
The Open Feed Line

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THE MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

Post office box 670 Comstock Park MICHIGAN 49321-0670

1997 what a year

By Rich K8JX

1997 was a year to remember. We saw the creation and issuance of The Friendship Award, to its first recipients, Brian Scholten KC8DOC Michelle Rowe KC8FQI. Our new president, Wayne Downing KB8VOZ, wanted to increase the awareness and number of youth in our club. What we ended up with, were 5 family memberships and the first XYL net. The club also took advantage of the vanity call sign program, and we were issued W8USA. Chuck N8LDY created MARA's World Wide Web page and we started receiving Great Lakes Awards requests via the Internet. Bill Zaidel N8VWI once again headed our Operation Care Coffee stops, and we operated all 3-summer holidays. After 2 years of wishing, and planing, MARA finally bought the new repeater controller. Our Saturday morning breakfasts actually became a major role in getting new members in the club. We have a total paid membership as of this

printing, of 67 members. This is the same club that started with 12 member's 7 years ago. Field Day 97 was the best ever and we really topped our contest count over last years total. 1997 was quite a year, but it was all your doing. You, the dedicated Ham enthusiast who makes the time to make your club the best it can be. While not everything went as smooth as it could have gone, the important thing was that it all got finished. Hey, we did it for another year. So as you sit quietly by the roaring fireplace, listening to the cracking of the logs, remember where we were, and start planing on where we want to be this time next year. We can do it.

and now, 1998

By Richie K8JX

While the last remaining days of 1997 tick away, 1998 holds greater promise than last year did. For the first time since 1995, MARA is going to begin to offer Novice and

Technician classes. Dan N8NIJ and Lee W8MLB will be doing the teaching, with Dan providing the code practice. Yes, we're going to teach the code at these sessions, and provide on-the-air practice on HF, if possible for those folks who have rigs, and on our repeater during the time the classes are in session. On HF, we'll probably use 28.150MHz. Due to an unforeseen problem (the new Pentium chips are simply too fast to run the older code practice programs), Rich K8JX had to postpone the code practice, cause he couldn't calibrate the programs. But that will change, Starting January 19, 1998, MARA will be holding the classes at the Boy Scouts new building, near 4 mile road NW and Alpine. We have room for 15 and already have 5 signed up. If your interested, please give Either Dan or Lee a call and let them know your intentions. If you're just interested in learning the code, it will be sent just like during the classes, only over the repeater. The classes will last 10 weeks, and while they're free, you must have the "Now your talking" book. What a way to start 1998!

The Presidents Corner

By Lee Burgess W8MLB

This past year saw many changes in our club's member's interests. From being involved solely on 2 meters, to talk about constructing a 6-meter repeater, to having a HF link on our repeater system, we at MARA are prodding ahead with new goals to achieve. The biggest achievement was the many members whom upgraded their license this past year. We heard your need, and have responded by offering a Novice and Technician class this coming January. If this is successful, we may offer classes for the remaining classes, General, Advanced and even the Extra.

1998 will again see us have the coffee stops during the summer holidays. Field Day 98 is already being planned. We are going to try to have a better year, with more people being involved at all levels of our projects. But this is up to you, to become involved. Nobody likes to see the same people doing the same thing, year, after year. So this year, why don't you take the time, and get involved in your club. New ideas should be shared, and there certainly isn't a better way to start the New Year than by volunteering for a club project. Don't think we have what you're interested in? Speak up. Other members may have

the same interest as you do. I wish you and your family a healthy, safe and joyous Holiday Season.

Lee Burgess W8MLB

VP Speaks

By Connie Zaidel N8WKQ

We have just about made it through another year. We sure have done a lot in one year. One of the best field days ever, 3 coffee stops a permanent web site, a new repeater controller and quite a few new members. Let's see if we can do it again next year. Speaking of next year, remember that New Years Eve is straight key night. I read it in a magazine, and also the last day of your 1997 MARA membership. So be sure to put your club on your Christmas to do list. After 5 years of being involved with the Operation Care program, 2 years with MARA, I am looking forward to doing some camping on the holidays, next summer.

I have been asked by several people, how I was doing on the inventory of club equipment. It's not going very well. Except for the few things we have here, NO ONE has given me any complete lists of what they have of club property. So I guess if you want an inventory, you will have to get me the lists of equipment. Please send it by e-mail to

W8USA@juno.com.

We hope most everyone has a safe and happy holiday.

Best Wishes

Connie N8WKQ

(The reason Connie and Bill are looking forward to a vacation this year, is that for the last 2 years, they have spent their summer vacation chairing operation care. Thanks again Connie and Bill for all you've done.)

The Treasurer's Report

By Dan Markowski N8NIJ

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the membership of MARA a very Happy and Joyous Holiday Season. I would also like to report to you, that the club will finish the year financially stable. We have accomplished a lot for a small club and this is due to the efforts of the membership. There are also some people out there who deserve special recognition. If I was to name names, I would likely miss someone and I surely don't want that to happen, so let it suffice it to say a special thank you to those who went the extra mile for this club. It took an extra effort to coordinate the various activities the club held during the year. I would like to add a note of personal thanks to Bob Wild N8JXB who was the net coordinator for the club. I know from my own experience that this is not an easy task. This club will continue to prosper because there are people out there who truly care. This makes me proud to be a member of MARA.

Net Director Retires

Bob Wild N8JXB, has been MARA's Net Director for the past 3 years. It's been mostly a thankless job, in that he doesn't hear from anybody unless somebody forgets to take the net. But he told me he has enjoyed the friendships he's made, the controversial topics some have dared to use and just plain being MARA's Net Director. As of December 31, 1997, Bob is retiring from the position. While he did say he would really like to see a change by who ever takes the net, he isn't leaving it because of that. No, Bob just bought a tower and is eagerly waiting for the time when he can start really using his HF privileges. Bob also wants to spend time to upgrade to advanced and extra. He should know, he spends a lot of time chatting away on 80 and 40 meters. We all thank you Bob for an outstanding job you've done. Enjoy your hamming.

Terrible Terry's Corner

By Terry Francis WB8ZNO

Well, here I go again. Sorry about that, but Richie said he needs filler for the newsletter. I have finally got my shop up and running and again am trying to get enough done so I can try and

make some money. My shop is called "The French Tack Shop". That name came to us from my nephew when he was making us a sign and ran out of room. So instead of Franc (is), he only had room for one more letter and that became it. HA. I'm not too sure what the "H" means, anything but it sure could have. I make horse shoe ornaments and have had luck in the past selling my products in the Grand Rapids area and am hoping that happens up here. I have been promised that one of the stores I sold to in lower Mich. wants more of my products. I was hoping to get enough done for the Christmas sales, but could not raise enough money to buy all the material needed. I need a raise. Ha.

Deer hunting up this way has been slow from what I have seen so far. I filled my doe permit the evening of the first day. I have always been against shooting does, but we as well as others have been over loaded with them. I have come close to hitting deer just about 4 out of every 7 days since I have moved up here. The other days are trying not to hit the turkeys of which there seems to be plenty. The only bucks I have seen have been the ones that come to our feeder every night. No, we do not hunt at our feeder. Later the deer will start coming in to the feeder at day light hours, but now of course, they only come after dark. We have a yellow light hanging over the feeders

so we can observe them and it does not seem to bother them. We can stand right in front of the kitchen windows and watch them. They are so used to us that they don't run away. Sometimes, we have to take the dogs out for one more potty call and have to clap our hands to get them to leave. The bears have visited us at our feeder. In fact, one night they tore one apart. Must have been mad at us for something we did wrong. I am hoping to be able to take some pictures of them some time. But it seems like I always miss them. Some of the people around here have had the chance to get some pictures and they put them in the local paper. I had some trouble with my 2-meter radio and had a friend of mine from Detroit work on it. He brought it back and said he could not find anything wrong with it, and guess what? This 9 watt bulb, not very bright, found out that he had a bad battery power supply. So now you know why they call me a certified appliance operator. I take my stuff in to be repaired even when it does not need it. I have written an article and sent it in to "Outdoor Life" and am waiting for a rejection notice. I just had to try my hand at writing. Yes, Richie, it is 2 pages long. The article mainly concerns finding ones way through the woods. I find most people I know don't even know how to use a compass.

(Continued on page 5)

*(Terrible Terry, Continued
from page 4)*

I don't carry one and have used the Indian way. I got started on those years ago when we hunted up in Iron mountain area. The iron ore in the area would really screw up a compass and made it useless. I will let you know if they accept my article. But if they don't, I will never admit it. I think I mentioned that we have a local poet that I type for. Well he wrote a poem about me and I am sending it along so you can enjoy it. It kind of pertains to my article. One part mentions something about my legs giving out. I have really wondered if the article I wrote about handicapped people ever made any affect at the swaps? I'm not crying because it is a matter of fact that I have trouble walking very far. I find that going to any special doings is not worth it, because of the trouble getting around. Most of the time it does not bother me, but I always think of the people that would really like to participate and cannot. I can't help feeling for them. Quite often the parking is not conductive for those that have trouble walking very far. My younger than I wife, Pat, KA8ROS, has been working some long hours at her job. She has worked up to 16 hours but at times has worked 12-hour shifts. I worry about her because of her age. But she says she can do it, and for me not to worry. I guess I am a little selfish because I am really spoiled and I am

too old to have to train another one to take care of me. Ha. Her job is at "Tendercare" in Clare, and she seems to enjoy it. At times it is really stressful, and some times sad when she loses a patient. I try and listened to her talk about her days because I think it helps to relieve the stress. Someone has to take care of the elderly, that includes me, and I will admit that it takes someone special to do that job. So if you know of anyone that does that type of work, please give him or her a lot of credit, they really deserve it.

Unlike last year, we have really lucked out in the weather dept. At this time last year, we were praying for warmer weather to just clear the roads. We had some bad times just getting out of here. I ended up driving Pat to work and picking her up after she went into the ditch. Her truck was balanced so well, that I could make it rock by pushing on the real bumper. We purchased a 4-wheel S1 Ford truck and really got took. In the first 76 miles I had \$1000 invested in it. From that point on, it has cost me about ½ that and it is still a pile of junk. I was told that I was getting a well taken care of truck. HA. It turned out that I was the well-taken care part! I am an appliance operator on mechanical things also. So I believed them. What an easy one I turned out to be. Since then, I have put on about 1000 miles and everyone else has put on the 5000. I have gotten it back with a empty tank so

have put the word out that I will not loan it out without having the person who uses it, to fill up the tank. Guess what? No one has asked to use it since. I wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Francis the Hunter
By James D Winegardres
A fellow named Francis
Went hunting for some
game;
For hours he walked
around on legs,
That were slowly going
lame.
He didn't see no rabbits,
Nor he didn't see no
ducks,
But he kept on hunting,
then he ran out of luck.
You see his luck had run
out, the day had turned to
dark,
Francis found himself
alone, and lost in Farwell
Park.

FCC: New form 610

The new FCC form 610 is now available from the FCC's forms contractor. The FCC has ordered the destruction of all previous versions of the form. As of January 1, 1998, the FCC will accept only the new form 610 for all filings. Forms 610A and 610B also have been amended. The major changed in the new form is a certification that says the applicant has read and will comply with the new RF radiation safety rules that begin 1/1/98

Ham Calendar 1998

Ham Swaps

- Sunday January 4 South Bend Indiana Michiana Valley Hamfest Assn. 21st Hamfest/computer expo TI 145.29 Century Cir US-33 North at Jefferson Blvd 8am 3pm info Denny KA9WNR M-F 7pm-10pm only please! (219) 291-0252 (Arrl Hamfest)
- Saturday January 17th Flint Amateur Radio & Youth. Swap-N-shop #5 TI 147.100 UAW Local 599 I-69 exit 136 North on Saginaw to Hamilton Ave east (rt) on Hamilton one blk, left on North. UAW hall on left 8am 1pm info: Ron KG8IM (810) 785-6514
- Saturday February 8th Mansfield OH. Intercity ARC /mansfid AER mid-winter Hamfest. INFO: Pat N8YOB (419) 589-7133
- Saturday February 14th Traverse City Cherryland ARC 98 Swap-n-shop.TI 146.860 Immaculate Conception Mid school 720 2nd St open 8am noon. INFO: Chuck W8SGR or Joe W8TVT (616) 947-8555
- February 22nd Livonia Livonia ARC 26th Annual swap-n-shop. TI 145.350 Dearborn Civic ctr. Mich Ave (US 12) & Greenfield Open 8am 3pm (313) 261-5486
- March 14th Marshall Southern MI Amateur Rad soc. INFO Wes Cheney N8BOM (616) 979-3433

(The above information courtesy of The Lowell Amateur Radio Club and the QRV bulletin up-date 11/28/97 by Mike Pearsall N8MP MI ACC)

MARA Events

- Saturday's 10:00 AM Breakfast club. Country Buffet Restaurant.
- Monday January 19th Novice & Tech class. Boy Scouts of America Building, 4 mile NW and Alpine TI 145.410
- Thursday 2nd of each Month MARA club meeting. Saint Adelberts Hall, 5th street and Davis NW 7PM.
- Thursday's of the month, MARA 2 meter net. 145.410MHz 8PM

MARA Inventory Form.

Please take the time, while reading this newsletter, to see if you have any of MARA's equipment. Simply list what you have and provide some sort of description. We really need to know so we can obtain the proper insurance for our gear. Mail or hand in the information to our Vice President Connie N8WKQ.

"Thanks for taking the time."

Equipment Description: _____

Location: _____

Serial number, if any: _____

Is gear in operation: _____ Your Name: _____

Ham News & Events

The US Navy HF fax broadcast has ended. The Navy HF facsimile broadcast, designed to support US Naval operations in the Atlantic, will cease at year's end since fleet units have migrated to other communication systems. The Navy HF fleet broadcast will end 24hour continuous operation beginning January 1,1998.

The Croatian CW contest is this weekend. On December 27-28, get ready for the Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge and the RAC Winter Contest. And don't forget ARRL's Straight Key Night on New Year's eve, December 31. (Reprinted from the ARRL Letter, December 20,1997. With permission.)

If you wish to send Connie Zaidel N8WKQ an e-mail, you'll have to wait. Bill has just changed services. If you need to e-mail her, please send it to W8USA@juno.com.

Andy Gusack W7PG, "Pa-Pa Goat", has moved. He now lives almost under our repeater. Andy is just waiting till he can get back on HF, his first love. His new phone number is 735-1568. Or wait and listen on 40 meters.

A lot of activity has been found on both 10 and 6 meters lately, and more than just listening too. A lot of our new members are using both 6 and 10 for

local contacts, just like we used to find on 2 meters. Talking about 2 meters, if you have a rig that works, you must know that 146.550 is now active once again. About time. Give a listen, and even put your 2 cents in. It's nice to see 2 meters being used for something more than repeater national monument.

The following is being sent by the Lowell ARC and Mike Pearsall N8MP ACC. At your next

ARES/RACES or Amateur Radio club meeting, could you please take a few moments to mention the Michigan Net- QMN. QMN is the nation's oldest public service net, having been established in 1935. Over 60-year's experience has made QMN one of the Nation's finest public service opportunities.

The types of public service activities QMN supports is,

- National Weather Service Rain Gauge Network.
- National Weather Service Winter Storm Observation System.
- NTS message traffic handing.
- Disaster communications for emergency management agencies.

American Red Cross If you have a member or two who might enjoy participating in QMN on an occasional basis, or if you know of someone who may wish to provide regular reports of rain and snow fall to the NWS via QMN, please pass this information on to them.

QMN meets on 3663 kHz at 6:30 and 10:00PM local time.

This is something some of you members have inquired about. Give our president Lee W8MLB a call and he'll fill you in.

From all of us at the Open Feed Line, we wish you a very Merry and Happy Holiday Season.

Things change

Hardly a conversation on 2 meters goes by without hearing some mention of the Internet. You really have to listen to hear a discussion about antenna's, theory and the performance of the latest rigs. "Are we hams or what?"

Yup! Ham's have always been on the cutting edge of technology, and it really shouldn't be a surprise that our interests go the digital route. This shouldn't mean that "The Old Way's" of ham radio are gone, nothing could be further from the truth. We're simply exploring a newer technology, and along the way, we're including it into our communications systems. How many times have you tried a contest, and kept the logs by paper and pencil? You could, and do a great job to boot. But try that same logging with a computer program. You'll never go back. You shouldn't. We're going ahead, and having fun doing it.

Many members have inquired about getting an application for the GLA. Gale N8AVQ asked that I include one with this newsletter. You can copy this, or just include the information. Happy Hunting.

Great Lakes Award

The Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA) is the proud sponsor of the Great Lakes Award. All licensed amateurs and SWL's are welcome to apply. You may use any amateur band or mode except repeaters. Contacts must be made on or after September 30, 1991. The following contacts must be made and confirmed.

State	Call	Date	Band	Mode
Michigan				
Illinois				
Indiana				
Wisconsin				
Minnesota				
Ohio				
Pennsylvania				
New York				
Canada (VE3 only)				

Endorsement desired — Phone, CW, QRP , etc. _____

Your call	
Name	
Address	
City	
State	
Postal code	
Country.	
E-mail address	

Document your contacts in the space provided and submit this form with copies of your QSL cards. If possible do not send your original cards, we know how hard you worked to get them and would hate to see them get lost.

The award fee is \$6.00 US to cover the costs of printing and postage. Send your application to:
 Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance
 P O Box 670
 Comstock Park, Michigan 49321-0670

From all of us at MARA

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year's