

The Open Feed Line

Volume 11, Issue 1 Friendship, Community service & Advancement of the Hobby

Jan-Feb 2001

Ham of the Year

All local hams are invited to make a nomination for the Ham of the Year Award. Please pass this invitation on to any interested individual. The award will be given at the Welcome New Ham Dinner, so nominations should be made yet this month.

The Ham of the Year Award is an effort to say "Thank-you" to those local hams that have done so much for the ham community, and our community in general. The award is supported by the local clubs, but is not a club event.

We welcome nominations from any Amateur Radio operator. You may make only one nomination. You may nominate any ham from the west Michigan area, provided they have not received the award before. The previous recipients of this award are; Carl and Evelyn Thompson, and Raymond Abraczinskas. The nominations should be in writing, with the name and callsign of the nominee, your name and callsign, and a brief explanation of why you think your nominee should get the award.

You may send your nomination by e-mail, snail mail, or however. The e-mail address is jcordes@iserv.net. The snail mail address is MARA, PO Box 670, Comstock Park, Mi. 49321-0670.

I think this award is a good thing. It gives recognition to those who have done so much for our hobby. Just being nominated is an honor in my opinion.

Any questions, feel free to ask.

Respectfully yours,
James M. Cordes KI8JD

HAM FESTS

- 1-19-02 AR Youth Club Clay Hewitt KF8UI
810-233-7889
- 1-20-02 Hazel Park ARC Jeff Albrecht N8WR
248-642-3608
- 2-2-02 Hiawatha ARA Bob Serfas N8PKN
906-226-9782
- 2-9-02 Cherryland ARC Joe Novak W8TVT
231-947-8555
- 3-16-02 Marshall John Malinowski N8BGM
616-781-4540

ARRL Study panel Recommends eliminating Novice bands!

On the basis of nearly 5000 survey responses, the ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee has recommended that the ARRL petition the FCC to eliminate the Novice CW subbands and allow Novice and Technician with Element 1 credit licensees to operate CW on the General 80,40,15 and 10 meter CW allocations at up to 200 watts output. The panel suggested setting aside portions of those bands for "slow CW operation" to aid new CW operations in enhancing their skills. The committee recommended refarming the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands in part to allow expansion of the phone allocations on 80,40 and 15 meters.

The committee's complete report will be presented to the ARRL Board of Directors for consideration during its annual meeting in January. The committee's determinations were based on opinions expressed by 4744 respondents to an ARRL Novice Spectrum Study survey launched in June. Those expressing their opinions included ARRL members and nonmembers. Nearly 61% of those responding were Extra class licensees.

The committee recommended expanding the phone bands in accordance with the most popular of the survey choices offered. 3 for 80,40 and 15 meters and 2 for 10 meters.

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The Open Feed Line

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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, on topics relevant to the hobby of Ham Radio, to the editor on disk, fax or by mail. The deadline for submission is the end of the 2nd week of February, April, June, August, October and December. 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
Larry Dells KC8KVR c/o
MARA
P.O.Box 670
Comstock Park MI 49321-0670
internet W8USA@ARRL.NET

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Operation Care Coffee Stop

*

Super Swap

Chairman MARA

*

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.

*Some of these offices are still open. If you'd like to volunteer, contact one of the board members and let them know what your interested in.

Prez's 2 Bits

Well another year has come and gone. I can't believe how fast the whole year went. As many of you know the same slate of officers was re-elected for another term. I would like to add my thanks to all that served on the executive board. I know that 2001 was at times very time consuming. To all who served on various committees I would also like to add my thanks. This club has been successful due to all that devoted time to the club. My goals for 2002 are very simple; I would like to increase our membership, have successful coffee stops, have an enjoyable field day, and in general promote this hobby as best as I can. There are many things that need to be done in preparation for our club events. Please keep this in mind and devote some of your time when called upon. The New Ham Dinner will be held on February 16 at Ryans Steakhouse on Alpine. Please make

plans to attend as this is always a good time. During this dinner a presentation for ham of the year will be made. The three area clubs join together to promote these events. As soon as more information is available it will be passed along to you during our net or as an announcement on the repeater. Our Saturday breakfast club has grown over the year as well. In closing I would like to add my personal thanks to Wayne Dowling who has served as the net director. His dedication to the net has been appreciated by all.

Club Projects:2002

It seems like we've come full circle, so to speak. Our Packet system, which was discarded back in 1999, is now back on the air. 145.09 MHz. I'm attempting to recover my backed up copy of the original MSYS program, which I made a while back, so we can put the whole system back on

line. Seems that Packet is getting a renewed interest from hams as of late. Especially since PSK-31 came on the scene. This new system won't have the telephone access like the old one did. It will be a while till the MSYS is back on line, so till then, connect using W8USA. Drop Jimmy KI8JD a note and thank him for his fine efforts. Now, on to the club's mobile communications post. (ok, the trailer we bough last summer). We need to do some work to get the structure solid and weather proofed, should we want to out fit it with communications equipment. "What color should we paint it?" Better yet, how should we use it? For Field-Day, perhaps the Scouting events and maybe even when the classroom talks to the space station. The only limit is our imagination. Give Larry Dells call to find out the times it is available to be worked on.

(Continued on page 4)

KA8SHZ JIM E.D. NORTON S.K.

On November 27, 2001, the founder of both the Kent County Amateur Radio Club and MARA, passed away. Jim had been fighting throat and Heart cancer for about a year. Jim along with several other local hams, saw a need for an alternative club in the west Michigan area. Mara came into being on August 31, 1991. At first, Jim allowed MARA to hold its meetings at his factory, which was located on Elizabeth ST NW. It was during those first years of organization, that the common goal for any member was to get licensed, and then to upgrade. The feeling among the members was that this club was something special, a credit to the wit and humor of Jim Norton. Jim had a life long love for CW, and the fondest memory this writer has of him, is watching him pound out CQ's during MARA's first Field day, which we held in a swamp while swatting away

mosquitoes. Here was a man who really enjoyed the hobby and the people that were in it. Jim also liked to collect Ham radios, and still has one of the largest collections in the western Michigan area. In the later years, Jim moved on and out of MARA to go back to his first love, CW. He also broke his golden rule about using repeaters, and finally got onto the link repeater system.

Jim will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife and sons.

(Club projects 2002
continued from page 3)

As some of you are aware, once a year, usually right after the club elections, our web person changes, creates a new web page. This year is no different. But he does need your help this time out. Our MARA LOGO, the blue ribbon around our logo, needs to be redesigned. It just doesn't print too well at a lower resolution and it has to be large to be able to read it on

the web page. In short, it needs to be redesigned. Who ever does this, please keep in mind, it should be readable when printed on a business card, and also when printed on the Newsletter.

Just submit your design to Richie Ranta K8JX or give it to anybody on the board. "Be Creative!"

While you're in a designing mood, what do you say to creating a special plaque for the "Ham of the Year" award and, even a plaque to present all of the companies that provide us with free stuff for Operation Care Coffee stops? This has been talked about for several years, and once it came very close to actually being made, but the company that made the plaque when bankrupt. This would be a wonderful way of showing our appreciation for both the Ham of the Year and our sponsors. Speak up at the next meeting. We're already going to be showing our appreciation on our web page.

For The New Ham...

Remember when you first got licensed, and you listened to the local traffic on the repeaters?

Remember, when you first got the nerve to press that microphone button and proudly put out your call, only to be greeted by “Hey lid, we don’t say that kind of stuff here, that belongs on CB”. Your feelings of accomplishment quickly turn to “What did I do anyway?” You access your investment into Ham radio: “Was it worth it?”

Exactly how do we all treat new comers to ham radio anyway? I can remember not long ago, when a radio enthusiast put away his CB set and started studying and passed both Morse code and theory exams and earned his Extra class ticket. He was one happy camper till one day he ventured a question on theory, which he was unsure of. He learned quickly that is not something to do on the radio.

It’s time, once again, to re-think how we deal with others, especially new hams. Now I’m going to warn you that the following is Rocket Science. So if you do not know calculus, don’t read any further. If you want to try and make a difference, read on.

1. You can’t show how friendly ham radio operators are if you do not say hello. So the very next time you hear a new callsign, or an unfamiliar one, give them a call. Try to remember how you felt the very first time you got on the air. Share with him what you’re doing in ham radio, all of the different clubs and events that occur in your area.
2. Let him know what interest each club has in your area. You can bet if there is more than one club, each will have

its own special interest. Let him know what repeaters are in the area and their frequency. Letting him know about local VHF/UHF nets is helpful also.

3. Invite the new ham to one of the local events. Club meetings, swaps, Field Day or just breakfast or dinner with a group of hams. What better way of introducing not only our hobby but ourselves too.
4. See if the person has any interests in participating in any of the local events. Like, working on Field Day, helping out at a V.E.Session, getting involved in putting out a newsletter, helping out with web pages, sky-warn. The list is endless.

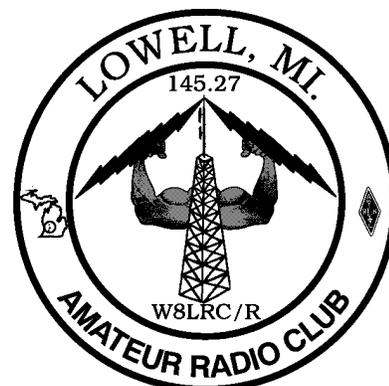
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This is how we do it in The Greater Grand Rapids Area



Announcing the SEVENTH ANNUAL
WELCOME NEW HAMS,
NEW TO THE AREA HAMS, AND THE REST OF US
GET OUTTA THE CABIN DINNER
6PM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2002

JOINTLY SPONSORED BY:



At RYANS FAMILY STEAK HOUSE,

3725 Alpine NW, Grand Rapids / Alpine Twp. From the I-96 expressway, exit Alpine Ave Hwy M-37 north (exit 30), go past 4 Mile Rd, on the left / west side of Alpine. When arriving, **go directly to the banquet room.**

BRING YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER, FRIENDS, and the KIDS can come too! Dress casual. LET THE NEW ONES KNOW WE WELCOME THEM, and enjoy each other's company without the need to split so not to miss that hamfest deal!

And you don't want to miss out on the door prizes, nothing spectacular like a new rig, but a prize is a prize. We'll have a good time!

Order from the regular menu. Cost is under \$10. Gratuity included.

Reservations are not needed, but you are encouraged to e-mail <w8lrc@k8sn.org> with the number in your party ahead of time so we have an idea how many to expect.

Don't be snooty, show up! ☺