

The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 13, Issue 1-- Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - Jan.-Mar. 2004

West Michigan Ham Of The Year Acceptance Speech

Delivered at the Welcome New Hams Dinner.

Thank-you very much.

I know it is customary for the Ham-of-the-Year to give a really nice long speech, but I just couldn't think of much to say. I would like to borrow the words of last year's Ham-of-the-Year, and say that I don't know why they picked me, when there are so many other deserving hams out there.

Firstly, I would like to welcome the new hams. I hope that ham radio is as good for you as it has been for me. I think it is like anything else; you get out what you put in. Please don't be afraid to try anything. Have faith in yourself; you can do anything that you put your mind to. You can always get help if you ask the right person. When I was first approached about the elementary school to space station contact, I knew that I was not qualified to help them. I had never been involved in any space communications, and I felt that I did not have the time to do the job justice. I actually looked for someone else to head up the project. A few weeks went by, and I didn't find anyone. I decided to give it my best shot. Well, to make a long story short, it turned out to be a great success, and an experience that I will never forget. I got back seven times what I put in. When I look back on the good things that I have done, I realize that I really didn't make any sacrifices. I was paid back, in one way or another, for all of my efforts.

Before I take my seat, I would like to touch on division and unity in the amateur community. If we want a strong amateur community, then we want unity. And if we want unity, then we will treat our fellow hams like brothers. I take that back, we will treat them better than brothers; we will treat them like friends. If we want unity, we will be sensitive of other people's feelings. We will not criticize their operating habits, or their equipment, at least not publicly. *Continued on top of next column.*

If we want unity, we will be careful of what we say on the air, for the airwaves are public. If we want unity, we will try to not damage or offend any person or group. Please, let's all strive for unity.

This is a great honor, thank-you.

All the best, Jim ki8jd

Welcome New Generals

Amateur Radio gained many new Generals back in the year 2000, when the code requirement was dropped from 13 wpm down to 5 wpm. Now, it is possible that we may gain even more Generals, with the complete removal of the international requirement for Morse Code, which actually occurred almost a year ago. Individual countries may still require code proficiency, if they wish.

Since the removal of the international requirement, over a dozen petitions have been submitted to the FCC regarding licensing changes, and they are all very different. Recently, the ARRL submitted a proposal, followed by a proposal submitted by the Radio Amateur Foundation, of which our own Chuck W8VOM was one of the six signers. There may be dozens of them before it's over.

With all the hype and commotion caused by these many petitions, it is easy to forget that the FCC makes the rules. They could even choose to do nothing, and just leave things the way they are.

If the FCC adopts the ARRL petition, 200,000 Technicians would get an automatic promotion to a General class license.

If the FCC is waiting for a consensus from the Amateur community, change may be in the distant future. It wouldn't surprise me if well-heeled Amateur groups were to file lawsuits against the FCC, and then we'd have the judicial system involved, also.

Whatever the case, it will be interesting to see what action, if any, the FCC takes.

73, Jim ki8jd

The Open Feed Line

Publisher

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Comstock Park MI 49321-0670
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E-mail us at- w8usa@arrl.net

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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, increasing technical knowledge and upgrading our skills in the hobby of amateur radio.

Annual dues to MARA are \$20. Family memberships are an additional \$5. Persons aged 70 and over - \$5.00. Membership is free to students under 21. 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. The deadline for submission is the end of January, April, July, and October, and the newsletter will be published a month later.

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
E-mail- LLDGRD@netscape.net

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Open

Operation Care Chairperson

Open

Super Swap Chairperson - MARA

Open

Webmaster -- Richard M. Ranta K8JX

812 Graceland NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49505 616-361-5975
rranta@sbcglobal.net

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 Steepletown 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.

Upcoming events

By Jim ki8jd

The next MARA meeting will be held on March 10th at 7:30 PM. I expect repeater repairs, etc, to be addressed. If you have any opinions on this subject, you should either attend, or send your opinion along with someone who is attending.

On March 11th, Sky Warn training will be held at Forest Hills Northern Trails 5th and 6th Grade School just east of the East Beltline on the north side of Leonard Street. This is a very interesting and worthwhile training session. It runs from 7:00 until 9:00 PM, but it is a good idea to get there early.

The Marshall Hamfest is on March 20th. This is the largest swap in Michigan. Please see flyer on page 8.

The Dayton Hamvention will be held the week of May 12th. See announcement on page 7.

The Independent Repeater Association's Hamfestival in Hudsonville will be on June 5th from 8:00AM until some time in the afternoon or evening. See flyer on page 6.

Field Day, as always, will be held on the 4th full weekend on June, which is June 26th & June 27th this year. MARA is still looking for a Field Day Chairman, as far as I know.

Speaking of looking for help and of Upcoming Events, I would sure be thrilled if someone wanted to submit an Upcoming Events column for each issue.

50/50 Raffle

By Pam KC8VUB

At the January, 2004, MARA meeting, the General Membership decided to resume selling 50/50 Raffle tickets at the Saturday morning breakfasts (3 for a buck ... what a deal!). This is strictly a fund raising activity; all proceeds from this activity will be earmarked for a "Special Projects" fund. Pam (kc8vub) and Chris (kc8mil) have agreed to take on this activity and want to remind all that attend breakfast that you do not have to participate in the drawing. It is meant to have some fun with and raise a little money for the Club while doing it. Congratulations to January's winners: Mark Wittkoski, our new Treasurer, Jerry Wittkoski, and Mr. President, Wayne Dowling.

Paint Party

By Wayne KB8VOZ

MARA held a painting party at the Steepletown Building on a Saturday not too long ago. Seven members showed up to spread paint on the walls, Dan N8NIJ, Larry KC8KVR, Jim KI8JD, Jerry W8MSK, Carl WA8AAT, Jack AB8ND, and Wayne KB8VOZ. Carl brought some donuts, and the others brought enough opinions to solve all of the world's problems.

Contest results from ZF2MM's Log for the 2002 ARRL DX SSB

Contest

Submitted by Mike K800K

5 separate hours with 300+ QSOs per hour.

Best 1 hour - 430 QSOs.

Best 1 min - 11 QSOs which would average 660/hr if maintained.

84 QSOs in a 10 min period, would
average 504/hr.
Average rate per hour for 48 hrs, 183
QSOs per hour.

Michigan DX Association Events

The MDXA will be activating the Gerald R. Ford Museum on Mr. Ford's birthday, Wednesday July 14th, and again on Saturday July 17th. There will be free admission on the 14th, in honor of his birthday. There will probably be some bigwigs there, who knows, maybe Mr. Ford himself will show up. This will be a special event, using the callsign K8F. The general public is invited.

Also, the MDXA will be conducting the 3rd annual Great Lakes QSO Party on May 29th. This contest covers 8 states, and Ontario, with over 700 counties covered.

For further information on the MDXA, or it's many activities, visit the web page at www.mdxal.org

First Third River Bank Run

Everyone, we are starting to organize for the 2004 River Bank Run. If you are interested in participating, it is May 8th. Runs usually go from about 6:30 AM until 1:00 PM at the latest. Don't be afraid to sign up, even if you are new.

To sign up, please email events@kcraces.org?subject=Riverrun

If you have questions and do not have email, please contact me at 616-564-1441 and leave a message.

Jeff Nawrot N8JSN

For Sale

HTX-202 Radio Shack 2-meter handheld, with extra battery holders, and charger - \$50.

FT-50R 144 & 440 MHz dual-band hand-held with charger - \$200.00.

PRO-74 100 Channel Scanner - \$50.00

10-Meter SSB/CW mobile transceiver. \$??

Call Terry at 989-588-6331 WB8ZNO

The following items were purchased new by Ed KC8PCK, and offered for sale.

W2IHY 8 Band Audio Equalizer and Noise gate for sale. This unit is in excellent condition, and it has been used very little in a non-smoking environment. This is **factory built unit** and not a kit. Includes the manual, power supply, box and 2 cables for Icom radios. \$200

Icom SM20 Desk Microphone. Pristine condition, used very little in a non-smoking environment. This is the Mac-Daddy of Icom

microphones. Includes original box and manual. E-ham gives it a 4.9 rating! \$150 firm for a very rare and very desirable used find.

Icom factory OPC589 ICOM 8 PIN MIC JACK TO 8 PIN MOD PLUG. This converts Icom 8 pin microphones to the modular 706 input. \$25 for the Icom factory chrome and black piggy tail.

Icom SM6 Desk Microphone. Pristine condition, used very little in a non-smoking environment. This is a great small foot print microphone. Includes original box and manual. Eham gives it a 4.7 rating! \$85 for a 6 month old microphone.

Heil HMM Hand Microphone for Icom. Used twice in a non-smoking environment. This microphone is a nice upgrade from the stock microphone and sounds great on all modes. In the box for \$40.

Kenwood MC60A Desk Microphone. If you have been waiting to pay a used price on a new MC60A here is your chance. Like brand new and in the box for a C Note. \$100

The following items were purchased pre-enjoyed by KC8PCK

MFJ 989C Legal Limit Antenna Tuner
(Purchased new by KC8MIL)

Chris purchased this new, and used it very little with 100 watts before he acquired a rig with an auto-tuner. Manual, box and power cord for lighted meters included. Looks and works like brand new, Chris even made a stainless steel bail to make it tilt toward you! This Tuner looks good next to an HF rig! I'll send it home with you for \$255 American, and if you can chirp my call like a canary in CW I'll knock 5 bucks off. Here is the link to MFJ <http://www.mfjenterprises.com/products.php?productid=MFJ-989C>

Diamond GP-CH62 6 meter vertical - \$90.00

Terms of sale: Pick items up at my QTH or at the Marshall Hamfest. I'll take a "like new" Bencher paddle in on trade if you have one.

Call me at 616-954-2943 or email me at edward.buck@comcast.net if you require more information or want to purchase anything. Take care es 73 de Ed KC8PCK

2004 MICHIGAN QSO PARTY

Attention Michigan Amateurs. Spring is here and it's time for the Michigan QSO Party. This is a great opportunity to get on the HF bands, have some fun, and represent the great State of Michigan. The organizers of this event would like to see as many Michigan stations on the air as possible. It is the activity of the Michigan stations that will make this event a success. This event, like other state QSO parties has seen an increase in activity in recent years. Last year, the number of MIQP logs submitted were up by 69% and the total qso count was up by 27%. The MIQP is getting bigger and better every year. With the continued support of those that have discovered the fun and the addition of some new blood, the MIQP will continue to grow. It is now considered one of the better qso parties in the country.

As you can see from the rules listed below, this is only a 12 hour event. Please consider getting on the air for the whole thing, or any portion of the 12 hour period. You can operate from home, portable, or mobile. We again, with the support of mobile stations plan on having some activity in all 83 counties.

How about making this a club event? You can submit your individual or multi-op scores under the name of the your club and maybe bring home the club plaque. Hey, why not challenge another local area club or other groups within your club? Are there others in your club that would consider a mini expedition for a portable operation in one of the Michigan counties with minimal activity?? Those of you that have been in the QSO Party, please help us get the word out and encourage other Michigander hams to participate and join the fun. The name of the game is to have fun and make Michigan "Radio Active" on April 17th. Hope to hear you on the air!

Date /Time: Michigan QSO Party, sponsored by the Mad River Radio Club, from 1600Z April 17th until 0400Z April 18th. Stations may operate the full 12 hours. (12 noon to 12 midnight local Michigan time on April 17)

Modes and Categories: Phone and CW on 80/40/20/15/10 meters. Single-op, multi-op, and mobile categories. Single-op entries are categorized by output power, QRP (5W or less), Low Power (100W or less), and High Power (greater than 100W)

Multipliers: Work stations once per band and mode. Work other states and Michigan Stations.

Work portables and mobiles again as they change county, state or province.

Exchange: Exchange QSO number and location (county for MI stations, state/province or "DX" for others).

Freqs: Suggested frequencies: CW-3545, 7045, 14045, 21045, 28045;
Phone-3850, 7225, 14250, 21300, 28450.

Scoring: One point per phone QSO, two points per CW QSO. Count multipliers once per mode. Multipliers are MI counties for all entries, plus states & provinces for MI entries only. Final score is total QSO points times total multipliers.

Log Submittal: Mail logs no later than 30 days after the contest to:

Mad River Radio Club, c/o Dave Pruett, 2727 Harris Road, Ypsilanti, MI 48198 or via e-mail to logs@miqp.org

More Information: For complete rules, along with free logging software, log and summary sheets, see <http://www.miqp.org>
The information packet found on the web site may also be emailed. Contact NU8Z cqnu8z@comcast.net.

73 es cu April 17th 2004... Mark NU8Z

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN I.R.A. ANNUAL HAMFESTIVAL

West Michigan's Largest
Hamfest & Computer Fair

Saturday, June 5, 2004.....8 A.M. until it's over.

Convenient location with great facilities at the spacious Hudsonville Fairgrounds. It's bigger and better every year! 14 miles west of Grand Rapids, two miles north of I-196 exit 62.

HUGE INDOOR FACILITIES with CONVENIENT ACCESS and FREE PARKING. OVER 22,000 SQUARE-FEET INDOORS, 8' tables for sellers and dealers, \$8 ea. Friday night set-up available after 7 P.M. or 6:00 A.M. start on Saturday. Trunk sales spaces, 10' @ \$6 ea. CAMPING available, \$10 fee. Showers and electricity available for camping. Plenty of electrical outlets available inside and outdoors. Camping and table & space rental not an admission to Hamfest; tickets are required. All reservations with SASE please. Reservations held until 8 A.M. Saturday. Food and drinks available in comfortable indoor sit-down eating facilities. Children under 12 years admitted free accompanying an adult. Handcapped parking and access.

- FAMOUS "ROADKILL-CHILI" POTLUCK FRIDAY EVENING

Bring a dish to pass and join-in the fun @ 7:00 P.M. after helping with setup. Hamfest tickets will be available for purchase.

- FOUR MAJOR PRIZES PLUS DOZENS MORE!

- VINTAGE HAM EQUIPMENT, MILITARY RADIO EQUIPMENT AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY EXHIBITS

- VE AMATEUR EXAMS - 10:30 A.M. START

All walkins. Technician, General and Extra Class. Please bring original and a copy of your license, any C.S.C.E.'s with some form of photo ID and a check made out to "ARRL / VEC".

- MICHIGAN REPEATER COUNCIL QUARTERLY MEETING AT 1 P.M.

Write for table reservations to:
Independent Rptr. Assoc., Inc.
562 92nd Street S.E.
Byron Center, MI 49315

TICKETS: \$5.00 ea.
Tables: \$8.00 ea.
Trunk spaces: \$6.00 ea.
Camping fee: \$10.00

INFO: Call Kathy at (616) 698-6627 after
4 P.M. (E.D.S.T.) for info / reservations.
Check out the IRA Web-site at:
www.w8hvg.org for more info.

DEALERS: BRING YOUR
HAM EQUIPMENT, COAX,
COMPUTER EQUIPMENT,
SOFTWARE, ALTERNATIVE
ENERGY EQUIPMENT, WIRE,
BOOKS, PARTS, JEWELRY,
SWEAT-SHIRTS, CAPS, ETC,
TO SELL.....BE THERE!

HAMS: BRING YOUR USED
EQUIPMENT TO TRADE OR
SELL.....BE THERE!

COMPUTER HOBBYISTS:
BRING YOUR EXCESS
HARDWARE, SOFTWARE,
BOOKS, ETC., TO TRADE
OR SELL.....BE THERE!

TALK-IN ON 147.16 LINK-SYSTEM

Local Events

By Richie Ranta K8JX

This past February 7th, The Lowell ARC, GRARA and MARA held their ninth annual "New Hams Dinner. We want to welcome to the West Michigan area and especially Ham Radio, KC8YIS Patricia Heldt, KC8YNH Judyth Hakala, KC8RBI James Bronson, WH6LY, John Vander Stel jr. and KC8YIQ Paul Wittkoski. (These are not all of the names, since some of the people left before we got their names and callsigns) The evening was spent eating a good meal, followed by the presentation of "The Ham of the Year" award. This year, 2004, KI8JD Jim Cordes, was elected by recognizing all the time and effort he has dedicated to educating the youth of West Michigan into what Ham Radio is all about and how much fun it can be. After the presentation, folks spent time introducing themselves to each other. This sounds like an exciting group of new Hams to get to know. I am really looking forward to spending time with them at the Ham Swaps, Field Day and our local club functions. Please say Hello to them when they attend your clubs meeting.

Club Chatter

By Richie Ranta K8JX

It sure has been a long, cold and snowy winter. What better way to greet spring than by cleaning out the dust and shining things up. I'm referring to the many club projects we have ahead of us. First off, we have the project of looking over our by-laws and bringing them up to date with all that the club has going for it right now. Things sure have changed since August 31, 1991. Pam Anderson, KC8VUB is the by-laws committee Chairperson. This is hard work, but look forward to hearing from Pam over the course of the next few meetings.

Chris Anderson KC8MIL is MARA's new 2-Meter Net Director. He has started a new reminder service by e-mailing our signed up net control operators at least a week before their shifts start.

This will hopefully help prevent forgotten shifts. If your interested in signing up for a shift, go check out the MARA 2-Meter Net button on our web page, www.w8usa.org.

To Reflect or not to Reflect, that is.....

By Richie Ranta K8JX

Richard Douglas, KC8NKA, is working hard on setting up a MARA E-mail Reflector. This would be used to disseminate information for all members to receive. (Help needed on Field Day, Ham Swap help. Etc). So far Rich is testing it out, but soon you may have the chance to add your E-mail address to the Reflector and be on the receiving end. More to follow...

Talking about the Internet. Your Web Maintainer, that's me, is creating a new web site to better represent our club and be easier to view on your computer. Gone will be those pesky buttons people are always complaining about. The new design will be simple, but also very easy to navigate.

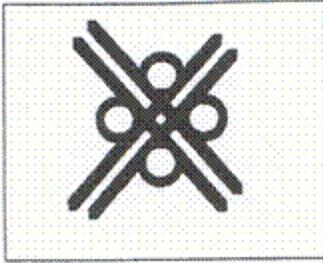
Our Club Members

By Richie Ranta K8JX

We're happy to report that Larry Dells KC8KVR came out great from his eye surgery. He's on the mend now, and has to rest, but this just gives him a little more time to spend on 2-meters SSB. "Glad to see you came through ok!" Leonard Schaafsma W8SPX is doing better after a fight with a nasty virus, non-computer kind.

Gale Scholten N8GS is still adapting to his new diet regiment he's on and has lost weight and sounds perky.

We also wish a speedy recovery to all of our friends who are sick or are still taking tests. "Why not chat with them over breakfast?" See you at Bono's restaurant, each Saturday morning at around 9:00AM for Breakfast. Located on Plainfield, just north of Leonard St.



2004 43rd ANNUAL

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest
 Marshall High School
 Marshall, Mich.

SATURDAY MARCH 20TH

8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
 Set-up Starting at 6:00 A.M.

****TALK IN 146.660
 REPEATER **
 &
 **146.520
 SIMPLEX****

**Tickets
 \$5.00 at the door
 FREE CARRY IN HELP
 FREE PARKING
 FULL FOOD SERVICE**

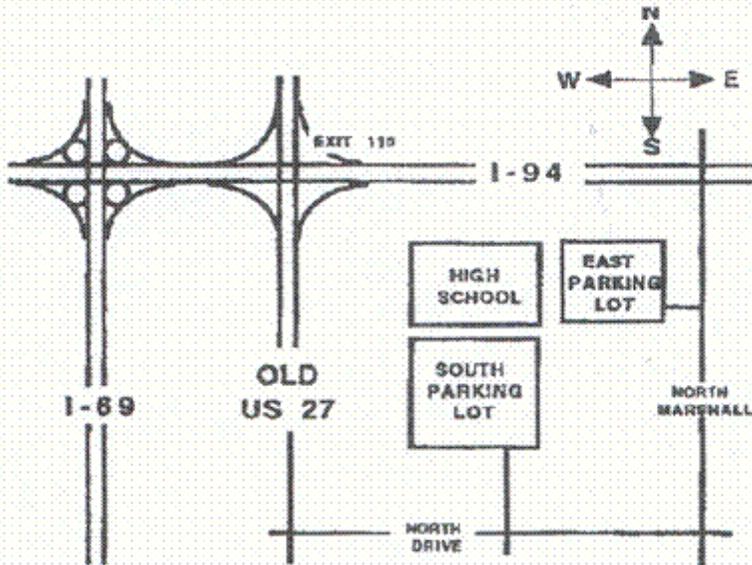
**TABLE RESERVATIONS
 \$1.00 per foot (min 4 ft)
 Reserved until 8:00 A.M.
 Make checks payable to
 SMARS**

Send SASE to,

Charles Williams
 15202 Ackerson Dr.
 Battle Creek, MI. 49014

Or call Charles Williams @
 269-964-3197

SPONSORS
 SOUTHERN MICHIGAN
 AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
 MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL
 INDUSTRIAL ARTS CLUB



To order table space — Complete and mail to, Charles Williams, 15202 Ackerson Dr.,
 Battle Creek MI. 49014

Number of 8 foot tables requested at \$8.00 ea. _____ Total amount for tables _____

Minimum order is 4 feet.

Table rental is not a ticket to hamfest. Advance tickets may be ordered with table space at \$5.00 ea.

Number of tickets requested _____ Total amount for for tables and tickets _____

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

If you had sales space last year and would like to have the same space again this year, please call Charles Williams as early as possible.

Keep in mind that this event is held at a public school. There is no smoking in the building or the grounds!
 Also, adult material, alcohol, and weapons of any kind are prohibited.

