

The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 20, Issue 2 - Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - April-June 2011

Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance Our 20th Anniversary



(Front row, left to right: KB8MZR Larry Ambrose, K5MRO Bert Bouma, W8SPX Leonard Schaafsma, W7PG Andy Gusack, KA8ZAZ Peter Van Duivendyk Middle Row, Left to right. N8XHA Bob Hammond, Paul Hernadez, N8NFZ Serge Lisk, N8LDY Chuck LeMarbre, NF8P John Visser, unknown, N8JXB Bob Wild, unknown,, unknown, Hernadez. Last Row Left to right: KB8AKV Gary Springfiled, John Jailer, W8KQM Glenn, N8SVU Steve Ireland, unknown, KA8SHZ Jim Norton, N8OAR Bill Wisneski)

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

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Operation Care Chairperson

2 Meter Net

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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.

The 4th Annual Peg & Larry's Open to all, End of Summer Picnic!



(Here captain Larry KC8KVR, let's Jim, K18JD, s Grandson pilot the boat.)

Larry and Peg thought it would be a nice way to get together and celebrate the end of summer. What better way to see our old friends and welcome new people into our hobby. Another one this summer. August 20, 2011, at 5:00PM.

We plan on eating around 6:00PM. All that they ask is to

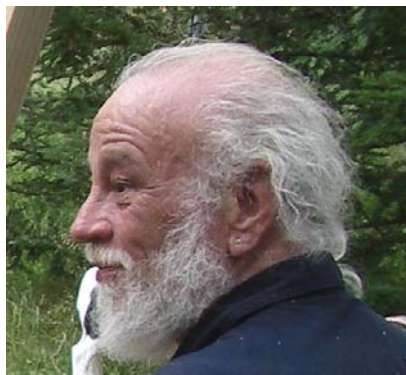
- 1.RSVP
2. Bring a dish to pass
3. Bring a chair.
4. Favorite beverage.

oh and by the way, Larry KC8KVR and Peg will also supply the fireworks.

Ask Larry for directions to his QTH.

Please, RSVP Larry and let him know if you're coming.

Serge Lisk N8NFZ S.K.



Serge Lisk, age 67, of Morris Minnesota, passed away on May 16th 2011.

Serge was a founding member of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance and The Michigan Amateur Radio Telegraphers Society. He helped maintain and create interest in our club by giving each member a Call-sign plaque during our first year.

He supported the M.A.R.A. club in many different ways. He was our 3rd president.

He also provided the first Field Day site and entertainment. He hired a magician to put on a show for the Field Day attendees. Serge served in the U.S. Marines and worked as an independent Master Electrician.

Serge also served on the Parish Council in the local Grand Rapids Russian Orthodox Church.

Serge was building his retirement cottage on Aux Pin's island for his family and planed on installing 40 meter dipoles this summer.

R.I.P. Love you my man.

Mara's 20th Anniversary Special Event station.

To celebrate our anniversary, we're holding a special event operation on the listed frequencies below.

CW 14.180 7.075 3.550

SSB 14.230 7.230 3.845

Our Repeater 145.230 94.8 pl.

Date and time of operation

Aug 20 10:00AM to 10:00PM EST

Aug 21, Noon to 5:00PM EST

We will be using the club's callsign
W8USA,

To get either or both the
Certificate & QSL,
Mail your QSL to:

MARA, PO Box 670, Comstock Park, MI
49321.

\$2 for certificate. Do not send envelope; we
will supply.

Presently, we need operators for both the CW
and Phone operations. A sign up sheet will
be available at the June and July club
meetings and also you can volunteer by
sending an E-Mail with the time and freq and
mode you'd like to operate to

W8USA@ARRL.NET

Dennis Fernand Gaboury W8DFG S.K.



Dennis, age 63 of Mount Clemens Michigan,
passed away Wednesday April 13th.
Dennis served in the Michigan National Guard
and co-owned the Northpointe
Fabrication company.

Dennis was the current president of The
Michigan Area Repeater Council and
was a past president of the USECA Radio
Club, where he still held the role of
Trustee. Dennis helped create new guide
lines for coordinating digital Ham
repeater systems in Michigan.

Dennis served his community outside of
Amateur Radio by being a Walk
Coordinator for the March of Dimes and
belonging to the Am Vets, Eagles, Elks
and Moose organizations.

Dennis wore many different hats and had the
respect of all. He will be greatly
missed.

R.I. P.

Remember when....



The original members who started MARA, showing off their first Awards, left, the Membership Certificate, and the Great Lakes Award.

Left to Right, KA8SHZ, Jim Norton, Lyle Giffin KB8EHM, John Visser NF8P, Eddy Lomasiewicz W8NZW, Serge Lisk N8NFZ, Chuck LeMarbre N8LDY, Richie Ranta WB8HJX, Harold Allen KB8MNI , KB8AKV Gary Springfiled (not in the photo) and Andy Gussack W7PG.

Richie Ranta WB8HJX was not an original member.

Eddy Lomasiewicz is holding Mara's Membership Certificate. You had to work all 9 original members, then you'd earn it. The Great Lakes award is still being offered today. You can find it on our web site under Great Lakes Award. If there is enough interest, we might bring back the Membership Certificate.

Field Day 1992 style....



Above is Jim ED Norton, KA8SHZ, checking out the operation of John Visser NF8P. John was our first president. Jim brought all the individuals together to form Mara. Our club has growth a lot since then. We still hold Field Day when we can, but like the photo above, we have all growth older. Things are harder to do.



The above photo is the start of Field Day 1992. It was held at Serge Lisk's brothers camp ground. Which is 1000 yards from where we hold Field Day today.

Left to right, KA8SHZ, Jim Norton, Peter Van KA8ZAZ, Andy Gusack

**W7PG and Leonard Schaafsma
W8SPX.**

A good time was held for all who attended. The next year, we moved the Field Day site to Fisk Knob. We erected 3 towers, and operated all the bands permitted.



Above is the main tower used at the Fisk Knob site. We were very lucky. Not one lightning strike.

While this issue and the next 2 will focus on Mara's 20 years of being in existence, I thought I would copy pages from earlier Newsletters that denoted milestones in our club's history. And this club certainly has had more than a few.

On the next page is page 1 from Volume 4 number 1. Enjoy.



The OPEN - FEED - LINE

Volume 4, Number 1 May 30, 1995

JUNE 24,25TH F-D!

CLUB NEWS

"On February 1, 1995, at 12:01 AM, the 145.410 MHz repeater identified W8JLJ for the last time. At 12:03 AM, the repeater identified MARA N8OAR REPEATER." Finally, after 4 years of talking, discussing, planing and then some more talking, we finally acquired the 145.410 repeater. This came about from the unselfish motives of 6 individuals, who took it upon themselves to actually purchase the repeater. These folks have come to be known as the MARA Repeater Group. All of us at MARA thank you for your willingness to promote MARA through this considerate venture. "THANK YOU".

But more about the repeater and it's commands later on.

Since our last issue, December 1994, (Yes, we're late! sorry) we've been busy with other club matters.

Our dream of getting a FCC club call-sign became a reality on March 24, 1995. That's when the FCC opened up the club call-sign program again, after nearly 2 decades of being closed. We received one of the first club call-signs in the Western MI area: KB8YTM. At the April club meeting, the members voted to go for a vanity club call-sign. So, between now and about July, start thinking about what call-sign you would like for a club call. Currently, we're staying with N8OAR, since changing a club call-sign when you have both a repeater and a packet BBS is a very involved and time consuming job. One that we should only do once. So what call would you like to see our club have? We've got about 2 more meetings till it will be time to submit our call-sign list.

MARA also has taken on a fresh face with many new members. Sue & Bill Dells, KB8WJW & KG8PI, Jim Bentz, N8XHH, Steve Burns, N8KVVX,

"Terrible" Terry, WB8ZNO, Len Gongalski N8NEK, Lloyd Hansen AA8PW, Con KB8UKD, Denny Purtee N8OAT, Perry Zimonick N8LUF and Bob Daniels WD8KWT. "Let's all make the time to welcome these new members and make them feel special!"

Talking about members, we can also share with you that several of our members have upgraded since our last issue. KB8PQV Mike Timmerman is now KG8QQ. Tech+ to Advanced within 3 months! Good going Mike. Bill Wisneski N8OAR has passed the written Extra exam and is busy studying for the 20WPM test. Bob Wild N8JXB, our Net Director, is going for his Advanced, and beyond.

But upgrading isn't all our members have been doing. Chuck Lemarbre N8LDY, our Secretary, finally has bought a new home. On Fisk Nob no less! Look (listen is more like it!) for Chuck's strong signal On any band!

Peter Vanduivendyk KA8ZAZ, Tom Hansen N8LDG and Louie White N8XVB have been busy helping Pete finally get his all band dipole up and running. The last report is a flat swr across all the HF bands! Good going you Three Musketeers!

Pete, not satisfied with getting a strong HF signal going, also had his picture in the May, June issue of The Amateur Radio Beacon (p. 7 & 8). Good job Pete!

We also wish to congratulate Lee Burgess WC8O, our very own Vice President, upon being appointed the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Kent County. Finally, if during one of these nice warm Summer nights, you see a guy riding a bicycle with a Icom Handie, Wave. It's probably Glenn W8KQM out riding. That's what we should all do more of; watch Glenn exercise!