

The Open Feed Line

Volume 12, Issue 1 Friendship, Community service & Advancement of the Hobby

Jan-March 2003

Ham of the Year Jack Amelar NY8D

At the "New Hams Dinner", February 15th, MARA's Secretary, Jim Cordes, KI8JD, announced that Jack Amelar, NY8D had been voted "Ham of the Year" for 2003. Jack has been involved with many different aspects of ham radio, from public service activities, like Operation Care Coffee Stop, to helping other clubs set up fund raising events for various functions, to helping put the LARC repeater on the air, to becoming the Public Information Officer with the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association, an ARRL position at the state level. Jack also has served on many committees to help Amateur Radio, in the Western Michigan area. Jack also shares his technical expertise to all who are in need and want help. "Congratulations Jack and thank you for all you've done!"

Visit www.w8usa.org and go to the ham of the year page to view Jack and all who are in the Ham of the year gallery.

Ham Fests

3/15/03 MI Crossroads Hamfest S.MI.ARS & Marshall High school. John Malinowski N8BGM
269-781-4540 N8BGM@aol.com

4/5/03 Milford ARC Milford MI.
Rose Mary Moore, KC8NQJ
www.qsl.net/w8ydk 810-632-5174

5/3/03 Wexukee ARC Cadillac MI
Brian Polk KC8TXT 231-743-6860
www.members.fortunecity.com/wexaukee

New Class for Field Day 2003

Field Day will gain another entry class for 2003. "Class F" stations will operate at emergency operations centers, or EOCs. The change renews the emphasis of Field Day's 1933 origins as an emergency preparedness exercise as opposed to a routine contest.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, said that last year the League received a record number of Field Day entries from groups and individuals. Given the increased emphasis on emergency communications since September 11, 2001, the ARRL Board's Membership Services Committee asked that the Contest Branch come up with something to reflect that emphasis. The new Class F station is the result. "This is a major change," Henderson said. "Class F has been established to encourage groups to test and further their working relationships with established emergency operations centers." The updated rules and a list of frequently asked questions in the new 2003 Field Day packet spell out the details.

A Class F entry station must set up at an "established EOC" center activated by a club or non-club group. Class F EOC operation must take place in cooperation with the EOC staff. Class F stations are eligible for the same bonus points as Class A stations.
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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, 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
Larry Dells **KC8KVR** c/o
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P.O.Box 670
Comstock Park MI 49321-0670
Internet W8USA@ARRL.NET

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Field Day

Open

Super Swap

Operation Care Coffee Stop

* Open *

Chairman MARA

* open *

Club activities

MARA holds their weekly 2 meter Net, every Thursday, at 8 PM on the MARA W8USA repeater, 145.230 MHz -600Khz PL. 94.8. MARA holds their monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM, at the STEEPLTOWN Building, located on the SW corner of 5th street and Davis NW, in Grand Rapids. This site is handicap accessible, with additional parking on the West side of the building. All are welcome to attend our meetings.

*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

By Dan Markowski N8NIJ

Another year is gone and I can't believe how fast. The club has experienced some changes during 2002, some good and some not so good. Our membership roster has remained solid and may have even grown a bit. Our coffee stops were successful and we were able to provide a public service during the three major holidays in the summer. As you know these events also provide operating capitol for our club. A big thanks to all those who gave up their time to this most useful club activity. For those who attended our Field Day was another event that was very enjoyable even though the weather was extremely warm. We were able to get four stations up and running. The potluck dinner was very good also. We were able to renovate the club trailer somewhat and use it for field day. We were also able to participate in Super Swap 2002. Taking all of these activities into account we had a pretty busy calendar for the year.

On the not so bright side the repeater dispute came to closure however not in favor of the club. Even though many were not pleased with the decision we were able to keep our repeater on the air by placing it on another frequency pair. We also moved our repeater to its current location in the Sparta area, which seems

to have improved our coverage. There is still some work to be done and hopefully we can continue that effort in the spring.

I would like to thank the membership for the support you have given me during the year and with your continued support we can continue to make our club the very best it can be.

It's just a hobby.

By Jim ki8jd

How many times have we heard that line? But is it necessarily true? There are people who devote their life to Amateur Radio. I'll bet that line doesn't come out of their mouth very often.

A hobby is growing petunias or building birdhouses. When you look at what happens in Amateur Radio, it is obvious that it is much more than 'just a hobby'.

For some people, the Amateur Radio community is their family. For others, it is a source of friendships and camaraderie. And yes, for some it is just a hobby.

I think that the deciding factor is your level of involvement. The more involved you become, the less of a hobby Amateur Radio becomes.

We have hams that devote much time to emergency services, whether it is Skywarn, disaster services, or search and rescue. We have hams that provide services for the events of charitable organizations. We have hams working with young people in the

schools and through the Boy Scouts. We have a lot to be proud of.

I think it is much more than "just a hobby".

Speaking of hard working, optimistic individuals, we would like to congratulate Nancy Kott WZ8C on her new day job as the new Editor of World Radio magazine. She has been a columnist for World Radio for some time. She is also the Editor of the FISTS newsletter, The KeyNote, and will continue this job. I am sure she will be a positive force for World Radio.

At breakfast, I overheard something about Chris KC8MIL testing the waterproof-ness of his Yeasu VX-7R tri-band hand-held. It seems that he has been taking it into the shower. What he has been doing with the belt clip, I don't know. "You never know when the repeater might lock-up", he says.

Speaking of repeater lock-ups, this is being caused by the DVR (digital voice recorder) trying to play two messages at once. If you hear a lock-up, simply key the mic and press 800. This will cancel all messages scheduled to play. Also, please report the event to Rich KC8NKA or Gale N8GS. Of course, please give your callsign whenever you transmit any kind of signal. Meanwhile, Rich and Gale continue to work on this issue.

73 Jim ki8jd

Club News

We've got a new meeting place and date. We are now meeting at the Steepletown building, located on the SW corner of 5th street and Davis NW and we now meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, but at the same time, 7:30PM. It's a smaller room, but it is heated, and we can make coffee. (Is this what they mean by perks?). So far, everybody is happy with the move, especially those members who have had a difficult time climbing those steep steps at the old hall. This new building also has handicap parking and is easily accessible from the street level. If your not sure where it's located, just give a call on the W8USA repeater on club meeting night and somebody will help you find it.

WE MOVED!

While we're changing our meeting place, we've also changed where we hold our Saturday morning breakfasts. We're meeting at Bono's restaurant, located on Plainfield Ave. North of Leonard Street, but south of Lafayette Street. The breakfast time is still 9:00AM and be sure to bring a healthy appetite.

Member News

Larry Dells, KC8KVR is being kept busy these days. Since the club moved the location and date, we now are able to have a net on every Thursday night. To help make his task lighter, we've created a 2-Meter Net sign up page on our web site. Here not only can you see what date is open, but

also download a copy of the opening script and an easy log page, to help keep track of who checks in. There is also a page to help you come up with a Net topic. "Did we forget something?" If we did, let Larry know, and we'll correct it.

While Chris, KC8MIL is used to Michigan Winters, his significant other is not. "Whats a gal from the sunny West coast to do, when faced with a harsh Michigan winter?" Why, earn her Ham license, of course. Congratulations to Pam, KC8VUB. "Welcome to Michigan Pam!" Be sure to say hi when you hear her on.

Terrible Terry, WB8ZNO is having a terrible time. This past December 30th, he went in for back surgery to put "Nuts and bolts" to hold his back together. Well, the spinal cord leaked and back into surgery for 2 more hours to stop it. Infection set in (e-coli and Staph) and back again into surgery to clean and treat. Then he went to Midland Hospital for 30 days. Got home and after 3 days, a rush trip to the ER to be treated for another infection for 5 days. Well, he's home now, but on IV's 24/7. He knows about as much as Pat (his wife, who is a nurse) does about setting up IV. Every couple of days, he gets to go to Midland to have the surgical site irrigated and packing put in, soaked in iodine. He now has a 2 week window and if the infection doesn't leave, back to surgery to take out all the hardware. Oh, he can't be alone either.

All this infection and surgery business has weakened him to the point he has a nurse with him while his wife is working.

But, Terry always finds a positive side to anything. Everyone in the town they live in has offered to help. They came out to thaw the water for Pat when it froze this past month. When Pat has to work, somebody will offer to take Terry to his medical appointment. Why, they even received a phone call a few days ago from a friend who offered them money! Hows that for help. There is nothing like a small town that pitches in to give help when badly needed. This is Terry's retirement, his "golden years". They figured out, all this medical stuff has cost over \$100,000.00 since December. Ah, retirement. Terry didn't type this, no, it was I, his wife, Pat. Terry wanted everyone updated, as he isn't really up to sitting at the computer for long. You all take care. We are.

**Pat and Terry
WB8ZNO**

Pass the baton!

Well, it's been 14 years since I became the editor of the Open-Feed-Line. This is the last issue with me at the helm. Starting with the next issue, James Cordes K18JD, has volunteered to become your new editor. It's been a very rewarding experience and one that I will treasure for the rest of my life. Thanks to all of you who have made this such a worthwhile experience. See you on the bands.

Richie K8JX

ARRL Technical
Coordinator
By
Wallace Murray KE8HR
Technical Coordinator
Michigan Section

Richie, K8JX, asked me what is a Technical Coordinator and what do we do. The job description published by the League lists 8 different but related items. They range from coordinating the Technical Specialists to encouraging others to share their technical achievements through QST, club meetings, hamfests, and conventions. Other things would include, promoting advances at VHF/UHF, specialized modes, and others interested in these fields. Provide advice to radio clubs; be available to speak at club meetings. Prepare for disaster communications events. Refer amateurs in the section to Technical Specialists in their local area.

Also, it is important to encourage all TS's to be involved with local RFI and TVI committees.

Feedback to ARRL headquarters the views of the section regarding the technical content of QST and other publications. Finally, working with the Section Manager and other ARRL Officials, maintain a free and open dialog with the local FCC field office and other regulators as appropriate.

I should mention that there are over 50 Technical Specialists in the Michigan Section. Becoming a

Technical Specialist is simple and straightforward. Contact me, describing what you like to do, any special skills, training, work related duties and your desire to help solve problems. In many cases the TC and TS are involved with resolving interference problems. This may be TVI, interference to or from a CATV system, or industrial noise on the ham bands. Many TS's have experience through work, or years of amateur radio activities. Some may be broadcasters, or mobile radio or microwave radio service providers.

An example of interference that a TS or the TC would be involved in was BCI/RFI being reported as third harmonic of a local AM broadcast station falling on 75 meters. Simple, call the AM radio station and tell them to get off the air. Not so fast, when the Chief Engineer at the AM radio station claims that he is not causing the interference.

One needs to be sure where the interference is being created. In this case, some further listening turned up that not only could the third harmonic be heard but the second, fourth, fifth etc. Multiple harmonic interference would not usually come from the broadcast transmitter but from some broadband radiator. So, go find it. After building a loop antenna that worked and triangulating on the

interference, it appeared that there was an area in the main lobe of the broadcast transmitter but one quarter mile away that was "hot" with energy. Then it rained and the interference went away. Wait for it to come back. Ultimately it did, and it appeared to be a problem with a multiple use pole line. A call to the power company, and their EMI/RFI person came to investigate and agreed that there was energy being re-radiated by an abandoned high voltage street light wiring and some abandoned open wire communications cables. In fact they found the open wire communications wires touching the telephone and CATV cables. The fix was to trim up the abandoned cables and break up the lengths of streetlight wiring so that they were not resonant. Sounds like an easy task, but it took over a year to find the problem as the interference came and went as the wind blew and things got wet or dried out. Further, the neighbors in this residential area were very suspicious of the minivan driving around people getting out and attaching funny looking things to a camera tripod.

For further information, please contact Wallace at,
KE8HR
W Wallace Murray
1403 S Hill Rd
Milford MI 48381
KE8HR@ARRL.NET

Swap-Trade-Sell

(Starting with this issue, we're including equipment our fellow hams would like to sell. Depending on how well this works out, we may include it in each issue. Now for the rules: Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance, and any of the affiliated clubs, and organizations, does not warrant or guarantee any of the following offers. We're only supplying the space for you to list your gear. Please contact the folks listed here to make arraignments. If you have something you would like to list, please forward a list to either the Clubs' secretary or the Editor.)

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40' Rohn 45G, 2 new/2 used with rotor mount and top thrust bearing plate. This tower is down and ready to go. \$450.

Hy-Gain 5 Element Tribander (new old stock). TH5DX Thunderbird, 8.5 dB gain, 25 dB front to back ratio, 18 ft. boom, 5-element, longest element is 31.5 ft., 6.4 sq. ft. wind load surface area. This beam is about 20 yrs. old, but is still in the boxes it came in!!!

Complete computer system, K6/2 -550mhz. 3 gig hard drive, 64 Megs ram, 15" monitor, 56K V90. Modem, mouse, pad, keyboard, speakers. This is an open architectural custom-built machine. (Translation; built with high quality generic components which are easy and inexpensive to replace- Jim ki8jd) All modern components. ATX case, Gigabyte motherboard, Diamond Multi-media AGP card, Diamond Multi-media PCI modem, SoundBlaster AWE64 ISA Sound Card, PC100 memory expandable to 1.5 gig of ram. Loaded with Windows 98 (software not included). \$250

Motherboard with processor and fan. ASUS ATX A7V, Rev. 1.02, 800 MHz Athlon processor. \$100. For more information see:

<http://www.asus.com/prog/spec.asp?m=a7v&langs=01#>

Computer memory---72 pin SIMMs ram EDO and FPM 16 Meg and 32 Meg strips. 30 cents per Meg. Must buy in pairs.

Kohler Generator Set 7.5 kW, four-cycle water cooled, gas. Note: this is a project. Most parts are there, but needs a carburetor and some work to finish this. This is a 4-pole gen set and is made to run at 1800 rpm's. Very, very heavy duty. \$250/offer. Pick up only.

40 gallon Richmond/Rheem natural gas power vent water heater. Pilot-less glow bar ignition. Vents into PVC pipe. New/never used. \$200

Tub/shower surround. 5' tub, left-hand drain with three-piece surround. White. New/never used. \$125/offer.

*The above items are being offered for sale by **Steve Biziorek K8VOL** - email K8vol@arrl.net or call 616-791-1182*

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Leonard Schaafsma W8SPX has a bunch of equipment for sale, enough to put together several complete HF stations. So whether you want a complete station, a transceiver, amp, tuner, or whatever; give Leonard a call at 616-791-9190. Leonard says he is willing to let the stuff go cheap. He also has an Alinco dual-band handheld, model DJ-596T, for sale. This rig was bought in 2002, was used very little, and is in as-new condition for \$150. This model was reviewed in QST last year.

MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO ALLIANCE

Club ROSTER as March 1, 2003

CALL	NAME	ADDRESS	E-MAIL	PHONE
KB8MNI	HAROLD ALLEN	56 Washington Sparta MI 49345		887-8131
KC8MIL	CHRIS ANDERSON	4575 Aldun Ridge Comstock Park MI 49321	kc8mil@hotmail.com	784-1994
N8YZM	DOUG APPEGATE	4792 Hunsberger NE Grand Rapids MI 49525	dlan8yzm@grnet.com	
K8VOJ	SANDY BIZIOREK	940 Carpenter NW Grand Rapids 49504	K8VOL@arrl.net	791-1182
K8VOL	STEVE BIZIOREK	940 Carpenter NW Grand Rapids 49504	K8VOL@arrl.net	791-1182
KI8JD	JAMES M CORDES	1235 Morgan Grand Rapids MI 49504	jcordes@iserv.net	459-1195
KC8OTW	CINDY CORDES	1235 Morgan Grand Rapids MI 49504		459-1195
KC8KVR	LARRY DELLS	4317 Willow DR NE Grand Rapids MI 49525	Lldgrd@Netscape.net	363-8235
KC8NKA	RICH DOUGLAS	3903 Oriole Ave SW Wyoming MI 49509	KC8NKA@ARRL.NET	531-6218
KB8VOZ	WAYNE DOWLING	2442 West Collier Ave Kentwood MI.49546-6115	wdow126686@msn.com	957-4641
K8OOK	MIKE EILERS	3565 4 Mile RD NE Grand Rapids MI.49525-9714	K8OOK@ISERV.NET	363-4998
WB8FGQ	DICK HAVEN	7434 Whistlevale Byron Center MI 49315	dhaven@tm.net	862-9065
N8SJH	STEVE HOLIDAY	812 Royal Oak Wyoming 49509		257-7214
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KC8LOI	RUSS POVENZ	3047 HOMEWOOD Grandville MI 49418		538-8043
W8SPX	LEONARD SCHAAFSMA	2243 Lake MI DR NW Grand Rapids MI.49504		791-9190
N8GS	GALE SCHOLTEN	8530 Peach Ridge NW Sparta MI 49345	n8gs@arrl.net	887-1820
N8WKM	DAN THOMPSON	1824 126 TH AVE Hopkins MI 49328	dan@waycom.com	
WA8AAT	CARL THOMPSON	0-12657 8 th NW Grand Rapids MI 49504	WA8AAT@AOL.COM	677-1174
KA8ZAZ	PETER VANDUIVENDYK	1501 Woodworth NE APT 201 Grand Rapids MI		361-0853
W8MSK	JERRY WITTKOSKI	1025 Kendalwood ST NE Grand Rapids MI 49505	jeromeW551@aol.com	363-6146
N8VWI	BILL ZAIDEL	1660 Elizabeth NW Grand Rapids MI 49504	Bill1@provide.net	363-5536
N8WKQ	CONNIE ZAIDEL	1660 Elizabeth NW Grand Rapids MI 49504	Bill1@provide.net	363-5536

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

Name _____ Call _____ License Class _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

e-mail Address _____

ARRL member? _____ Your Birthday ____/____/____

Dues \$20. Additional family membership \$5

Subscription only, to The Open Feed Line, the club's Newsletter is \$10

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