

The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 20, Issue 1 - Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - Jan-March 2011

Build your Burger!



(Here Jerry W8MSK, Nancy N8IPG and Wayne K8WMD help out in the kitchen.)

It's that time once again, when we at MARA take off the mitts and pull on the aprons and hot gloves. Yes, it's "Build Your Burger" night. Once again we're offering you the opportunity to build your very own hamburger. You can put on it anything you like: onions, relish, ketchup, mustard, whatever we have on the condiments table is yours to help you put your Hamburger together. We also provide you with, coleslaw, chips, juice, coffee and dessert.

This is our 4 time out putting on an indoors fund raiser. After operating "operation Care Coffee Stops" for over 10 years, we've moved indoors. It's warmer and we don't get rained on. But the people we meet are just as interesting and friendly. So come on down to the 5th Street Hall, on the north west corner of 5th street and Davis NW. March 4th, 2011 between 5PM to 8PM.
See you there.

MARA

**August 31, 1991-August 31, 2011.
20 years of Ham Radio.**

We are going to celebrate our 20th anniversary this coming August. It seems just like yesterday when Lee W8ZP stopped over to take me over to Peter Van KA8ZAZ, the vertical man's house to look over his Windom antenna. That's also when I first found out about MARA. We sure have changed a lot in 20 years! It started out as a group wishing to either upgrade or get their first license. Once we all became licensed, we got involved in many other areas of Ham radio. But that's for another issue of our Newsletter.

During the course of the coming year, we'll explore Mara's history. Talk about going down memory lane!

We've accomplished many things in that short period of time. But I'll save that for the next issue. We have a short history section on our club's web site. It's located In the Club Library section.

If you have any ideas of what you'd like to see our club get into, submit your ideas to our Editor Jim KI8JD. Till then, dust off your old photographs and if you find any that are about our club, please forward them to either Jimmy or Rich.

We're also thinking about how to celebrate these 20 years. How about a special QSL, if you work at least so many members? Or, working the original founding members?

Here's to another fabulous 20 years.

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

Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance
Post Office Box 670

Comstock Park MI 49321-0670

Visit our website- <http://www.w8usa.org>

E-mail us at- w8usa@arrl.net

Editor

James M Cordes KI8JD

1235 Morgan NW

Grand Rapids MI 49504

616-459-1195 or 459-5415

E-mail- jamescordes@sbcglobal.net

Co-Editor

Richard M. Ranta K8JX

812 Graceland NE

Grand Rapids, MI 49505

E-mail- rranta@sbcglobal.net

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

President

Richard M. Ranta K8JX
812 Graceland NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
616-361-5975

rranta@sbcglobal.net

Vice President

Wayne Dowling K8WMD
2442 W Collier Ave
Kentwood MI 49546
616-957-4641

waynedowl@realeasynet.com

Secretary

Mike Eilers K8OOK
3648 Sundance Ln NE
Grand Rapids MI 49525
616-363-4998

K8ook@comcast.net

Treasurer

Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK
1025 Kendalwood St. NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
616-363-6146

jeromeW551@aol.com

Appointed Positions

Awards Manager

Larry Dells KC8KVR
4317 Willow Dr. NE
Grand Rapids MI 49525
616-363-8235

LLDGRD@netscape.net

Club Trustee

Richard M. Ranta K8JX
812 Graceland NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
616-361-5975

rranta@sbcglobal.net

Membership Director

Mike Eilers K8OOK
3648 Sundance Ln NE
Grand Rapids MI 49525
616-363-4998

K8OOK@comcast.net

Education Director

James Cordes KI8JD
1235 Morgan NW
Grand Rapids MI 49504
616-459-1195 or 459-5415

jamescordes@sbcglobal.net

Bereavement Director

Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK
1025 Kendalwood St. NE
Grand Rapids MI 49505
616-363-6146

jeromeW551@aol.com

Field Day Chairperson

Open

k8ook@comcast.net

Operation Care Chairperson

2 Meter Net

Members operated

Webmaster -- Richard M. Ranta K8JX

812 Graceland NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49505 616-361-5975

rranta@sbcglobal.net

* 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.

Polenta

By Jim ki8jd

Once upon a time, we MARA members decided to share recipes in our newsletter. That idea came and went. Whatever my reason was for writing this article, it is not important, because here is the article.

When I was a child, a half a century ago, my maternal grandparents were both still alive. They grew up in a mountain valley, one on the German side of the valley, and one on the Austrian side. Of course, there is no Austrian language, so they both spoke German. That same valley is now part of northern Italy. They both immigrated to Milwaukee, where they met. They ended up raising a family on a farm just north of Fremont, Michigan.

We would have family get-togethers on holidays and other weekends at the farm. The children outnumbered the adults three to one. My grandfather made his own sausage, wine, cheese, and other things too numerous to mention. The food was all very excellent, but the centerpiece of the table was the polenta. Most of us only ate polenta at the farm, and it was a real treat. There may have been 30 people there, and the polenta was a cake about 16 inches in diameter, and maybe 4 inches tall. We would put a slice on our plate, and pour gravy over it. Yum.

Over the last 50 years, I haven't seen or heard anything about polenta, other than at the occasional family get-togethers. A few weeks ago, I was surprised to see a high-end restaurant chain advertising

polenta dishes on television. So I did a little research, and found out that polenta has been around since ancient times. It has been a staple food all over the world in different forms, and under different names. "Polenta" is an Italian word. Ironically, even though polenta has always been classified as a "peasant food", it has gained popularity over the last 10 years in many fancy restaurants. Some versions of polenta take hours to cook. They have even come up with an "instant polenta", and also a microwave version, for those who don't have time to make real polenta. Our family's polenta is so quick and easy; it makes those imposters seem like a waste of time. But when you start cooking it, it needs your undivided attention for a few minutes. A big batch is easier to make, because you don't have to hold the pan while you stir it. Either way, you want to start with a fairly full box of yellow corn meal.

Here's what you do; get a pan with a couple inches of water in it. Add a little salt (optional), and bring the water to a boil. While stirring the water, sprinkle the meal into the water. You can add the meal fairly quickly at the start, but as it thickens, you need to slow down. If you add the meal too quickly, you will get lumps, not a good thing. Keep stirring, and keep sprinkling. It will get thicker and thicker. As it thickens, turn the heat down; you don't want it to stick to the pan.

You want to get it as thick as you possibly can, you will know when to stop.

When you can barely stir it anymore, you are done. You can keep a tiny bit of heat under it for a while to finish turning it into a cake. Break it loose from the pan, and flop it out onto a platter. Slice it up, and serve it with gravy or some type of meat sauce. I've even heard of people putting maple syrup on it, but you're on your own there.

Some recipes call for a finely ground corn meal or flour, some use white corn, some even use chestnut flour. But we always used regular old yellow corn meal.

**Peace out,
Jim ki8jd**

Leonard Schaafsma W8SPX S.K.



Leonard Schaafsma W8SPX., who just turned 95 years old on November 19th, passed away on July 12, 2010. Leonard has been a ham for 74 years (since 1935). Leonard has earned our respect by consistently holding high standards in whatever he attempted or accomplished in ham radio, and in his work.

. He has provided many young hams with the role model of always being the gentlemen, and of always be sincere if you offer help. He has the same call sign since he began in ham radio and was an active member of GRARA and MARA.. Leonard became a regular at our awards presentations and Saturday morning breakfast.

R.I.P. my friend, we miss you.

John Visser NF8P S.K.



John C Visser, NF8P, ex-KA8KUQ, was born in the Netherlands and served in the Dutch Navy for 6 years. He was in Dutch New Guinea for 18 months. John came to the USA in 1959 and became an American citizen 1963, which he was very proud of. John became a Ham in 1970 and climbed the ranks till he Became an Extra Class. John belonged to M.A.R.A. He was a founding member and was their very first president. He loved Ham Radio and could be found at Field Day sites, working all the stations he could work. He also belonged to the NRA and was very supportive of the Military and has a special place in his heart for veterans.

***(Continued from page 4 John Visser
NF8P S.K.)***

John was also an accomplished musician and had one C&W CD produced. John always gave freely of his time to anybody who needed help. He helped to Elmer many new hams into our hobby. I will always remember that warm, loving smile John is survived by his wife Gerry and children and great grandchildren.

You brought joy to many people.

**Raymond Abraczinskas
W8HVG S.K.**



Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG, age 74, passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, November 9, 2010. He served in the Marines and specialized in avionics and communications while stationed in Japan, where he became friends with many Japanese Hams. He graduated from Tri-State College in 1961 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering. "Abe" was known to thousands of

Ham Radio operators around the globe, was a dedicated amateur radio operator for 56 years. He was a genealogy buff, and enjoyed annual fishing trips to Quebec. He was a great active friend of our club and helped us immensely. He was a source of well founded technical information and helped many a new ham get over being shy. He also helped build and maintain the "W8HVG Link Repeater". He will be greatly missed.

R.I.P. my friend.

"It's been a hard and long year!"

By Jim K18JD & Rich K8JX

As you can probably tell, this issue was difficult to compose. It's hard to write about your friends who are no longer with us, but to lose so many within a year, it is a hard thing. This is one reason we're late in getting this newsletter out. We tried to do it last November. It has taken the both of us this long to get here. I certainly hope we do not have another year like this past one. But if we do, be assured we will do our friends the honor we hope we have given them. We also saw the need to create and update a web page just to pay honor to our friends. It has changed a great deal. From our front page, (www.w8usa.org) click on "In Memoriam". If you wish to add any person quotes to the listings, please send them to W8USA@ARRL.NET.

We thank you all for your patience.



**Build Your Own
Burger
Friday March 4th 2011
5:00 PM to 8:00 PM
\$5.00 Adults \$3.00 Kids
Under 12**

Burger , Chips, Coleslaw, Juice, Coffee and Dessert

**At 5th St. Hall
Located on the Northwest Corner of
5th and Davis Sts.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504**

Visit our web page www.w8usa.org

Hamfests 2011

Date	Events	Location
March 19,2011	Mich crossroads Hamfest Marshall W8JRD 269-339-1908	Marshall Activity Center
April 2,2011	Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell Hamfest (ARGYL) 616-450-4332	Lowell High School
May 7, 2011	Cadillac Hamfest 231-876-1485	Cadillac Junior High School
June 4,2011	I.R.A. "Good Old Days" Ham Don K8YES 616-532-7769	Hudsonville Fairgrounds
June 5, 2011	Chelsea Radio Swap 'n Shop Frank 734-945-1915	Chelsea Fairgrounds
Fall 2011	GRA Hamfest 2011 GRARA	To be announced

(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	7:30PM	147.060	HARC	FM
Monday	8:00PM	147.160	IRA	FM
Monday	9:00PM	146.620	ARGYL	FM
Tuesday	9:00PM	145.270	MDXA	FM
Wednesday	9:00PM	50.14	MDXA	USB
Wednesday	8:00PM	146.880	SATERN	FM
Thursday	8:00PM	146.800	MAARC	FM
Thursday	8:00PM	145.230	MARA	FM

(the above information is believed to be accurate. Please check with each group and see if they have updated their information. A special thanks to Tom Wilson KD8DEG for his contribution on the net list if you know of a net that is in operation, please let Tom KD8DEG know)

Grand Rapids Area Repeater List

(Thanks to the Michigan Area Repeater Council for this data- 1/17/2011)

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	W8IRA	94.8	IRA
147.260	W8DC	94.8	GRARA
223.920	N8JPR	94.8	N8JPR
224.140	NW8J	167.9	NW8J
224.440	KB8YNC		KB8YNC
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
444.250	KC8EST	114.8	KCEST
444.325	N8WKN		N8WKN
444.400	W8DC	94.8	W8DC
444.625	KR8T	94.8	KR8T
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.

**Master Membership List
as of February 12, 2011
as reported by our Treasurer Jerry W8MSK**

K8VOJ	Sandy Biziorek	Tech
K8VOL	Steve Biziorek	Extra
KC8KVR	Larry L. Dells	General
Peg Dells		
KD8EMI	Joyce Douglas	Tech
KC8NKA	Rich Douglas	Extra
Marion Dowling		
K8WMD	Wayne M. Dowling	General
N4SC	Roman Downer	Extra
K8OOK	Mike Eilers	Extra
N8IPG	Nancy Eilers	General
N8NFZ	Serge Lisk *	Tech-Plus
N8NIJ	Dan Markowski	General
K8SN	Samuel T. Nabkey*	Extra
K8JX	Richard Ranta*	Extra
WD8LGN	Charlotte H Reffeor	General
N8GS	Gale Scholten	Extra
N8WKM	Dan Thompson*	Technician
WA8AAT	Carl Thompson	General
KB8ILI	Evelyn Thompson	Technician
WD8RER	Tom Updike	Advanced
WC8O	Bob Wild	Extra
W8MSK	Jerome V. Wittkoski	Extra
N8VWI	Bill Zaidel *	Extra
N8WKQ	Connie Zaidel*	Technician