
The Open Feed Line

Volume 7 Issue 2

May 1998

THE MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

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Summer98

The summer of 1998 is already off to a great start. Several of our members drove down to Dayton to experience "The Worlds Largest Hamfest". Gale Scholten N8GS reported he had bought several coax connectors and other odd ham shack stuff, but most of the money went for beer! Dayton was Hot this year! Mark Scholten AB8MS bought stuff to be able to link his 440 machine to W8USA. I haven't talked with anybody else as of the time of this writing, but one of our members's bought a new H.F. rig. Give a listen on W8USA and see what he got.

If you've never been to Dayton, it is hard to describe. Try thinking of Woodland Mall, filled to the brim with ham gear. That's close, but that doesn't cover all that goes on during the 3-day event. New gear is shown off, as well as presentations from the ham radio worldwide community. One of the talk in nets for Dayton took place on 40meters! Maybe next year we'll all go down and see what a real hamfest is like.

Operation Care 98

MARA will be kicking off their special summer outing by hosting Operation Care Coffee stop. Once again, we'll be operating at the site we used for the last 2 years. This is the first year Bill N8VWI and Connie N8WKQ are not acting as the chairpersons. Mark Scholten AB8MS along with help from his brother Gale N8GS and Eric KC8CCA have been putting the finishing touches on the trailer we will be using this coming holiday season. Once again we'll start it off on May 24,1998 at around 9:00AM for setup. Inside this issue you'll find a schedule of sign up times that need to be filled. This is MARA's major public service event of the year. We provide hot coffee, a cold drink and cookies to weary motorists on their way back from vacationing. If you've never filled a shift, you should treat yourself. It sounds like work, but nobody I've talked to has gone away from it without a warm joyous feeling, knowing they have helped folks stay awake, and had

the pleasure of meeting some really great folks. So look over the schedule and make a date to have some fun, and be part of a great public service too.

Ever Been To MARA's Field Day?

The ARRL's Field Day is an event primarily intended for the USA and Canada, and the idea is to work as many stations as possible under less than optimum conditions. It is a contest, moreover, it is a drill to keep us ready in case of severe emergencies. Field Day also is intended to expose the general public to the Amateur Radio Service. It is held every year on the last weekend of June, which is June 27th and 28th this year.

If you have not been to MARA's Field Day lately, you don't know what you are missing. You get to meet people that you hear on the bands, and other people also.

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The location this year is the highest spot in Kent County, Fisk's Knob Park. Fisk's Knob Park is located on the West Side of Algoma Road between 21-mile Road and 22-mile Road near the northern edge of Kent County. The drive is nice, the view is spectacular, and the air is clean. It is a 24 hr. event; we begin operating at 2:00 PM local time Saturday and continue until 2:00 PM Sunday. Even at 4:00 in the morning, someone will be making contacts.

Everyone is welcome, and there are certainly times when operators are needed. I was a new ham last year, a no-code Technician, and it was quite a thrill for me to talk to people all over the country on the HF bands. I was made to feel very welcome, even though I didn't know many of the other hams very well at that time.

Brian KC8FUW and myself will be running the Novice/Techplus station. We will be primarily using CW, as we must stay within Novice privileges.

Hope to see you there.
73 de KC8FGQ

440 link

The week of May 3, 1998 saw a new repeater come on the air. AB8MS on 444.275MHz is operational. Mark is putting this repeater on the air, and it will be linked to MARA's W8USA repeater. We'll not only have coverage of the local

Grand Rapids area, but also North to Sparta and beyond. Mark still has oodles to do to get it working like he wants it, and just got back from Dayton, where he spent time searching for the components he wants on his repeater. The neat thing is, that it can be used separately of the VHF machine: four or more people can be talking without bothering each other. The antenna site is great also, and Mark has already gone further east than he thought possible. Stay tuned for further developments on this new machine.

We Got Class?

This past January, Dan N8NIJ and Lee W8MLB taught a Novice-Technician class at the Boy Scouts of America building. Dan provided the instruction with the Morse code, while Lee undertook the duties of teaching theory. When the class ended, they all had high hopes that they would all pass. When you teach a ham radio class, you sometimes will never know if you gave the right stuff to help foster a life long interest in ham radio. Over this past weekend, at Dayton no less, one of the students, took and passed the Technician class test. Her husband had hopes she could get her license, and that way, they could always have a means of staying in contact during

their separate journeys. One of the other students, a boy of about 12 years old, received his Novice call over the weekend. Was it worth the 6 or 8 weeks of driving through the snow, and icy roads for a 2-hour class? Just ask those two. They sure think so now.

Maybe now is the time, before the fall arrives, to decide if you're at the class of license you want. We just finished up the Novice-Tech. How about a class for the advanced and extra, with code?

Richie K8JX just finished up a short code practice session over our repeater. It was very hard, since the software simply wasn't cooperating, and the computer would hic cups now and then. But after Bill N8OAR finally "Fixed" the controller, we got it working. What were very exciting weren't the mending of equipment, but how many people were actually using the practice! Once, when it wouldn't work, Richie didn't even start the code, and four people came on the air asking when would it start!

"Do we have enough interested folks out there to create another class?" Go out to Field-Day98, and think it over, while listening to all the excitement that's on HF. If you would like a class, speak up at the next club meeting and over our 2-meter net. Spread the word.

See you in the fall.

Summer Calendar 98

Operation Care Coffee stop. Memorial Day Weekend

(MAY 24, 1998)

(May 25, 1998)

| Noon-4PM | 4PM-8PM | 8PM-12:00 | 12AM-8AM | 8AM-Noon | Noon-4PM | 4PM-close |
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It's desirable to have 3 people operating the site. More hands makes less work.

Operation Care Coffee stop. Fourth of July Weekend

(The following schedules are tentative: we may include more hours of operation)

(July 4, 1998)

(July 5, 1998)

| Noon-4PM | 4PM-8PM | 8PM-12:00 | 12:00-8AM | 8AM-Noon | Noon-4PM | 4PM-close |
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Operation Care Coffee stop. Labor Day Weekend

(September 6, 1998)

September 7, 1998)

| Noon-4PM | 4PM-8PM | 8PM-12:00 | 12:00-8AM | 8AM-Noon | Noon-4PM | 4PM-close |
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Please remember, these last two schedules are tentative. Stay tuned for more information.

Field-Day98 will be held on the last full weekend of June. Gale N8GS and Eric KC8CCA are co-chairing this event. The actual time of setup and tear down, and operation will be given on the MARA 2 meter net.

This is our summer issue, and we try to keep this short, since everybody has oodles of things to do before the first snow fall? Relax, enjoy all our club has to offer and let's really ham it up during this Field-Day.

73 Richie K8JX