

The Open Feed Line

A Publication of the Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA)

Volume 21, Issue 1 - Friendship, Community Service & Advancement of the Hobby - Jan-March 2012

Build your Burger!



(Here Dan N8NIJ, a friend-volunteer and Jerry W8MSK, work the kitchen.)

This past October 12th, we held our 8th “Build Your Burger” fund raiser event at the 5th street hall. While “Operation Care Coffee Stop” was our primary fund raising event for over 10 years, we seemed to have gotten older and the need to stay warm and dry looked very attractive. We moved indoors! The people we meet are just as interesting and friendly and they come back each time we hold this event.

(Below, Rich KC8NKA, munches down a burger)



(more pictures on page 4)

MARA

The next Award-Contest?

During our last club meeting, we discussed creating a new Award or even a contest. The idea was to put on an event that might attract new members. We've held several special event stations in the past and they were well received. Some ideas that come to mind are:

1. Holding a special event to help celebrate Some city or state event.
2. perhaps put up a station at a park.
3. perhaps even get involved with Artprize, though how that would work has to be thought out well.
4. Hold our own Field-Day, but during another time of the year, like winter?

We've tried to create a new award in the past and came away feeling we didn't know what would work in West Michigan. Maybe now we can be creative and come up with something. We would like to increase our membership and have fun doing it. Pull your thinking caps on and see how creative you can be before our next club meeting. You could also ask a non-member Ham what they would like to see happen.

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 K18JD

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 - \$20.00. 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

Barton Bechtel N8XQH
6155 Horstmeyer RD
Lansing, MI 48911

W8USA@ARRL.NET

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 K18JD
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

Net Directors

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 Plainfield Township Fire Dept. Training Building, located on the SW corner of 5 Mile RD and Plainfield Ave NE, in Grand Rapids. This site is handicap accessible.

All are welcome to attend our meetings.

Larry's Corner

By Larry Dells KC8KVR

I think we all did a good job so far this year. Made it through the "Build your Burger" night with Dan's N8NIJ expertise. We have a new meeting place for FREE, with 24 hour emergency services at the Plainfield township fire barn located at 5 mile road and Plainfield ave. Below is a picture of the training center. It is handicapped accessible.



I had the privilege of helping Matthew Hendricks KD8SOR in getting his AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE in June. Matt contacted us by e-mail March 23th, stating he was interested in becoming a licensed Ham. He passed the tech exam and then passed his general exam at the IRA swap June 5. He became a Ham in about 8 weeks.

Field day was in my opinion a huge success. Below are some photographs from our FD.



(Above, Mike KD8JB, operates FD. Another cw operator)



(Above, Jerry W8MSK works his first love, CW)

This was also the first FD for several others:

Matt KD8SOR his 1st.

Mike KD8JB his 1st.

Barton N8XQH his 2nd

Jerry W8MSK and Mike K8OOK too many to count and myself, KC8KVR, Field Day.

Carl WA8AAT did a great job taking pictures



And a SPECIAL THANK YOU to all the ladies for the food they prepared for the Saturday night meal.

(Below, Nancy, N8IPG and Evelyn KB8ILI, relax on the deck)

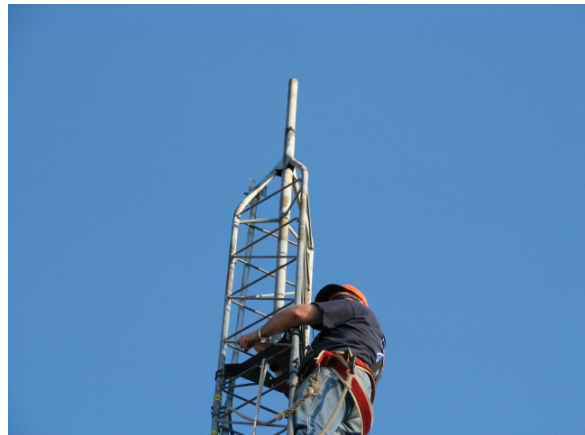


At the July MARA meeting we had two guests present, one I was able to help in getting his license.

Corey Grahn KD8SZZ . From the July 11th meeting, got his technician license taken at Ionia, to passing his General on October 12th, in about 90 days. He has become an experienced tower erector.



(above, Corey KD8SZZ, starts to move the J-pole, to install another tower section. Below, Corey almost done)



Done!

THANK YOU Corey for all the help on my tower.
Larry KC8KVR

Build Your Burgers night.

We held our "Build Your Burgers" on October 12th. The person responsible for its continual success is Dan N8NIJ. Below he's working on cooking the burgers.



Above, Jerry W8MSK helps put the meal together.

Thanks to all who helped make this a successful fund raising event.



K8WMD Wayne Dowling

"K8WMD", aged 73

Passed away on Friday, October 21, 2011. He is survived by his wife, Marian Dowling and family members.

He will be missed by his furry buddies who kept him company while he worked DX. While Wayne was an avid DX and spent a lot of time on 6 meters.

Wayne was also a Member of MARA and was an Active board member. He served as President, Vice-President, Repeater site maintenance. He also participated in many special events Like Veterans Day operation and even was active on Mara's 20th anniversary Special Event just two days before he went into the hospital.

He was still working and never gave a thought to retirement.

Wayne always got people to feel as if they were the most important people on earth.

God Bless you Wayne.

Love you my man!



Dalbert Gustav Schuelke

November 18, 1928 – July 26, 2012

Dalbert Gustav Schuelke, age 83, of Rockford, passed away Thursday, July 26, 2012.

Dalbert served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict. Dal, as he liked to be called, was an active member in MARA, GRARA and even belonged to LARC at one time. Dal liked to participate with the club activities. He showed up when we were assembling and installing our new repeater antenna. He always was jolly and willing to help anybody who would ask him. People will always remember seeing Leonard W8SPX and Dal show up at ham swaps. It was a tradition. He demonstrated the great spirit of ham radio many times, in person and on the air.

Dal will be greatly missed.

R.I.P.

Club News

On August 14th, 2011, a funny thing didn't happen to me. I decided to back up my entire computer, all 1, 027,450 files. The next week, my computer, "Zero 3", with all MARA, on it,

died. I'm offering this as an explanation why the newsletter is about 6 months late.

Normally, all one has to do is go to BestBuy and buy a new computer. But not me. One of the reasons I got into Amateur Radio was my curiosity on all things technical. That would include building computers. "It's Fun". You learn all about talking with customer service people in India, investing countless hours assembling a working computer only to find that something isn't working right. That "something" isn't working right kept me from being able to use a computer from August 14, 2011 to this past February 4th, 2012. Then I discovered that the current operating system didn't like my old, expensive software. Time to buy new. Right, and I'm an Mongolian Jet pilot. So the trend has been slow in getting this new puter, "Thor", I call it, going. I am indebted to Richard D. KC8NKA for the hours he spent trying to figure why "Thor" wouldn't work. (I'll give you a hint: operator problem).

So here is the late issue and I'm already working on the next 2. Be patient with me.

MARA has updated their By-Laws, to reflect changes that the club has gone through. One of those changes is that we open up the Nomination for club officers after the October meeting. A mail in or hand in ballot is on the last page of this newsletter. For current status of this process, tune in to our Thursday night net.

We will be closing the nominations and actually vote at the December 12th 2012 meeting.

You should try wearing the hats of the board members. You will learn a lot. And, you can give a lot too!.

Grand Rapids Area Repeater List

(Thanks to the Michigan Area Repeater Council for this data- 1/17/2012)

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.

Hamfests 2013

Date	Events	Location
March 16,2013	Mich crossroads Hamfest Marshall W8JRD http://www.w8df.com	Marshall Activity Center
April ?,2013	Amateur Radio Group of Youth in Lowell Hamfest (ARGYL) 616-450-4332	Lowell High School
May ?, 2013	Cadillac Hamfest 231-876-1485	Cadillac Junior High School
June ?,2013	I.R.A. "Good Old Days" Ham Don K8YES 616-532-7769	Hudsonville Fairgrounds
June ?, 2013	Chelsea Radio Swap 'n Shop Frank 734-945-1915	Chelsea Fairgrounds
Fall 2013	GRA Hamfest 2013 GRARA	To be announced

(The Ham Swap Data is taken from the ARRL's Ham Festival database and also locally announced swaps. Please check each clubs web site or listed person for current dates.)

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	FM
Monday	9:00PM	146.620	ARGYL	FM
Wednesday	7:00PM	147.160	SATERN	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.)

MARA NOMINATION BALLOT

Our revised By-Laws has the nomination process

Opened after the October club meeting.

Please enter the names of the people you are nominating
for board positions below.

Please be sure to ask the person you are nominating if they
will accept the position you are nominating them for.

For President: _____

For Vice-President _____

For Secretary: _____

For Treasurer: _____

Either print this out and mail it to the club's secretary, at

Mara

P. O. Box 670

Comstock Park MI 49321-0670

or bring it to club meeting. If It is mailed, it must be in the secretary's hands
no later than 5PM (thats when the post Office closes).

to be counted at the December meeting.

We also need to know if your a current member. Please include
your name and callsign. Only current members in good standing may vote.