason why the Net wasn't on every Tuesday night was simple: all the women involved were busy doing other things. Give a listen on Tuesday nights, at 8:00PM.

Retirement..

By Richie Ranta K8JX

Ah, the "Golden Years". That's that special time of ones life, when you relax and do all those things you dreamed of doing, while you were working those long, hard hours at work. Right? "Wrong!" For most, retirement is that special time of ones life, when they try to make ends meet, often giving up the basic things that were taken for granted just in order to get by.

But the one thing that most retirees have in common, is that those who were hams', maintain their hobby, even through bad times. Whether it be volunteering for the Amateur Radio Emergency Corps, Sky-Warn, or any other community service, you'll find our trusty (often, rusty!) retirees involved.

Starting with this issue, we're going to highlight our retired members, and share with you what they're up to. Hopefully, this will help oodles of folks get a clearer idea of just exactly what "The Golden Years" can become.

Lloyd Hansen AA8PW has decided to carry his vocation over into his retirement. Lloyd, a missionary for many years, is now going down south to help an impoverish community pull itself up. He's going to be teaching, building and basically, doing about the same thing he did as a full time missionary. He could be relaxing, taking it easy, but decided to put to use those skills he has in order to help others in need. Lloyd is in good health, except for the "minor aches and pains of arthritis??" But that doesn't stop him.

(Continued on page 10)

(Retirement continued from page 9)

Lloyd has discovered what is important in life, and isn't about to stop investing in it. Lloyd had several of our member's put on a packet demonstration a year ago and since then, has a packet station, and also is on the Internet. He is sharing with many his fascination with amateur radio, and also helping to create "New" hams in our ranks. He is one retiree who is having fun in his "Golden Years". When you hear AA8PW on the air, give him a call and say hi. Who knows, you might just make another new friend.

Do you know of any interesting story about one of our members? If so, write it out or give our editor a call, and tell him about it. It may just be the story we need to hear.

Radio Gear P.M.

*By Victor Miske jr.
KC8CKZ*

Well, as amateurs, we all own at least one piece of radio equipment. Whether it is a transceiver, an amplifier or even an antenna tuner, we have

a delicate piece of equipment in our possession. And as you and I know, they don't give this stuff away. So we as owners, and operators, have to take precautions to prevent unnecessary breakdowns.

One of the biggest enemies is Dust! Dust collects on the heatsinks, cases, mikes and all them tiny control buttons. What you need to do, especially on these subcompact transceivers is to clean the dust off the heatsinks on a regular basis. As you have noticed, the heatsinks (those fins sticking out the back of your rig) get real warm real quick when you chat. A quick and easy way to clean them is to take a damp cloth and wring it through those fins. If you have a real closely spaced heat sink, take some small cotton Q-tips and push it through the fins. Dust acts as an insulator to all that heat that's trying to dissipate, which in turn takes away the effectiveness of the heat sink. If that output gets too hot, well, look at dropping at least a hundred bucks in repair costs. Computer owners also take note. Look at the back of your case where the fan mounts to your power supply. These vents build up dust and

also must be kept open. For this, a vacuum or dust buster will do the job just fine. For the more adventuresome type, pull the cover off your computer or rig. If you have openings that dust can enter, like a tube rig with a vented case, or a computer with drives and open expansion slots, you can guarantee a heat trap within exists. Here you can carefully clean the insides with a small paintbrush (1/2). You want to make sure all the components inside are squeaky-clean. Use cotton tipped Q-tip to remove dust from around all the openings. Before doing any kind of cleaning or disassembling, make sure that you have **DISCONNECTED ALL THE POWER AND LET THE DEVICE SIT FOR A GOOD HOUR!** Also make sure everything is nice and dry before reconnecting your power source. Hopefully, this tid bit of advice will add a few more years to the life of your toys.

(You should always read the manufactures recommendation on cleaning their device. Removing a unit's case can void a warranty, a bad way to start the day. Ed.)