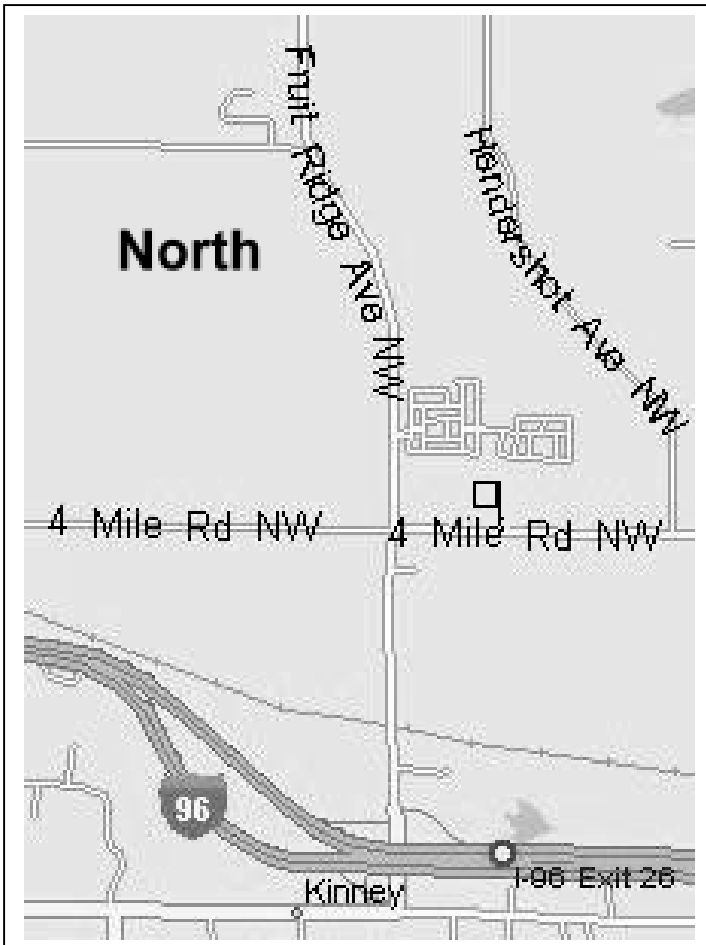


The Open Feed Line

Volume 11, Issue 3 Friendship, Community service & Advancement of the Hobby

May-June 2002



Field Day 2002

By Steve Biziorek K8VOL

This year, we're going to hold Field Day 2002 near the corner of 4 mile Road NW and Fruit Ridge Ave NW. Take I-96 West to the 2nd exit past Alpine Ave. This is the Fruit Ridge exit. Go north (take a right) on Fruit Ridge Ave. about ¾ mile to 4 mile Road. Take a right on 4 mile and then a left into the first drive. We'll be holding Field Day in the large field on the NE corner of Fruit Ridge Ave. The drive is located just east of Fruit Ridge on 4 mile Road NW. The driveway has large steel poles on both sides.

We're still in need of radios and antennas. If your willing to help us out, please let me know either by e-mail K8VOL@ARRL.NET Or give me a call at 791-1182.

We'll also be discussing this at the next two breakfasts, at Cheers Restaurant on Plainfield Ave NE on Saturday morning at 9AM and at the club meeting this coming Thursday night at 7:30PM. As usual, we're also going to make this a opportune time to introduce non-hams' to Amateur Radio. If you know somebody who might be interested in radio, please bring them with you.

Ham Fests

6/15/02 Midland ARC Eldon Hall N8STF
989-643-5101
6/16/02 Monroe County RCA Fred Van Daela KA8EBI
734-242-9487 (after 5pm)
6/22/02 Barry ARA jack Hill K8YPW
POBOX 370 Hastings MI 49058
7/6/02 Straits Area ARC Cliff Roseohn KC8NVI
231-526-5645
8/3/02 Iron Range ARC LeRoy Anderson N8WQG
Crystal Falls MI 906-265-3960

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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616-791-1182

K8VOL@arrl.net

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.

The Prez's Two_Bits

By Dan Markowski N8NIJ

I would like to express my thanks to all those who participated in the Memorial Day coffee stop. The traveling community appreciated your time spent.

The July 4th coffee stop will be held on Saturday, July 6th starting at noon and running until 9:00 PM on Sunday July 7th. If you have four hours to spare please consider signing up for a shift.

MARA will be holding field day starting Saturday June 22nd. For those of you who have never experienced field day and love to operate it will be an experience you will remember. I guarantee that we will have something there that will peak your interest. The purpose of field day is to get set up in the field and be able to provide communications during emergencies. We also try to make this event somewhat of a family event by including a potluck dinner on Saturday evening. The club has just purchased a two-meter radio and we will have talk in instructions on the MARA repeater during field day.

The club will be fixing up the trailer sometime this summer and we will need volunteers for this project. I know that there are a lot of skilled individuals who could make this project a lot

easier by devoting a little of your time and energy to this project.

This club has a history of fellowship and cooperation and I can honestly say that I'm proud of our membership and its accomplishments.

*Dan Markowski N8NIJ
President MARA*

Member News

Carl Thompson, WA8AAT, is recuperating from major surgery. Finally, after about 3 weeks, Carl sounds like the old Carl we know and love. He called just before the Memorial Day coffee stop to say that he didn't think he was going to be able to attend. That's ok Carl, rest up and take it easy for once.

Larry Dells, KC8KVR is counting the days till he can retire. Larry, who works for the schools, is looking forward to finally being able to lift his feet up, and plop them on the table and rest. He also plans to make the time to concentrate on upgrading. Something he just hasn't had the time to do. Till now.

Talking about time, Larry is looking for more folks to become Net Controls for our club's Thursday night net. This is a great opportunity for folks to learn how to operate a net, in a safe, relaxed atmosphere. New folks also mean newer and different topics. Everybody will benefit. Give Larry a call today.

Bill Zaidel, N8VWI, is out of the hospital, finally, and like Carl, is sounding much better. Bill had complications from a chronic disease, but is not only feeling better, but is getting back into Ham radio. Bill, due to work, has been absent from the local amateur scene, is now getting into satellites and also working VHF again. Look for them both at the next club meeting.

Another retired member who is chatting with the birds, is Wayne Dowling, KB8VOZ. Wayne also is working 6 meters with an in house beam. Now watch your head when you go visit him.

Edmund Lomasiewicz W8NZW, a.k.a. Mister CW, is finally able to hear out of both his ears. He came down with a nasty virus last fall, and it is just now leaving him. He couldn't talk on the phone, or hear CW signals. At the young age of 84, that's no way to spend ones golden years.

Mike and Nancy Eilers, K8OOK, are dedicated hams. When they take a vacation in the summer, you'll not find them tanning themselves at Grand Haven. Nope. They'll usually make a trip to a rare county, so they can help out their friends on County Hunters. They've been doing this for years. Mikes trying to get other club members interested in county Hunting, and we'll hear more from him later this fall.

(Continued on page 4)

This and that

By Jim ki8jd

I had a dream. I dreamt that one of the older hams had passed away, and I was on a net talking about what a great guy he was. About that time I woke up and realized that the reason most of these older guys are so nice is because they have realized that life really is too short to be a jerk, and to treat others poorly.

Now that I am full of inspiration, or something similar, I will write the article that I should have written for the last newsletter, or at least add to the articles that were written.

Six fine gentlemen were nominated for the West Michigan Ham of the Year Award this year. In alphabetical order, they were: Jack Amelar NY8D, Jim Cordes KI8JD, Dave Devos KF8QL, Jim Jaworowicz AA8JR, Sam Nabkey K8SN, and Richard Ranta K8JX. I am sure that there are many other people who also deserve to have been nominated, and our hats are off to them, as well.

This was the third year for the Ham of the Year Award. Carl and Evelyn Thompson (WA8AAT & KB8ILI) won the award the first year. Abe W8HVG won the award the second year. And now, Jim AA8JR has won the award for the third year. Of course, over the past 3 years, many great people have been honored with a nomination.

Since my last article, I went shopping for a weather alert radio. I found that there are basically 2 types. There are the \$60 models, with the Specific Area Message Encoding, or S.A.M.E., and there are the \$17 models without S.A.M.E. With the S.A.M.E. system, you can set the radio to only sound the alert for the county you live in, or any counties that you choose. The cheaper models sound off when there is a watch or warning anywhere in West Michigan, so you will hear alerts that you may not be interested in.

I bought one of the more expensive types, and I like it. I set it to only sound the alerts for Kent County. It has sounded an alert twice since I bought it, once for a thunderstorm watch, and once for a thunderstorm warning (same storm, same day). When it sounds an alert, it makes siren-type sound. You also can push a button, and get NOAA weather any time you like. It has other features as well, such as an alarm clock.

I was at my daughter's school the other day, and saw a quote that was worth remembering. Henry VanDyke said, "Use the talents you possess, for the woods would be very silent if no birds sang except the best."

We can apply this to everyday life. Have you ever thought that you might want to write an article for a newsletter, or build an antenna, or whatever, but decided

against it because you felt you couldn't do a good job? Maybe you lacked the experience or knowledge necessary to perfect the task? You should just go for it. Even if your attempt fails, you gain knowledge and experience, so you still win.

73, Jim ki8jd

(Member_News, continued from page 3)

During this past Thursday's net, Larry Dells, KC8KVR, announced that he had found a place where we could hold our monthly club meetings. The building's main attraction is that there are no stairs to climb! On the minus side, it is located at the junction of Plainfield Ave and the East Belt line, close to where the gravel plant is located. This will be a good distance to travel for some of our members. The building is presently being used as a retirement meeting center. This is something to think about and I'm sure we'll have a discussion about it at the next meeting, this Thursday. (June 13,2002)

Morse code practice in the summer? Nope. But it definitely is coming this fall. Since the FCC reduced the code speed to 5 WPM, it's time to get serious about learning the code. So, your two friendly code instructors, Jimmy and Richie (a.k.a. Dot and Dash), are going to once again take to the air waves, three times a week, and send out code practice. Tune in for more information later.

50th Anniversary W8KQM

A milestone of sorts was set this past week by a local ham; "Glenn W8KQM" celebrated 50 years of being licensed and active as a ham. The big Five Oh. A lot of things have changed in that time. Glenn's Amateur exam was radically different from what we're all used to taking now. He had to actually draw by hand, and identify, the components of a power supply, transmitter and receiver. No multiple choice questions then. You also had to prove that you operated a minimum amount of hours, just to renew your license. One of Glenn's great joys is the Heath Kit mono-bander radios he made. I believe he has one for 75 meters and 40 meters. Each also has it's own linear! "Now those really were the good old days!" They are quite something to behold. Glenn could tell you stories how Ham Radio has changed in that time. I first met Glenn when he was using one of the very first Icom thumb wheel tuned 2 meter radios: he was recovering from surgery at Blodgett hospital and walked outside to "get a breath of fresh air" (I.e. talk on 2 meters) Glenn is retired now, after many years working at the Grand Rapids post office and you can find him chatting away on any of the West Michigan repeaters. Be sure to say Hi when you hear him on the radio.

I.R.A. Hamfestival 2002

By Richie K8JX

It's been over 25 years since I attended a Swap-N-Shop. That was Cadillac MI. and I found the tanks at the Armory more interesting! This past Saturday, I fell out of bed at 5:39Am and got ready for my very first IRA swap. I've never been to one, so I was eager to see what all the hoopla was about. After drinking many cups of coffee, I finally woke up enough to see vender after vender, putting their wears out on the tables. I was sitting at our club's table, while our members put their stuff out. Of course, the main attraction at any swap, isn't the goodies, but the friends you haven't seen in years. I saw folks I haven't seen since 1974. One of the biggest differences was the equipment that was being offered for sale. Right across from our table, a computer vendor had put enough stuff out, so that anybody could go down one side and up the other and end up with a brand new Pentium 4 computer, and not junk either! I had my own agenda in looking for used gear: I needed a dual band handi-talkie and some other stuff. I found the first, but the second stuff never arrived. I guess my hunting for gear will have to wait till the next swap. I did break down, after many prodding's from our secretary, Jim K18JD, to buy two station logbooks and a brand new ARRL book. Just what I needed.

The swap winded down around 12:20 PM. I felt lucky, so decided to attend the MARC meeting. As it turned out, they didn't have enough members there to hold a meeting, so they fielded questions from those in attendance. I learned a lot from this non-meeting and made several friends to boot. The Repeater counsel is no different in its operation than any of the other clubs across the state. It needs volunteers to get involved and do the work that needs to get done. After many discussions, the questions ended, and we left. It was 2:10PM. I can't believe I spent 8 hours up at dawn at a Hamfestival. I had a really good feeling, about all the folks I met and all the things I saw. Yes, I guess one year from now, I'll get up before the squirrels and once again, go to the swap.

Logo contest?

We need a new Logo. It's that simple. Now, what with the search for a coffee mug designer, and hat and tee-shirt supplier, we realized we need a less complex logo. The one we have simply can't be reduced without creating distortion. So.... It's time once again for you folks to pull your thinking caps on and sharpen your pencils and pens. Submit your design to MARA's club secretary and we'll publish a photo of the ones submitted and let you, the reader, tell us which one should be the club's New Logo. Now, start drawing.

KID'S DAY IS JUNE 15!

*(The following is taken from
"The ARRL Letter, Vol. 21
No.23 June 8,2002.
Reprinted with permission)*

Kid's Day, Saturday, June 15, from 1800 to 2400 UTC, is a chance to invest in the future of Amateur Radio. Scheduled twice a year, in January and June, Kid's Day is an opportunity for amateurs to introduce their own youngsters, young relatives or neighborhood kids to the magic of Amateur Radio and, in the process, to perhaps open the door to a lifelong hobby. Activity is on 20, 15 and 10 meters as well as locally on VHF, including repeaters. Suggested frequencies are 14,270-14,300; 21,380 to 21,400, 28,350 to 28,400 kHz and 2-meter repeaters (with permission from the repeater sponsor).

Kid's Day is not a contest. It's more of a social event, where an experienced operator facilitates getting the youngsters on the air so they can enjoy the fun of ham radio. The licensee need only keep an eye on the technical and legal aspects of the operation--including observing third-party traffic agreements and identifying every 10 minutes--and lend an Elmering hand as necessary. The idea is to help the kids find someone they're comfortable talking with and to just let them enjoy themselves. In Kid's Day, it's quality of the

contacts, not quantity, that counts.

To provide a little framework, it's suggested to have youngsters exchange name, age, location and favorite color with other participants they meet on the air. It's OK to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Stations may call "CQ Kid's Day."

ARRL's Jean Wolfgang, WB3IOS, encourages having youngsters make drawings during periods of slow radio activity which reflect their feelings about Amateur Radio and Kid's Day.

"We are collecting these drawings--they can be done by computer or crayon--and we'll use some of them to design a new Kid's Day certificate," she said. Submittals should include the child's name and age as well as contact information (including e-mail, if available) for the sponsoring amateur. Send the artwork to jwolfgang@arrl.org or to ARRL, Kid's Day Artwork, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

"The kid sitting beside you may or may not be a ham in the years to come," Wolfgang says, "but I'll bet that you will both have a good time--and who knows what the future will bring?"

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate. Visit

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kids-day-survey.html> to complete a short survey and post your comments. You will then be able to download the certificate page. Or, you can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

Details on Kid's Day are available on the ARRL Web site
<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/ead/kd-rules.html>

MDXA Another Island Activation!

This year, The Michigan DX Association, the MDXA, is going to activating St Joseph Island, Canada. Starting July 6th through the 12th, listen for their club call, **W8DXI/VE3**. The activation of St Joseph Island will be their 6th activation and their first DX activation. They will provide more information on the frequencies shortly before they go. Here is a list of our Crewmembers.

Brian W8BRI
Chuck W8VOM
Jim K18JD

DonVA3DJI
Dave W8DO
Brian VA3BRR
AI WW8WW

Say hi to them when you work them. For current information, check out their web site, www.mdxa1.com

Attention Michigan Amateur Radio Operators:

(the following request was sent to all Special service clubs and ARRL Affiliated clubs. Reprinted with permission)

A battle is about to be waged over the future of amateur radio operations in Michigan and this is a Call To Arms! Cities and counties all over the United States, including Michigan, have been passing laws prohibiting or severely restricting the erection of amateur radio towers. We must not allow this to continue here in Michigan.

In 1998, Virginia was the first and only state to pass a specific tower protection bill. Prior to that, five other states passed lesser generic bills. Now we have sixteen states that have codified PRB-1 in their state legislatures with our neighbors in Wisconsin being the latest.

The states with local PRB-1 protection are Alaska, Florida, Idaho, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming.

Michigan hams have no such protection, but that's about to change. The Michigan Section Leadership has formed a Work Group to forge ahead and get an antenna bill passed in our state. We cannot do this alone, it

is a monumental project and we need help. Individuals that would like to help should contact me, but most importantly we need the help of all of our Affiliated and Special Service Clubs. We need a commitment to see this through. Clubs can help by making information available to their membership and when the time is right to send letters of support to our legislators. Clubs can help by turning out members to attend committee sessions in Lansing in a show of support. A similar bill in Tennessee was just defeated due to lack of support.

I appeal to every one of you to help us in this effort. Our ability to erect antennas and operate on our bands will be seriously jeopardized if we do nothing.

I can be contacted at w8fqt@arrl.org or at 313 730-2111 and I will put you in touch with our Work Group.

Dick Mondro, W8FQT
ARRL, Michigan Section
Manager

FCC RELEASES DETAILS OF 5 MHz, 136 kHz AND 2400- 2402 MHz PROPOSALS

(taken from The ARRL Letter Vol.21.No.23. Reprinted with permission. Edited for content)

The FCC has released the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in ET Docket 02-98, which proposes to create new amateur

allocations at 5 MHz and 136 kHz and to elevate the status of Amateur Radio at 2400 to 2402 MHz from secondary to primary. In response to separate petitions filed by the ARRL, the FCC voted unanimously May 2 to adopt the NPRM in ET Docket 02-98.

The Commission announced in a Public Notice released May 9 that it would propose a new, secondary, domestic (US-only) HF allocation at 5.25 to 5.4 MHz and a new LF allocation 135.7 to 137.8 kHz. If eventually approved, the 5 MHz band would be the first new HF allocation since the early 1980s, when amateurs got 30, 17 and 12 meters. The LF allocation would be the first ever for US hams. The FCC said it received 87 comments on the 5 MHz proposal and 32 comments on the LF proposal.

The FCC has proposed letting amateurs operate at full legal limit on a new 5 MHz allocation, but it left open for further discussion whether to restrict the band to Amateur Extra Class licensees or make it available to General and higher class licensees. The FCC also invited further comment on whether the band should be broken down into mode-specific subbands. The ARRL had proposed opening the entire band to RTTY, data (including CW), phone and image emission types. Assuming the 5-MHz band eventually is authorized, it could be a few years before we can use it.

Kent county Repeater List As of May 2002

Reprinted by permission of MARC

County	City	Output	Call	Ac	PL	Sponsor
Kent	Cedar Springs	52.720	NW8J	O	136.5	NW8J
Kent	Cedar Springs	146.880	NW8J	O	141.3	NW8J
Kent	Cedar Springs	224.140	NW8J	O	167.9	NW8J
Kent	Cedar Springs	443.075	NW8J	O	94.8	NW8J
Kent	Grand Rapids	52.760	W8DC	O		GRARA
Kent	Grand Rapids	145.110	K8SG	O		Kent RACES
Kent	Grand Rapids	145.410	W8USA	O	94.8	MARA
<i>Kent</i>	<i>Grand Rapids</i>	<i>146.760</i>	<i>W8DC</i>	<i>O</i>		<i>GRARA</i>
Kent	Grand Rapids	147.160	W8HVG	O		IRA
Kent	Grand Rapids	147.260	W8DC	O	94.8	GRARA
Kent	Grand Rapids	224.440	WB8VOJ	O		IRA
Kent	Grand Rapids	224.640	W8DC	O		GRARA
Kent	Grand Rapids	224.760	WD8KXA	O		WD8KXA
Kent	Grand Rapids	224.880	K8SG	O		K8SG
Kent	Grand Rapids	421.250	K8DMR	O		K8DMR
Kent	Grand Rapids	442.000	K8EFK	O	141.3	K8EFK
Kent	Grand Rapids	443.800	KA8YSM	O		IRA
Kent	Grand Rapids	444.100	N8NET	O		N8NET
<i>Kent</i>	<i>Grand Rapids</i>	<i>444.400</i>	<i>K8EX</i>	<i>O</i>		<i>GRARA</i>
Kent	Grand Rapids	444.625	KD8CP	O	94.8	KD8CP
Kent	Grand Rapids	444.900	K8IHY	O	94.8	K8IHY
Kent	Lowell	145.270	W8LRC	O	94.8	LARC
Kent	Rockford	52.600	K8KWD	O	114.8	K8KWD
Kent	Rockford	442.075	K8KWD	O	114.8	K8KWD
Kent	Sparta	444.775	AB8MS	O	94.8	AB8MS

Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance

Membership Information - Please circle any info you want kept private.

Name _____

Call _____ License Class _____ Previous call _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____ - _____ - _____ OR _____ - _____ - _____

ARRL member? _____ Your Birthday ____/____/____

**Dues \$20. Persons over 70 and Additional family membership \$5
Subscription only, to The Open Feed Line, the club's Newsletter is \$10**

Repeater donations are appreciated

**Please bring this to the next club meeting, or mail it to:
MARA, PO BOX 670, Comstock Park, MI. 49321-0670**