

The Open Feed Line

Volume 9, Issue 4 Friendship, Community service & Advancement of the Hobby

Dec 2000

2000AD

What a year

The year 2000 is now in the record books, and what a year it was. We saw our six license classes reduced to 3: Only the Technician, General and Extra remain. The Morse Code requirement was reduced to just 5 wpm for both the General and Extra. We had another successful Operation Care Coffee stop with GRARA. Field Day was a hit with all that went to it and we placed 4th in the state! Our clubs Newsletter went to 6 issues a year instead of 4, with a toll on the clubs printer. The web site finally became a showcase of all of the interests that our members have, as well as providing special interest links for renewing and updating our licenses. We also sadly remember those who have now become silent keys. Ray Ritchey W8JLJ, who sold the 145.410MHz repeater to the club. Leonard Gongalski N8NEK, who was the early clubs first treasurer, and later, cooked chili for Field Day. Morse Code practice started again and there is talk of having another one this coming winter. We had more returning members than new ones. Lets greet the New Year with the same excitement we did last year.

Merry Christmas

&

Happy New Year

By Jim Cordes KI8JD

It is that time of the year when some people finally get good will towards others. Why they can't have that feeling year-around is beyond my understanding.

It is also that time of the year when many people think about improving themselves through New Year's resolutions. It is the end of the old year, and the beginning of the new. Similarly, we could improve ourselves at any time of the year.

It is also that time of year when many people die, at least it seems that way to me. Given the shortness of our lives, it seems like people would want to be nice to each other while they had the chance. When I die, I want people to think, "It's a shame, he was such a nice guy. He did a lot to help others." Rather than, "Good riddance, he was a selfish jerk, a waste of skin." Is this vanity on my part? It depends on how you look at it.

We should try to treat others as equals, regardless of their shortcomings or handicaps. We should not look down on others, especially amongst the community of Amateur Radio. Let us try to overlook minor details, such as license class, age, intelligence, race, emotional health, lifestyle choices, financial status, CW ability, station capabilities, and all other physical attributes. Very few of us would look down on a blind person, but what about someone that we view as stupid, or lazy? We should not judge others until "we have walked a mile in their shoes," and not even then. It is my belief that we will all answer to a higher authority. So who are we to judge?

(Continued on page 3)

UP COMING HAMFESTS

- 1/21/01 Hazel Park ARC Tom Krausnick WC9F
2/3/01 Hiawatha ARA Bill Beitel N8NRG 906-226-2779
2/10/01 Cherryland ARC Joe W8TVT 231-947-8555
2/18/01 Livonia arc Neil Coffin WA8GWL 734-261-5486

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The Open Feed Line is published 4 times a year. It is the official journal of The Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance. You may freely reprint any material in the Open Feed Line, but please credit the Open Feed Line, the original author, and the original publication, if given.

Membership information

The Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance, an American Radio Relay League affiliated club, was created to provide opportunities for friendship, community service, increase technical knowledge and upgrading our skills in the hobby of amateur radio. Annual dues to MARA are \$20. Family memberships are also available. Persons aged 70 and over have the rate of \$5.00. Memberships expire on December 31 and club dues are due on January 1st. MARA membership is open to all interested persons.

Everybody is encouraged to submit original articles to the editor on disk, fax or by mail. The deadline for submission is the end of the 2nd week of February, May, August and November. Please send change of address information and membership applications to the club secretary.

Great Lakes Award

Send inquiries regarding the Great Lakes Award to the Awards Manager Brian Scholten KC8DOC c/o MARA
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Club activities

MARA holds their weekly 2 meter Net on the MARA W8USA repeater, 145.410 MHz -600Khz PL. 94.8., every Thursday, at 8 PM, except the 2nd Thursday of the month. MARA holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at Saint Adalberts Benevolent Society Aid Hall, located at 5th Street and Davis NW. We meet at 7:30PM upstairs. All are welcome.

(Merry Christmas..Continued from page 1)

That being said, I guess we should have compassion for the selfish jerks of this world. You know the type.

Our club has gone through some hard times over the past few years, especially this past year. Hopefully, very soon, we will get back to being a "fun" club. This used to be our claim to fame. Obviously, bickering detracts from this. But please rest assured that it will be over soon. So I ask you to stick by the club in it's hard times, better times are coming. The club wants you to be a member. The more, the merrier.

As a MARA member, and as a MARA officer, I feel no regret for what has happened, or for what will happen in our club. These things must come to pass. However, as an Amateur Radio operator, I am somewhat ashamed of what I view as selfish actions on the part of certain people. It seems to me that they must be emotionally troubled. I guess we should forgive these people, I sure wouldn't want to be in their shoes. And of course, none of us are perfect.

The big question that goes through my mind is this; what does our club have to do to attract and hold more members? Obviously, many join and renew to support the repeater. Many look for camaraderie. This is commendable, however, I look for more. (I personally joined to support the

repeater, and also, I enjoy Field Day very much.) But what are you interested in? Please let your desires be known. The club will try to accommodate you.

I heard one person say, several times, that the reason he joined the club, many years ago, was to learn how to solder. I recently heard him say that he still doesn't know how to solder. Now, I am not an expert on soldering, but I am going to make sure that he learns as much as I can teach him on this subject. There are a few ways I could accomplish this, but I am going to try to make it to the January meeting a half-hour early, and have a little soldering class. Some would have you believe that is the only class I have (hi-hi). So, we hope to see you January 11, 2001 at 7:00 PM for a quick soldering class.

Any questions, call ki8jd
73 AR K

Least we Forget..

The year 2000 has been put in the memory bank, and we must get on with 2001. I would like to take a minute and single out an individual who I think has done an outstanding job for the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA) Mark Scholten AB8MS.

None of us could foresee the terrible Pain the repeater issue would cause the Club, nor could the incoming board have any idea what would lay

ahead for them. Mark was thrown right into the middle of this Unfortunate controversial, He had good friends on both sides of the issue. Who was to blame? I think everybody has to take some. Who was the loser I think Amateur Radio was to some extent. And there was times when I am sure Mark wanted to throw up his hands and say why do I need this grief. Mark could have walked out and no one would have blamed him but you see that is not in Marks' make up. As president of MARA it was tough to say the least, but he stayed with it the best he could. Mark was also the Chairman for the coffee stop where he did an outstanding job, not only this year but for the last 3 years. Again he picked something that was difficult and challenging and tore into it like a man possessed. He took a function that was ho-hum and turned it into the clubs best money making project. He got all the food together, made sure the trailer was there when manpower was short, he cut a deal with GRARA, not to mention the time away on the holiday weekend's from his family. As a result we now have the highest bank balance this club has ever seen. I could go on but space does not allow.

Thanks Mark for all you did and for what you stand for. This club is much better for it!
Wayne Dowling KB8VOZ

Treasurers Good bye By Dan Markowski N8NIJ

It is with some regret that I will no longer serve as treasurer of MARA. I have held this position since 1993. I have seen this club come a long way since my early days and its due to the efforts of many people who have dedicated themselves to the many volunteer hours supporting the club over the years. The membership has always met the challenges and strayed focussed on the task at hand. The institution of the coffee stops has resulted in obtaining the funds necessary to accomplish our goals. I congratulate the membership of MARA who has served to make this club successful. In closing I would like to wish all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

(while Dan is leaving this post, he'll assume a different one on January 1st: club president. Gale Scholten N8GS is now MARA" newly elected Treasurer..)

The New Presidents Hello..

By Dan Markowski N8NIJ

As the incoming president of MARA, I have been asked to write an article regarding my goals for the upcoming year. First I would like to thank the former officers of the club for their contributions during the past year. I personally would like to thank Mark Scholten AB8MS for all the effort he

has put forth during the year. I would also thank the membership without whose efforts and support would have made things extremely difficult. My goals seem very simple but I'm sure accomplishing them will be difficult. Continuing this clubs successfulness will obviously be first and foremost. I would like to see a growth in membership during the year. Obviously I will do whatever is necessary to ensure that our club remains financially sound. It will be vitally important to get the current controversy regarding the repeater behind us and I will do whatever I need to do to move in the direction mandated by the membership. We must remain focussed on the tasks at hand and move in an orderly direction in accomplishing our goals. I look forward to working with the membership and the board in an effort to remain successful. I'm sure I'll need all the help I can get.

It's never too early..

This is the last issue of our Newsletter for 2000. During this past years printing, our old HP LaserJet wore out, to put it simply. The machine was made in May of 1984 and sold for over \$4000.00. It was donated for our club's use by the 3rd president Mara had, Serge Lisk N8NFZ. What's an editor to do, when faced with finding a dependable machine to print over 1200

pages yearly? Gale Scholten N8GS, came to our rescue at the November's meeting. He has sold us his HP LaserJet IIP. This is a newer machine (built in June 1990) but still has the dependability of the HP name. Upgrading any machine can be troublesome, and printers are no exception. I hope you bare with me while I get used to its characteristics.

Now it's time for us all to start planing.. On August 31, 2001, MARA will have its 10th birthday! That's right. We've been around since 1991 and we've got to start deciding what sort of celebration we're going to have. "How about some sort of special event station, either during the month of August, or from now till then?" Special QSL cards, a larger Field Day outing? Whatever you, the MARA member think is right, we'll do! "How about you non-members?" What do you see special in our club? Whatever it might be, please, let any of the board members know. We really have come a long way. The club that wouldn't exist, is alive and well. " Thanks to you all!"

...and lastly..

Due to the postal rates going up on January 7th, I didn't have much time to wait for articles. I apologize to those folks who have sent in articles and I didn't include them. They will be used next week.