

# The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 15, Issue 2 - Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - April-June 2006

## Abe W8HVG Receives Ham of the Year Plaque for 2001!

*By Richie K8JX*



(Larry Dell KC8KVR presents Abe W8HVG with his plaque.  
Photo by Richard Douglas KC8NKA)

The "West Michigan Ham of the Year" award program has been operating since 1999, when we first started it. At that time, we awarded a certificate and a monetary award. We felt that all of these recipients were special, and they should have something besides a certificate. Two years ago, we voted to present each new recipient with a plaque instead of the certificate. This was received so well, we decided, using only donated individual funds, to issue all recipients with a plaque in honor of their achievement.

Larry Dell KC8KVR took advantage of the I.R.A.'s Hamfestival's Road-kill Chili Friday night cook-out to present the award. Fittingly, Abe, who was completely surprised, received a warm round of applause. Again, thank you Abe!

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The Award, which is cosponsored by the Lowell AR Club and the Grand Rapids AR Association, is presented at the New Ham's Dinner, which is held in February.

## Field Day 2006

*By Mike K800K*



Field Day 2006 is history. We had great weather on Saturday and just a little rain on Sunday. But that didn't damper anybody's spirits. We operated from 2PM Saturday till close, 2PM Sunday, and worked all the states except Alaska and Hawaii. A rough estimate is about 735 contacts. We actually had fewer operators this year than last year, due to other commitments. For all who didn't attend this year's event, this is what you missed: pineapple upside-down cake, peach upside-down cake, lemon cake, fresh fruit, shrimp salad, coleslaw, potato salad, fresh melon slices, fresh green salad, bratwurst, potato chips, pop and coffee. Now, for breakfast, we had link sausages, eggs cooked to your taste, toast, orange juice and coffee.

I want to thank all who helped make this event happen: Jim K18JD, Jerry W8MSK, John NF8P, Gale N8GS, Carl WA8AAT, Evelyn KB8ILI, Nancy N8IPG, Cindy KC8OTW and family, Rich D. KC8NKA, Lee W8ZP, Richie K8JX and Kathy S.

Without your dedication and efforts, this wouldn't have happened. Thank you so very 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.

### **Publisher**

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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 31<sup>st</sup>, and club dues are due on January 1<sup>st</sup>. 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  
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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.

## Upcoming News

*By Jim ki8jd*

We still need help for the Operation Care coffee stop on Labor Day weekend. See the club's website for the sign-up sheet or contact Jim ki8jd.

Don't forget the Grand Rapids Area Hamfest in Lowell on September 9th. For more details, see page 8.

The Veteran's Day Special event on Saturday, November 8th sounds like fun. It will be held at the G. R. Home for Veterans, at 3000 Monroe Ave. Setup is Friday evening, and on-air operation will be from 9:30 AM until 3:30 PM on Saturday. If you are interested or have questions, contact Chris KC8MIL at KC8MILMI@aol.com or see the club's website.

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### G.R. Has a Ham Store

*By Jim ki8jd*

There is finally an Amateur Radio store in the Grand Rapids area.

Communication Electronics Supply has been opened at 530 76th St. SW. It is about 1 block west of US-131, on the south side of 76th St. The phone number is 616-455-0300, and the website is [www.cesham.com](http://www.cesham.com)

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### Submarine On-The-Air

*By Charles Blair W8VOM*

*Secretary, Michigan DX Association*

On Sunday, July 16th, 2006, the Michigan DX Association (MDXA) and the Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell (A.R.G.Y.L.) commemorated WWII submarine radio operators' service by going on the air from the vintage Gato class WWII submarine, USS Silversides, based in Muskegon, Michigan.

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## MDXA Pillars of Society Award

*By Charles Blair W8VOM*

*Secretary, Michigan DX Association*

We are pleased to announce that Bela Lindenfeld, N8SHZ is this year's recipient of the Michigan DX Association's Pillars Of Society Award! This is in recognition of Mr. Lindenfeld's outstanding service during hurricane Katrina. Bela is responsible for the rescue of 96 people and has received recognition by the Red Cross. All of us should follow Bela's fine example and dedication not only to amateur radio but also his dedication to humanity.

Bela is a retired High School teacher from Benton Harbor, MI. Even though Bela retired, he continues to teach amateur radio classes and through his efforts more than 100 new Technician class operators have been added to our ranks!...But wait...there is more...Bela has also been on DXpedition to the Sahara Desert and he is a well respected DXer.

All of the above qualifies Bela for the Amateur Radio Pillars Of Society Award. This is a Great Lakes Regional award. Clubs within the region nominated Bela. Not only is Bela a Pillars winner...he is a Ham For All Seasons!

Congratulations Bela!

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### Operation Care Thank-You

*By Richie K8JX*

First of all, a big thank-you to all who volunteered in the Operation Care Coffee stops this year!

Summer sure is our busiest time of the year. First comes Memorial Day Operation Care, then comes Field Day 2006 weekend, with the 4th of July Operation Care a week later.

*Continued on page 4*

## G.R. Has a Ham Store

*By Jim ki8jd*

*Continued from page 3*

I stopped in there on August 1st, and said "hi" to Ken, and met his son, also named Ken. The elder Ken sells and repairs the Ham Radio gear, while the younger Ken sells and repairs computers. I also noticed Emily's business card; maybe she takes care of the cell phones? I didn't ask too many questions, but I did notice that they all have the same last name.

I also noticed that the posted business hours are Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 10 AM until 6 PM. On Wednesdays and Fridays they are open 10 AM until 8 PM, and on Saturdays from 10 AM until 2 PM.

I looked around the store, and saw many new radios; many used radios, vintage collectable radios, a large selection of MFJ products, many antennas, amplifiers, coax, etc.

They will also take items for consignment, if you have something that you need to sell.

I have never been in a ham radio store before, but I thought they had a pretty good selection, and I'm sure they would be more than willing to order whatever you want.

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## Submarine On-The-Air

*By Charles Blair W8VOM*

*Secretary, Michigan DX Association*

*Continued from page 3*

A crew of 20 amateur radio operators made contacts using the special call sign **N8S**. This was a 24-hour event with the crew spending the night aboard the submarine. Airtime started on Sunday, July 16th at 16:00 UTC. We operated all HF bands and we will QSL via our special call, **N8S**.

The USS Silversides is a floating museum, this means that during the day tour groups are going through the submarine.

Celebrating the history of the radio crew and answering questions about the Silversides and Amateur Radio were priority #1 for our crew! Visitors were welcome but must stay on the dock after 5:00 PM.

QSL information is available under our call sign **N8S** on QRZ. You may also QSL via our information on our club call W8DXI.

For more information on this special commemoration, visit our web site below.

<http://mdxa1.org/silversidesspecial.html>

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## Operation Care Thank-You

*By Richie K8JX*

*Continued from page 3*

We are still settling in to our new Welcome Area. It's been rebuilt from the ground up.

We're down from our usual volunteers by about 6 people. But the ones who did make it, made all the difference! A very big Thank You to; Mike K8OOK & Nancy N8IPG, Louie N8ZVB & Gaye, Bruce WD8KPQ & Char WD8LGN, Carl WA8AAT & Evelyn KB8ILI, Jerry W8MSK & Tom KC8YOE, Ed N8UXN, Rich KC8NKA & Codie & Ashley, Chris KC8MIL & Pam KC8VUB, Dan N8NIJ & Mary,Peg & Larry KC8KVR, Wayne KB8VOZ & Marian and Jim KI8JD.

We also wish to thank Greenridge Fruit, for the tasty apples. If I've left anybody out, please accept my apology.

Let's help keep this public service up and running! Visit the clubs web site, <http://www.w8usa.org> and click on Operation Care sign up and check out the available shifts. Thanks for caring!

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## Did you know....

*By Richie K8JX*

That once again, Mara will be placing your F.C.C. license expiration date on your newsletter mailing label. Just another way we say "Thank you all, for being our friends".

## The 11<sup>th</sup> Fox Hunt

*By Richie Ranta K8JX*

On Saturday, August 19th, 2006, the crafty Foxes, Wayne KB8VOZ and Larry KC8KVR (a.k.a. the dream team) went to ground hiding, while being pursued by the Fox Hunters. The brave and dedicated hunters were Bruce WD8KPQ and Char WD8NGS, Mike K8OOK and Nancy N8IPG, Jack AB8ND and Tom N8DGD and Chris KC8MIL and Pam KC8VUB.

The starting mileage was taken at Belknap Park at 3PM. The Foxes picked a cemetery to hide in, near Canonsburg Ski lodge. Two teams came in with the same mileage, but Jack AB8ND and Tom N8DGD were declared the winners because they came in first. All of the hunters found the Foxes! Jack AB8ND and Tom N8DGD said they will announce the next hunt shortly.

## The End of Summer Picnic

*By Mike K8OOK & Rich K8JX*

After a rousing summer of public service volunteering, Field Day and other Ham related events; we sat back and relaxed while feasting on scrupulously prepared dishes! It's the Mara End of Summer Picnic! Venison chili, 7 layer salad, Bratwursts, Hot dogs, baked beans, potato salad and other dishes too numerous to list. This year we had not only members show up, but friends and family relation as well. The mosquitoes weren't a problem as in years past. Everybody enjoyed themselves and the event ended by watching a spectacular fireworks display. Mark your calendars for the Mara Picnic in August 2007!

## Operation Care Coffee Stop- Labor Day!

*By Richie K8JX*

It doesn't seem like summer is almost over. But scheduling Operation Care Coffee Stop

for Labor Day is signals that fall is fast approaching. This year, we've been operating from the brand new Rest Area and is it ever great! Everything is so new and shiny! We've included the usual volunteer sign up slots, but also have included trailer pick up and drop off slots. This way, everybody will know who's doing what. We've also included the Driver slots, for those individuals who do not have the time to operate an entire shift, but can drive a volunteer up or/and back from the operation. Let's help keep Michigan drivers alert and awake during this Labor Day Holiday! Please be sure to keep our area clean and picked up!

## Peg's Hot Fudge

*From Peg Dells*

Melt - 3 to 4 tsp butter and 3 to 4 tsp cocoa or 3 squares baker's semi-sweet choc.

Add - 1 large can Pet or Carnation milk (or 2 small cans) and 1 cup sugar

Cook over low heat until the mixture starts to boil, then turn to medium heat and boil for 10 minutes.

Keep in fridge until used

## Coca-Cola Pot Roast

*Submitted by John W8JHP*

3 pounds beef

2 tablespoons oil

1 can tomatoes

1 cup Coca-Cola

1 onion, chopped

1 package spaghetti sauce mix

1-1/2 teaspoons salt

1/2 teaspoon garlic salt

Brown meat in oil for 5 minutes on each side, slice into 1/2-inch strips, remove to crock-pot. Break up tomatoes, with their juice, in a bowl. Add remaining ingredients, stirring until spaghetti sauce mix is dissolved. Pour over meat. Cover; slow cook for 5 hours to thicken gravy. Serve with gravy poured over meat.

## Morse Code on the Air!

*By Richie K8JX*

During the June 15<sup>th</sup>, Mara 2-meter net, the topic came up if people wanted our club to once again provide Morse Code Lessons over our repeater. 100% of the respondents stated they did! This topic came up from a response from another club, which suggested that perhaps we could provide CW on the air practice, all the time. We'll discuss this at the next club meeting.

In the past, we've provided the actual learning of the code, while others have provided practice. It worked in the past and now there seems to be more interest in the code than before. Stay tuned for further information and developments.

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## Back to the Bench

*By Richie K8JX Club Trustee*

Once upon a time, when we hams were very adventurous creatures, we would think nothing of opening up our radios and taking a peek inside, just to get an idea of how the rig was laid out. Curiosity is a hallmark of being a "Ham". After all, we've just spent oodles of time and effort into learning the theory behind the electronics, why not test them out!

If we wanted to design a circuit, we had many different resources available for our use. The ARRL Handbook has always been an excellent source of circuits, and if you wanted to get more detailed, you could always look at the circuit that was already being used in your radio. Wiring was a little trickier: you had to deal with point-to-point wiring.

That was back then. Now, if you opened up your expensive radio, the sight of a few circuit boards, with surface mounted components, would greet you. The large vacuum tubes are missing! Instead, you would find several flat, black wafer-looking things called Integrated Circuits.

Times change. The theory has changed a little, but oh my, the components have undergone a dramatic change. "How do you breach the gap between designing a 5 tube radio and one in which the total component count is way over 100,000 transistors!" No easy task. But now days, thanks to our friend, the computer, we can manage that, and much more. Electronic circuit design has become much friendlier since the development of programs designed to let us, electronically, breadboard our circuit ideas. They can let us visualize what changing different components will have on the bandwidth of a filter, and so very much more! Two such programs are Ansoft's Ansoft Design and Orcad105. Both companies offer a demonstrator version of their larger, more detailed programs. When contacted, they both responded excitedly to hear that Amateur Radio Operators might be interested in using their software. The two versions are demonstrators, and they are restricted to the number of layers that can be used, and neither will allow you to save your work. But even with that, they are very informative and you can always document your work by writing it down.

If you're interested, you can download Orcad105 demo at

<http://www.ema-ed.com/orcad105/default.aspx>

and Ansoft's design at

<http://www.ansoft.com/ansoftdesignersv/>

These programs are intended to encourage students and us "Hams" to explore modern circuit design and component selection. I hope this will help us get to better understand the real world behind the theory we all had to learn. A word of caution, these downloads are not for the faint of heart: Orcad10.5 is 273 Megs and Ansoft's is 113megs! Both companies have granted permission for their programs to be made freely available on CD media, without cost. Please contact this author if you're really interested.



# GRAHamfest 2006

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest

## Saturday, September 9



Sponsored by: The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

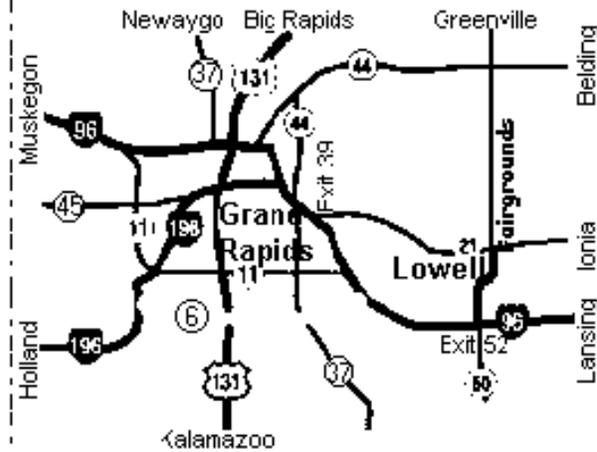
Annual Electronics, Amateur Radio, Shortwave,  
CB and Computer Equipment  
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**Opens at 8 AM**  
Seller Setup Fri. 6-10PM, Sat. 6AM

Indoor and Outdoor Sales  
VE Exams - 10AM  
On-site camping, electric available  
Friday Night Potluck

**\$6 at the door**  
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**Kent County Fairgrounds**  
225 S. Hudson  
Lowell, MI 49331



Hamfest GPS Coordinates:  
N 42.931620 / W 85.341668 (EN72hw)

Talk-In: 147.26+ (94.8Hz) & 146.52

Visit [www.grahamfest.org](http://www.grahamfest.org) for updates, maps, directions and add'l information.

### Table and Ticket Reservation Form

Indoor 8 foot table - \$10/ea	x	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
Camping - \$10 rustic/\$15 elec, water	x	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
Tickets - \$6/ea	x	<input type="text"/>	=	<input type="text"/>
Total				<input type="text"/>

Name/Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone/Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, St, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact: Jack Amelar - NY8D  
[grahamfest06@w8dc.org](mailto:grahamfest06@w8dc.org) or phone evenings  
616.897.6885

The dead line for guaranteed reservations  
with payment is September 5

Reservations received after Aug. 31 will  
be held at the door.

Mail Completed Form and Payment to:  
**GRARA**  
P.O. Box 3282  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501-3282