

The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 16, Issue 1 - Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - Jan.-Mar. 2007

Time Never Waits!

But what happens if we lose it?

By Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG

One morning, my alarm went off early and as I struggled to get out of my warm comfortable bed, I begrudgingly commented that, "time never waits." It instantly struck me funny! I've heard that phrase somewhere before and after saying it, I got to thinking, "What is time?"

As I rolled out of bed I asked my sleepy wife, "What is time?" She stirred and said, "It's too early to think about it, look it up!" Now I really was curious because I've heard so many hams talk on the radio about *some time, next time, last time, any time, bedtime, good time, bad time, half time, double time, full time, part time, same time, in time, on time, one time, past time, standard time, solar time, time to go, time to ID*, etc. What the heck is time? Can you see it? Touch it? Smell it? Taste it? Feel it? Sometimes it does cause happiness and good feelings. Sometimes it causes stress, increases our blood pressure, or it's painful. My curiosity forced me to start looking up *time* in my dictionary.

My handy dictionary has a half page dedicated to explaining all the meanings of the word *time* with the first one being; *a continuous measurable quantity, ordinarily distinct from space, in which events occur in order that does not seem to be reversible, proceeding from the past through the present to the future*. Now that's a clear, helpful definition!

My World Book Encyclopedia says that *time* is one of the deepest mysteries known to man. No one can say exactly what it is.

Continued on page 4

Miscellaneous News

By Jim ki8jd

How I happen to be typing at this hour of the morning is a story that may be told at a later date, but first, the news.

Let's see, we have the After-Christmas MARA dinner coming up on February 10th. The details were in the last newsletter, and also appear on page 3 of this issue.

Another important event is The Welcome New Hams dinner on February 17th. There is a flyer on page 8 of this issue (the pull-out page). If you've never been to this dinner, you've been missing an impressive and enjoyable event.

On February 23rd, the Morse Code testing requirement goes away completely and forever. Warning; this does not give anyone automatic upgrades. Even if you have received a Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE), you must still go back to the VE testing session for your upgrade. If I understand things correctly, you will have to pay a fee for the necessary paperwork. So if you haven't taken your General written test yet, you may want to put it off until after this date, so you will only have to make the trip and pay the fee once.

Also on this date, no-code Technicians automatically receive limited HF privileges. Warning again; please understand your privileges correctly and completely. You don't want to get any of those pink slips in the mail.

There is more on these topics on page 3 this issue.

I was disappointed with the new band-plan chart that was in the last issue, it didn't print well. If you want a really nice copy, go to our club's website, click on "Club Library", and then click on "Frequency Chart". If you have a decent color printer, it looks quite nice. 73

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
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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.

Mara's Members Dinner!

By Richie K8JX

We decided it would be nice to celebrate our friendship by holding a winter dinner. Last year's event was the most well attended event Mara has had in distant memory. Here are the details; it will be at Brann's Restaurant, 28th near Cascade, February 10, 2007 at 5:00PM. Must RSVP Marian at her home phone before the event.

You can order an 8 oz sizzler, grilled garlic chicken breast, BBQ pork ribs, or grilled salmon with roasted garlic & tomato butter for \$9.99. For those with bigger appetites, you can order jumbo breaded shrimp, 10 oz. prime rib, or a 12 oz sizzler steak & grilled shrimp combo for \$13.99. All dinners include fresh baked yeast rolls, crisp tossed salad, baked potato, and coffee or hot tea.

The MARA entertainment fund will help pay for the dinners of those who were MARA members in 2006. Those who were not MARA members are also welcome to attend.

Excerpts from: The ARRL Letter; Vol. 26, No. 4

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board.

The new rules also mean that starting February 23 all Technician licensees, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination, will have CW privileges on 80, 40 and 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters. Once the new rules go into effect Technicians may begin using their new privileges without any further action.

An applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination

(CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) credit may redeem it for an upgrade at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) exam session. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions.

For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 credit would have to apply at a VEC test session and pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, in order to receive an instant upgrade to General.

ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist Dan Henderson, N1ND, cautions that a license upgrade is **not** automatic for those holding valid CSCEs for element credit. "You must apply for the upgrade at a VEC test session, and you may not operate as /AG or /AE until you have upgraded and have been issued a CSCE marked for upgrade," he stresses. "A valid CSCE for element credit only does not confer any operating privileges."

Henderson also advises all radio amateurs to know and fully understand their operating privileges before taking to the airwaves. Some Technician licensees reportedly started showing up on 75 meters December 15 in the mistaken belief that they had gained phone privileges there.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 – the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz so there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted these important Part 97 rule revisions on its Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>>.

Time Never Waits!

But what happens if we lose it?

By Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG

Continued from page 1

Yet, the ability to measure time makes a man's (and woman's) way of life possible, including ham radio. Basically, time is thought to have originated when man started counting repeating events. When could that have been?

One of the easiest observable events that repeated itself every day was the sun rising and setting. Each of these cycles of the sun came to be called a *day*. Another observable regular change was the visible shape of the moon. This was seen every 29-1/2 days. It was called a *month*. Another observable cycle was the change in seasons; four of them were observed when the sun made a full circle around the sky. It came to be called a *year*. The further division of the day into hours is thought to have come from the Babylonian astronomers and astrologers who divided the observable events down into smaller divisions.

Time is measured several ways. There is mean solar time (related to an apparent sun) and sidereal time (related to the stars). A sidereal day is always shorter than a mean solar day by 3 minutes and 56 seconds.

In days past, time was measured and observed many ways. A sun-shadow on a dial, sand or water dripping in a glass, fire burning a length of knotted rope, many forms of mechanical devices and motors, and finally, by electronic means referencing the behavior in certain atoms.

The fundamental unit of time in the International System of Units (SI) is the *second* (symbolized s or sec). One second elapses during the occurrence of exactly 9,192,631,770 cycles of the radiation produced by the transition between two levels of the cesium 133 atom. Hams often use the term "...cycles per second", which is

now called Hertz after Heinrich Rudolf Hertz, a German physicist. In 1888, he was the first to demonstrate the existence of electromagnetic radiation by building an apparatus to produce UHF radio waves.

There are also other observable time phenomena called biological time and geological time. Ever hear someone talk about his or her biological clock? Biological time affects people and plant growth. Geographical time can help scientists determine how long ago a plant or animal actually died through carbon dating. That method involves knowing the decay characteristics of radioactive carbon and measuring the existing levels in an object.

This article has just about gotten out of hand because all I asked myself that sleepy morning is, "What is time?" I'm not sure that I know the answer now. But one thing I've learned for sure about time is that whatever it is, once you lose it, you will never find it again. Use it or lose it because it's gone forever! (That's where hams got that saying *use it or lose it* from). That means that if you want to get your next level of ham license, you've got to get busy and not waste time. If you want to get that new antenna up so that you can work DX or work repeaters better than with that HT rubber duck combination, you've got to get busy and not waste time.

Our lives are pretty much controlled by time. We all eat, sleep, work, and do specific things predicated upon time, yet no one seems to care much about it. Why is it that we hear many hams talking about *when I get the time...*, *next time...*, *some time I've got to...*, etc., they seem to procrastinate about time.

Time is a practical convenience in modern life. Numerous standards have been set up, allowing people to coordinate events and, in general, keep their lives running smoothly.

Continued on page 5

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Continued from page 4

The earth has been divided into so-called time zones that reflect the fact that high noon occurs at different times at different places on the planet. All of these time zones are referenced to the time at the longitude of Greenwich, England. A universal standard, coinciding almost exactly with the time at Greenwich, is known as Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). Hams generally use UTC in many ways but there are various other time standards, too.

Hams have schedules, operate in nets, measure frequency, and identify their station. The FCC requires hams to transmit their call sign at the end of each communication, and at least once every ten minutes during a communication, for the purpose of clearly making the source of the transmission from the station known to those receiving the transmission. If it weren't for time, we couldn't do that!

Time never waits! Already the effects of time have made it so that a person does not have to know the Morse code language to get a ham license. The effects of time have made it possible to connect and talk all over the world via the Internet. The effect of time alters all our lives. There's love, children, grandchildren, work, play, happy times, sad times, and the potential risks of diseases, heart attacks, cancer, Alzheimer's, and lastly, the inevitable! We need to take time!

Take time to think - it is the source of power.

Take time to play - it is the secret of perpetual youth.

Take time to be friendly - it is the road to happiness.

Take time to love - it is a God given privilege.

Take time to pray - it is the strongest power on earth.

Take time to read - it is a fountain of wisdom.

Take time to laugh - it is the music of the soul.

Take time to give - it is too short a day to be selfish.

Take time to work - it is the price of success.

Take time to learn of your family - for life is short.

Take time to upgrade your ham license - it's the way to more privileges.

Take the time to improve your ham station - it produces enjoyment.

Take the time to help another ham - it has its rewards.

Take the time to support your ham club and the ARRL - it preserves the hobby.

Take the time to enjoy the amateur radio hobby - because time never waits!

I wrote this article about ten years ago. Recently my wife found it in our World Book Encyclopedia when she was taking them to the Mission Store. It struck me again as being apropos for hams and so I updated it. I hope that you take time. Comments can be sent to me at w8hvg@w8hvg.org.

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. Emg. 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
223.920	N8JPR	94.8	N8JPR
224.140	NW8J	167.9	NW8J
224.440	WB8VOJ		IRA
224.640	W8DC	94.8	GRARA
224.760	K8SN	open	K8SN
442.175	K8SN	103.5	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
444.900	K8IHY	94.8	K8IHY

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 2007

Date	Events	Location
March 17,2007	Mich crossroads Hamfest Marshall KD8CDS 269-965-1415	Marshall High School
May 5, 2007	Cadillac AR and Computer swap Wexaukee ARC Contact Alton 231-862-3774	Cadillac,MI Cadillac jr.High school
June 2,2007	The I.R.A. Hamfestival Contact Ray 616-455-3915	Hudsonville,MI Hudsonville Fairgrounds
June 17,2007	Monroe County Radio com.assoc. Contact: Fred 734-242-9487	Monroe, Mi Monroe County Fairgrounds
July 14,2007	Swap and Shop Straits Area ARC Contact: Dirk 231-348-5043	Petoskey,MI Petoskey High School
August 4,2007	I.C.A.R.E. Ham Swap Contact: Clifford 989-735-3186	Hale, MI Plainfield Township hall.
September 8, 2007	GRA Hamfest 2007 GRARA Contact: Jack 616-897-6885	Lowell, MI Kent County Fair Grounds
December 15,2007	Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell 5 th Annual ARGYL Hamfest (ARGYL) Contact: Al 616-897-7659	Lowell,MI Lowell High School

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

Local Nets

Day	Time	Freq	Sponsor	Mode
Sunday	8:00AM	50.4	Informal	AM
Sunday	8:00PM	145.270	LARC	FM
Monday	8:00PM	147.160	IRA-Newsline	FM
Monday	9:00PM	146.620	ARGYL	FM
Tuesday	9:00PM	145.270	MDXA	FM
Wednesday	9:00PM	50.14	MDXA	USB
Thursday	8:00PM	145.230	MARA	FM
Thursday	9:00PM	144.185	MDXA	USB

GRAND RAPIDS AREA AMATEUR RADIO BANQUET
Announcing the TWELFTH ANNUAL

WELCOME NEW HAM

(NEW TO THE AREA HAMS, AND THE REST OF US; GET OUTTA THE CABIN)

DINNER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006, 6:00PM

If you're a new ham, or new ham to the area since last year's New Hams dinner, show up at 6PM and the dinner will be our treat!

Sponsored by these local clubs: LARC, GRARA, and MARA

At OLD COUNTRY BUFFET,

785 Center Dr NW, Grand Rapids-Walker / Alpine Twp.

From the I-96 expressway, exit Alpine Ave Hwy M-37 north (exit 30). Go to the first traffic light (Center Dr), turn right / east. Proceed east a couple of blocks, and Old Country will be on your left.

When arriving, go through the normal line, and then go directly to the L shape area in the back **unless** you are a new ham or new area move-in ham since last year's dinner. If you are new, meet with club representative at the entrance, sponsoring organizations want this to be our treat!

BRING YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER, FRIENDS, and the KIDS can come too! Dress casual.

LET THE NEW ONES KNOW WE WELCOME THEM, and enjoy each other's company without the need to split so not to miss that hamfest deal! And you don't want to miss out on the door prizes, nothing spectacular like a new rig, but a prize is a prize. We'll have a good time!

Buffet style. . No reservations, just show up.

Questions, contact Jack NY8D jamelar@localnet.com

The annual WEST MICHIGAN HAM OF THE YEAR AWARD, recognizing someone in the area for exceptional service to the ham community and public service, is presented at this dinner. For more information and/or to make a nomination, visit

<http://www.w8usa.org>

Don't be snooty, show up! ☺