

The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 15, Issue 1 - Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - Jan-Mar. 2006

Ham of the Year Joe Bell WD8USA

By Richie K8JX



(Joe Bell WD8USA holds up his "Ham of the Year" plaque. Photo courtesy of Linda, Tom KC8YOE's XYL)

The "West Michigan Ham of the Year" award was presented to Joe Bell, WD8USA.

Joe has been involved with Emergency Communication preparedness for years. Joe designs his own training nets and also is involved with a weekly Traffic net. His dedication to Amateur Radio isn't limited to just Emergency Communications. He is also a Ham Radio activist. Joe was one of the few Hams who showed up at the Kentwood Planning Commission when they were considering an antenna ordinance. He is also an avid Ham on HF, VHF and UHF. He is currently the Disaster Communications Liaison for the Red Cross.

The Award was presented at the New Ham's Dinner, which was held at the Old Country Buffet Restaurant, on Alpine Avenue.

Meet the New Board.

By Richie K8JX

This past December, Mara members elected a new executive board. The out going board, President Wayne Dowling KB8VOZ, Vice President Larry Dells KC8KVR, did an outstanding job during the preceding two years. They both had to deal with problems and issues that sure taxed their patience and resources, but in the end, everything turned out great. Thank you guys, for an outstanding performance and commitment.

Starting on January 1, 2006, we installed a new President Jim Cordes KI8JD and Vice President Lee Burgess W8ZP. Back with us for another year are Jerry Wittoski W8MSK and Richie Ranta K8JX.

We're all looking forward to another great and fun year of Ham Radio events.

Let's help these guys have a smooth and productive year.

Editor's Corner

By Jim ki8jd

Yes, the newsletter is late again. If it wasn't for the work Richie has done over the last month, we wouldn't have much of a newsletter. Please look this newsletter over carefully, and don't miss the IRA swap on June 3rd. Pages 7 & 8 can be torn out.

When it was all said and done, we had some recipes left over for the next issue. Maybe we'll get more. If you can't e-mail an attachment, just type your submission in a normal e-mail, and I can copy and paste.

Thanks much.

The Open Feed Line

The Open Feed Line is published quarterly. It is the official journal of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance, or MARA for short.

MARA, 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.

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.

Everybody is encouraged to submit original articles on topics relevant to the hobby of Amateur Radio to the editor. The deadline for submission is the end of January, April, July, and October, and the newsletter will be published within the following month.

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Membership Information

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 31st, and club dues are due on January 1st. MARA membership is open to all interested persons.

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

MARA Club Officers

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Appointed Positions

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

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.

Harold Allen KB8MNI SK

1913-2006

By Richie K8JX



Harold Allen, KB8MNI, a founding member of Mara and before that, The Kent County Amateur Radio Club, became a Silent Key on February 16, 2006. Harold, who always greeted his friends with a chuckle and smile, was very active with Mara in the early days. He participated in Mara's first Field Day, Trunk Swap and upgrade class. He served in the Marine Corps and was a life member of Sparta Masonic Lodge, Lisbon Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite Saladin Temple Shriners, West Michigan Theater Organ Club, and a Member of the Newaygo V.F.W. His wives, Beatrice and Evelyn, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Anna W., his children, Jerry F. and G. Deloris and many other family members. Harold was a young 93. God Bless you Harold and your family. You'll be missed.

News From Larry

By Larry KC8KVR

On Sunday March 19, 2006 some of the hams that participate in the informal 6-meter AM net met at the High Water Dock on Willow Drive for coffee and sweets. Everyone had a good time.

(Continued next column)

Those present were Tom the Channel Master N8DGD, Joe the Big Oinker of '06 WD8USA, Woodsy Dave N8NBU and his wife Lyn, Tom the Antenna Man KC8YOE, his wife Linda, and their grand-daughter, and the goodly persons Wayne KB8VOZ and wife Marian. Hosted by Larry and Peg.

The informal 6-meter net meets every Sunday morning somewhere between 8:00 & 9:00 AM on 50.4 MHz AM.

Mara's Holiday Dinner Party

By Richie K8JX

Mara's Holiday dinner gala was a joyous event for all present. We held the dinner at Brann's Family Restaurant on 28th street. It was the largest attended club function we have ever had. We spent the early part of the evening renewing friendships and meeting the member's family. When it came time to dine, we had a delicious selection to choose from. YUM. What a menu! After the excellent meal, we had door prizes, thanks to the great planning of the three members who planned this: Marian Dowling, Nancy Eilers N8IPG and Peg Dells. We owe them all a huge thank you for the wonderful time we all had and bringing this wonderful event off so flawlessly. "Thank you!"

Mobile Antenna For Sale

By Chris KC8MIL

Screwdriver antenna built by Larry, KJ7U. 6 thru 160, with whip and quick disconnect, up/down control box, control wire, mounting stud, and instructions. \$275.00

Chris, kc8milmi@aol.com

Field Day 2006

By Mike K8OOK

We will be holding Field Day on the weekend of June 24th and 25th. We hope to have the same site as we did last year. While it's only April, it's never too late to start planning for this event. If you donated something for Field Day use last year and are willing to do so this year, please let me know. I'll keep you all informed either at the club meeting or our Newsletter or the Repeaters DVR.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Special Event Station

By Richie K8JX



(Pictured above left to right, Mike K8OOK, Wayne KB8VOZ, Chris KC8MIL and a resident of the facility)

This event was such a huge success last year that the club has decided to hold another Special Event at the facility this year. Chris KC8MIL and Larry KC8KVR will once again coordinate this Special Event station.

The Grand Rapids Home for Veteran's became a special occasion for both our members and the residents, since one of the facilities residents actually became involved in attending an Amateur Radio License class. Even though life situations kept the person from being able to go to all the classes, it was a start. There was even talk about establishing an open Radio Room for the Residents. Now that would be something.

(Continued next column)

The event is tentatively scheduled for Veteran's Day, November 11th. We will keep you informed of the details as they develop.

Operation Care Coffee Stop

By Richie K8JX

We have already received the permits for the three operations; Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day, We are now waiting to see if the new building will be completed in time for our first event. After last fall's Labor Day weekend, the state tore down the old rest stop and started building a new one. They were still constructing the building as of last weekend. As information is made available, we will post it on our web site and in our Newsletter.

Fox Hunt

By Richie K8JX

The first FOX HUNT of the year is coming up. The Dream Team, Peg and Larry KC8KVR and Marian and Wayne KB8VOZ, will be planning this fun event. Last year's hunts were a joy for all involved. We even had a poem written about one of our hunts. Maybe this is the season YOU should try out your hand at RD finding. A fun time for all!

MARA Picnic

By Richie K8JX

In late August, we'll be holding our annual Mara Picnic. This is the time when we kick back and relax after having a busy summer. The place, date and time are to be announced later.

Talking about our Club Picnic, this is a great time to offer a special "Thank You" to Peg and Larry Dells, KC8KVR, for hosting the picnic at their home since we've been having them. Thank you!

It looks like it's going to be a great summer.

Membership

By Mike K8OOK

This is the 100th year anniversary of Amateur Radio, and I thought I'd start off my tenure as Membership Director by printing up some ARRL material, and make them available at the Field Day operation and the Coffee Stops. Let's show the public how much fun Ham Radio is. Remember how you first got interested in Ham Radio? Let's share this wonderful hobby with others and help both the club and service grow.

Our Repeater

By Rich K8JX, club Trustee

It sure has been an eventful year. One year ago, we had just moved the repeater to its new site, and had just started making use of its new location. We were very lucky in having a dedicated ground crew, who not only provided help in putting up our new antenna, but also fixed up the building and cleaned-up the repeater site. "It was, and is, a lot of work!" Painting, roofing and sealing, picking up the yard and spraying the grounds isn't really a lot of fun, but it is necessary, if you want a safe place to house electronic equipment. A big hats off to Larry KC8KVR, Wayne KB8VOZ, Mike K8OOK, Dal KB8MFH, Jack AB8ND and Rich KC8NKA.

This year we plan on an early spring clean up. Listen to the repeaters' DVR for further information.

There are several projects going to help make our repeater more efficient. I hope to be able to share more in the next issue.

If you have any questions or problems, please give me a call.

Thank-you, Rich

By Richie K8JX

A big thank-you to Rich Douglas, KC8NKA, who was our trustee since July 2002. Rich has moved onto other endeavors, which take up a lot of his time. "Who said I was retired?" Rich is currently the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association's lead Volunteer Examiner (ARRL/VEC), besides wearing many other hats in Ham Radio. "Thanks Rich!"

Two Meter Net

By Richie K8JX

After many years of being our Two-Meter Net Director, Chris KC8MIL stepped down this year. Chris did a great job and we all owe him a thank-you for helping in keeping our net in operation. So many other clubs' nets have fallen to the wayside, but not ours. That's a testimonial to our members and the Net Director.

Thank you again Chris KC8MIL!

My Impressions as President

By Jim ki8jd

The thing that impressed me the most was how many people contribute to the many workings of the club. Thank goodness we have all these workers, or we would have to cut back on services. If you add up all the appointed positions and committees, we are up to 21 total. I count 12 people doing all this work.

So far this year, the meetings have gone smoothly. It's much more fun that way.

I was asked what my goal was as President. My answer was, "To have peace, tranquility, and a good time."

Grand Rapids Area Repeater List

(Thanks to the Michigan Area Repeater Council for this data)

Frequency	Call-Sign	PL. Tone	Sponsor
52.720	NW8J	136.5	NW8J
52.760	W8DC	94.8	GRARA
145.110	NW8J	94.8	Kent Co. Emergency Mgmt
145.230	W8USA	94.8	MARA
145.270	W8LRC	94.8	LARC
145.450	KB8IFE	94.8	KB8IFE
145.490	W8CSO	94.8	NOAC
146.620	K8LHS	94.8	ARGYL
146.760	W8DC	94.8	GRARA
146.880	NW8J	141.3	NW8J
146.940	W8ZHO	94.8	MAARC
147.060	K8DAA	94.8	HARC
147.160	W8HVG	94.8	IRA
147.260	W8DC	94.8	GRARA
224.140	NW8J	167.9	NW8J
224.440	WB8VOJ		IRA
224.640	W8DC	94.8	GRARA
224.760	WD8KXA		WD8KXA
224.880	K8SG		K8SG
442.175	K8SN		K8SN
443.075	NW8J	94.8	NW8J
443.775	W8GVK		W8GVK
443.800	KA8YSM	94.8	KA8YSM
443.850	K8LHS	94.8	K8LHS
444.100	N8NET	94.8	N8NET
444.400	W8DC	94.8	W8DC
444.625	KD8CP	94.8	KD8CP

The repeaters listed above may have scheduled nets or other events occurring, either weekly, or at other times. It is always best to listen first before using a repeater. The above list contains only those repeaters that are either listed as being open, or have given permission for open use.

Hamfests 2006

Date	Events	
May 6, 2006	Cadillac AR and Computer swap Wexaukee ARC Contact Brian 231-743-6860	Cadillac,MI Cadillac jr.High school
June 3,2006	The I.R.A. Hamfestival Contact Ray 616-455-3915	Hudsonville,MI Hudsonville Fairgrounds
June 4,2006	Chelsea ARC Contact Frank 734-945-1915	Chelsea,MI Chelsea Fairgrounds
June 17,2006	MARC 32 annual Hamfest Midland MI contact Bill 989-835-4142	Midland,MI Gerstacker Fair Center
June 18, 2006	Monroe County Radio com.assoc. Contact: Fred 734-242-9487	Monroe, Mi Monroe County Fairgrounds
June 24,2006	TOMARC Field Day & Tailgate Swap Top of Michigan ARC Contact: James kc8nte@arrl.net	Elmira(Gaylord)MI Davis Tree Farm Field Day site
July 8,2006	Swap and Shop Straits Area ARC Contact: Cliff 231-539-8459	Petoskey,MI Petoskey High School
August 5,2006	UP Hamfest 2006 Delta County ARS Contact: Richard 906-428-2528	Escanaba,MI Bay De Noc Community College
September 9, 2006	GRA Hamfest 2006 GRARA Contact: Jack 616-897-6885	Grand Rapids MI Kent County Fair Grounds
September 17,2006	Adrian ARC Contact: Margie 517-467-6303	Adrian MI Lenawee County Fairgrounds
October 21,2006	Great Lakeshore Super Swap Holland ARC Contact: Sue 616-394-9821	Holland MI Harbor Lights South campus
October 29,2006	USECA Swap Utica Shelby Emergency Communications assoc. Contact:Bob 586-716-9114	Sterling Heights,MI Polish-American Century Club
December 16,2006	Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell (ARGYL) Contact: Al 616-897-7659	Lowell,MI Lowell High School

(The Ham Swap Data is taken from the ARRL's Ham Festival database. Please check the ARRL's web site for updates)

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



West Michigan's Largest
Hamfest & Computer Fair



Saturday, June 3, 2006.....8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

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, table and 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.
Handicapped parking and access provided.

- FAMOUS "ROADKILL-CHILI" POTLUCK FRIDAY EVENING

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

- FOUR MAJOR PRIZES PLUS DOZENS MORE!

- VINTAGE EQUIPMENT AND ALTERNATIVE ENERGY EXHIBITS

- MULTI-STAGE GEOCACHE - BRING GPS & 2M

- MICHIGAN - FLORIDA HAMS - 9 A.M.

- W. MICH. TRAFFIC NET FORUM - 9:30 A.M.

- VE AMATEUR EXAMS - 10:30 A.M. START
All walk-ins. 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".

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!

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

TICKETS: \$6.00 ea.
Tables: \$8.00 ea.
10' 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.

TALK-IN ON 147.16 LINK-SYSTEM