

# The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 15, Issue 3 - Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - July-Sept 2006

## Join in the Fun



*Pictured above, the Hunters from the August 19<sup>th</sup> hunt. Left to right - Wayne KB8VOZ, Bruce, WD8KPQ, Mike K800K, Nancy N8IPG, Chris KC8MIL, Char, WD8LGN, Pam KC8VUB, Tom N8DGD and Jack AB8ND*

The Fox Hunt has returned. On October 28<sup>th</sup>, the successful hunters from August's hunt will go and hide from the hunters. The Foxes this time out are Tom N8DGD and Jack AB8ND.

The rules and guidelines have already been posted on the Mara web site, [www.w8usa.org](http://www.w8usa.org). Just click on either little foxy or the fox hunt on the main menu bar. We'll post the pictures from the August hunt shortly and hopefully, from this coming October hunt.

These hunts provide more than just a means of having a great time with your friends, you also get to hone your radio direction finding skills. You never know when you might need or want these skills, and it is good to be prepared.

*See "Foxhunt" on page 3*

## Mara Says "Thank-You"



*Sue holds the plaque presented to her and husband Ray. It takes many people to contribute to the success of a club*

This past spring, we showed our appreciation to two people who have made a significant contribution to this club. Sue and Ray, who operate M & W Inc, have provided our club with a secure and accessible area in which to store our communications/welcome trailer. They have provided us with emergency access anytime the need arises, as well as providing access for repairs and upgrades.

Sue and Ray have been great friends to this club and support all that we do. They have also invited us to their auctions. They are held Thursday morning, at 9:00 AM. The location is 979 West River Center Dr NE, Comstock Park. If you go, please stop by the main office and tell Sue and Ray hi, and thank them for all they've given us.

You can also visit their web site, <http://www.mnwinc.com>

## **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 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.

## Member News

*By Richie K8JX*

While we're done with our summer events, we have the fun fall stuff just around the corner.

One of the biggies is the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans special event station. That is on November 11, 2006. If you would like to participate, contact either Chris KC8MIL or Larry KC8KVR. We also have posted both on our club's web site and in this newsletter, a list of needed items that the residents of the facility can use. This is a great way of showing them how we really care. If you bring donations, or want to participate in the event, go to the back of the facility, not the front. It's the yellow NCO building in the rear.

Before the GRHV event, we have our next Fox Hunt coming up on October 28, 2006. This should be interesting; since this is the first time the Foxes have come from another club: Tom N8DGD and Jack AB8ND. Speaking of which, we'd like to congratulate Jack AB8ND on becoming GRARA's newest president. Way to go Jack.

November is also the month when we continue our Mara club nominating process for the year 2007. Nominations will close at the November meeting and the club secretary will mail ballots out.

November also is the start of our "Ham of the Year" nomination process. If you know somebody you feel has made an outstanding contribution to the West Michigan amateur radio community, please write up a short paragraph on what they have accomplished and send it to either Jim K18JD or Rich K8JX. This time, we're going to try to make up a list of all of the individuals who have been nominated in the past, and include them in the field of candidates. This way, an individual's consideration is not dependent on somebody nominating them each year.

We also have the After-Christmas dinner coming up. Tentatively, it is scheduled for February 2007. More information as it becomes available.

## Foxhunt

*By Tom N8DGD*

Jack Kunnen and I were first to locate the fox "The Dream Team" on the last R.D.F. hunt at the cemetery near Northland Dr. and Canonsburg. Jack and I will host #12 R.D.F. hunt on October 28th, 2006. We will start at 1:30 pm and will gather at Knapp's Corner (Knapp and East Beltline) near the Meijer gas station but still on Meijer's main parking lot. Could you please let MARA members know at the next meeting? If Richie would be so kind and make up a flier like he did for #11 it would be much appreciated! We will follow the same rules as last fox hunt. Afterwards, we will meet at a local restaurant. Hear us then! ^^.

## Great Lakes Award

*By Richie K8JX*

This club likes awards. When it was first formed back on August 31, 1991, within a very short time, we created the Great Lakes Award. It has received a very good response from the Ham community. Shortly after that, we offered endorsements for the GLA, such as CW only, satellite only, mixed mode. But one thing has stayed the same from that time to now. The beautiful certificate we offer. Our current Great Lakes Award manager is Larry KC8KVR. Larry has reported how foreign stations have successfully earned the award. In this day of apparent apathy in getting involved and participating in clubs, this is exciting news.

If you would like more information on earning the GLA, please visit our web site, [www.w8usa.org](http://www.w8usa.org) and click on Great Lakes.

## Lost Jackets and Blown Water Heaters.

*By Richie K8JX*

Sometimes, it's nice to hear of people helping each other. Leonard Schaafsma, W8SPX, loves to wear his Mara jacket. If you see Leonard at a Ham Swap, you'll see his bright blue jacket not far away. Its just one of those things that is special to a person. At the GRARA Swap last month, Leonard left the swap and forgot his jacket. He tried to go back and get it, but the swap was closed and the person he talked with had no idea what he was talking about. Two weeks later, while helping Lee W8ZP and Rich K8JX find a replacement furnace transformer, Leonard asked a special favor. Could Rich K8JX, who was Mara Net control that night, make an announcement asking for help in trying to get his jacket back? Rich K8JX did just that and also e-mailed several other people to see if they could find it for Leonard. Two days later, Carl WA8AAT called his wife, Evelyn KB8ILI after leaving the GRARA meeting to tell her he would be late. Somebody at GRARA had found the jacket and given it to Carl to return to Leonard! Leonard wasn't listening to the radio that night, and was surprised when Carl WA8AAT showed up at his door holding his jacket. Leonard got on the very next net and thanked all who helped.

Tied in with the above story is Richie's k8jx's hot water heater deciding to spring a leak. Lee W8ZP confirmed that the heater had sprung a leak, but when they tried to shut off the water going to the heater, the valve's packing and gasket blew. It was like one of those fire sprinklers going off, except, this happened around 1AM. By the time it was discovered, it had sprayed on everything, including the furnaces transformer and solenoid valve. They both burned out. Searching for parts for a 60-year old furnace isn't the most pleasant experience to go through. We decided to

visit Leonard W8SPX, because there's nobody in Grand Rapids that has such a large collection of parts, for just about anything! While Leonard himself crawled over the pile of parts and stuff looking for the part, he told us of his missing jacket. While we found one part, Leonard decided we should have a new one. Two days later, while chatting with Larry KC8KVR on the repeater, Richie mentioned his problem. Larry had the part they were looking for! Not only that, Larry said he'd install it.

While looking over the above story, I realize that it isn't about parts or jackets. It's about people who care for each other and share one great hobby, Ham Radio. Thank you all!

## W8USA.ORG

*By Richie K8JX*

I thought I should contribute something to this newsletter. It's been a while. Let me say, it's been one of my greatest joys in maintaining and creating the Mara web site. I've been doing this for about 9years now and it's just fun turning the member's activities into graphics and animations for the web site. I try and present the club as it should be presented: a professional organization of individuals who are excited and have fun with their hobby of Ham Radio. You'll notice that I try and keep the site updated as much as possible. This is a must. We have lots of events that require a speedy way of informing a lot of folks. The web site performs that function nicely.

I am currently re-designing the site so to better present all of the information our club and its' members have to offer. We have a "ton" of material that needs to be sorted out and reduced. We want people to visit our web site, not move in for week. If anybody has a comment or suggestion, please contact me at k8JX@MIARTS.ORG. Please keep in mind, I'm trying to represent the whole club, from its beginnings to now.

I hope you enjoy your visit. Come again.

<http://www.w8usa.org>

## Boy Scout Jamboree-On-The-Air



*Above is a picture of the 20-meter Moxon before getting it into the air.*

On October 21st, there were at least 2 ham-related events here locally. One was the annual Holland Swap. The other was the JOTA held at the Boy Scout Headquarters on Walker Avenue, right next to the I-96 expressway. JOTA is actually an international event, with Scout stations from all over the world on the Amateur Radio bands. It is not a contest, just a way to expose Scouts to radio communications. At the same time, there are often classes on communications, electronics, etc.

The event here was smaller this year, due to internal workings of the Scout organization. However, a larger event is already being planned for 2007.

The portable Moxon beam pictured above did not see use this year, due to problems with the mast. However, a simple dipole proved to be more than enough antenna for the PSK 31 station provided by Tom N8DGD.

A contact with a contest station in Germany was made on 20-meter voice, and many domestic contacts were made using a variety of modes.

## Got a New Band-plan Chart?

*By Jim ki8jd*

The FCC made a decision regarding the "Omnibus" proposal. This decision is final, but the new rules won't go into effect for another 30-60 days.

Extra class voice privileges were expanded on 75-meters from 3.750–4.000 to 3.600-4.000 MHz. Advanced class voice was expanded from 3.775-4.000 to 3.700-4.000 MHz. General class voice was expanded from 3.850-4.000 to 3.800-4.000 MHz.

In the 40-meter band, Extra and Advanced voice was expanded from 7.150-7.300 to 7.125-7.300. General class went from 7.225-7.300 to 7.175-7.300 MHz.

On 15-meters, the only change was that Generals got an extra 25 KHz, going from 21.300-21.450 to 21.275-21.450 MHz.

If I understand the new rules correctly, Novice and Tech-Plus licensees will be allowed to use CW in the new General-class CW portions of 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

There were many other changes made to Part 97, including allowing spread-spectrum on the 222 MHz band, allowing auxiliary operation on 2-meters, etc.

These changes are final, and there will be no comment period.



# Veteran's Day Special Event Station

## Where

W8USA, the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance will be hosting its second annual special event station at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans at 3000 Monroe NW, Grand Rapids, MI. 49505

## When

Saturday, November 11, 2006. We will be operating between the time of 9:30am and 3:30pm. Once again, we will be working around the schedule at the Home and want the veterans to participate.

## Frequencies

We will be using 14.250 and/or 7.250 phone, 14.040 and/or 7.040 C.W. and 146.520 FM simplex.

In order to make this a success again we will need the following equipment.

Two(2) HF rigs  
Two(2) power supplies  
Two(2) antenna tuners  
Two(2) wire antennas  
Coax  
C.W. paddle

If you missed the special event last year, you owe it to yourself to check it out this year. It means so much to the Veterans who served this country.

If you have any questions or are able to help with the list above, please contact Chris at [kc8milmi@aol.com](mailto:kc8milmi@aol.com) or call 616 887-5772

## MEMBER NEEDS LIST



### Miscellaneous:

- Batteries: AA, D, C, AAA & 9 Volt
- Meijer, Wal-Mart, Target Gift Cards
- Burger King & McDonalds Gift Certificates
- New Greeting Cards
- 3¢-cent Postage Stamps
- Writing Tablets & Pens
- Recent Magazines: within last 6 months
- Cross Word and Word Search Books
- Combs
- Phone Cards
- Disposable Lighters
- Lap Robes: Any Size
- Ditty Bags
- Paper Back Books
- Change Purses/Wallets
- Sun Glasses

### Clothing:

- Belts – Men's All Sizes
- White & Brown Shoe Laces
- L, XL, XXL, XXXL, XXXXL T-shirts
- L, XL, XXL, XXXL Sweat Shirts
- M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL Button Down Shirts
- Men's XL Tube Socks
- Ladies Socks, Colored & White
- L, XL, XXL, XXXL Sweat Pants
- Winter Hats and Mittens
- 40-42-44 size pants all lengths

### Personal Care Items:

- Triple Head-Razor Replacement Heads
- Hair Cream/Dressing for Men
- Body Lotion or Cream
- Cologne for Men & Women
- After Shave Lotion
- Deodorant (spray only)
- Baby Powder
- Denture Cream & Cleaner

*Note: Due to Infection Control Policies, we request all personal care items be new.*

### Snacks:

- Individually Wrapped Hard Candy, Candy Bars, and Cookies
- Individually Wrapped Chips, Pretzels, and Crackers & Cheese
- Fresh Fruit, such as Oranges and Bananas

*Note: Please do not bring expired or nearly expired food items.  
Infection Control Policy prohibits the use of expired food items.*

**Bring items to: Grand Rapids Home for Veterans Volunteer Office**  
3000 Monroe NE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505  
Telephone (616) 364-5315