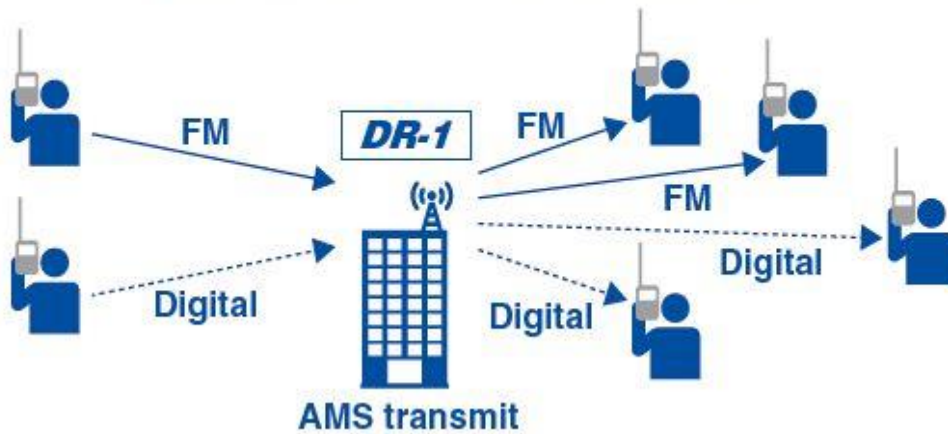


AMS receive → AMS transmit



W8USA Repeater is moving to support both Digital & Analog!

by Paul Hummel – K9BOJ

NEW W8USA REPEATER SHOWING AUTOMATIC MOSE SELECT (AMS)

The W8USA repeater project is on the move both to a new location and new Digital capabilities. In November the General Membership approved a plan to purchase a new repeater and controller. The Choice was the new YAESU DR-1X 144/430 Dual Band C4FM/FM Digital Repeater.

To avoid confusion, although this is a Dual Band repeater, it can only be configured to work on a Single Band. We will be running on 2 Meters. To run on 440, another repeater would be necessary.

The YAESU DR-1X is a digital/conventional FM dual mode repeater that covers the VHF and UHF amateur radio

bands. It was developed for use with System Fusion. Replacing our conventional FM repeater with the DR-1X will provide continued use of conventional FM communication while integrating the use of digital communication functions through its unique AMS capability. (Automatic Mode Switching)

DR-1X Features

- Modulation Modes: Conventional FM, 12.5 kHz C4FM Digital (V/D Mode, VFR Mode, DFR Mode) *
- AMS (Automatic Mode Select) function automatically recognizes

The Open Feedline

M.A.R.A
Michigan Amateur
Radio Alliance

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New General Licensees!

the signal as C4FM digital or conventional FM, and then the DR-1X repeater retransmits the signal using the preset communications mode.

- extremely reliable, high RF Output Power: 50W/20W/10W
- Emergency Operation: Supports auto-switched backup battery power operation.
- Built-in large-size monitor speaker with front panel volume control

(Continued on Page 2)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the new C4FM Digital Repeater check out the following link:

<http://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=249&encProdID=4105F1B8AE65079CAD2D26735B83B302&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0>

(MARA Repeater continued from Page 1)

- Full Integrability with existing repeater controllers using the 15 Pin rear I/O connection.
- *Note: System Fusion is not compatible with the D-STAR GMSK digital format.

As far as we know at this time, this will be the only C4FM/FM repeater in the greater Grand Rapids area. We are looking to have this repeater online in its new location in the latter half of January.



Old W8USA repeater tower located just North of the Grand Rapids Downtown. Move is expected in Mid January



W8USA Repeater Relocating

Sweeping changes continue with the M.A.R.A. repeater include relocating to Gale Scholten

, N8GS tower located near 10 Mile & PeachTree North of Grand Rapids. Coverage will definitely increase with northern borders likely reaching North to Hart, and East to Portage, possibly Lansing, and south to Plainwell.



New Construction in Early November of the upcoming MASRA Repeater location. "Shack" is currently completed and equipment install is beginning.



Corey, N8SZZ, and Nate N8THN, working on the N8GS Tower and Beam rotator and also prepping for the new W8USA Repeater

UPCOMING EVENTS

Events of Interest for next Quarter:

- After Christmas Dinner January 31 – Rio Grande Restaurant and Steak house on the North Beltline.
- Traverse City Swap February 12, Traverse City school. Contact Larry KC8KVR for Reservation
-

CW CLASSES

For anyone wanting to get in on the CW fun, there are several new options to help get you on CW and get some of us back on CW after long absences.

Anyone interested in learning CW (Morse Code)? Dan Markowski, N8NIJ, is considering starting a class after the first of the year.

Dan would like to get at least six people involved. If you are interested please email Dan at danmarco@sbcglobal.net

He is hoping to conduct the class at least a half hour prior to the start of our club meetings.

Dan N8NIJ

Also Check out an On-The-Air CW Session on Tuesday nights, starting on the GARA Repeater

W8DC, 146.76. The session continues on-air also on 10 Meters, 28.110. Excellent practice for those of you that know Morse code and are looking for interesting ways to “get your speed up” besides just copying W1AW. This service is being hosted by Tom, N8DGD with an able assistance from, Mike KD8JB.

NEW GENERALS!

It is with great pleasure we introduce two new General Class amateurs to our Ham radio community.

Our Webmaster Erin Ammons, KD8NSU, has moved up to General Class!

Jason Kotecki, KD8UCP is also a General Class amateur!

Congratulations to Both of you from the members of M.A.R.A.

MARA NEWSLETTER

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.

MARA OFFICERS

President
Barton Bechtel N8XQH

Vice President (2014)
Larry Dells KC8KVR

Vice President (2015)
Corey Grahn KD8SZZ

Secretary
Mike Eilers K8OOK

Treasurer
Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Awards Manager
Larry Dells KC8KVR

Club Trustee
Gale Scholten N8GS

Membership Director
Mike Eilers K8OOK

Education Director
Larry Dells KC8KVR

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Bereavement Director

Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

Field Day Chairperson

Barton Bechtel N8XQH

Net Director

Larry Dells KC8KVR

MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS

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Webmaster@W8USA.ORG

Newsletter Editor

PAUL HUMMEL K9BOJ

Newsletter@W8USA.ORG

Write us by contacting our Webmaster or log into W8USA.Org and send your message from the home page to the Webmaster.

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

NET COMMUNICATIONS

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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

ABOUT THIS ISSUE

Previously this newsletter has been published four times a year, January, April, July and October. This edition is a late fall edition and is a work in progress. With the change of the Repeater status, and as a newly assigned editor, I made a decision to alter the format of the newsletter to introduce a more modern new look.

As with anything new, there may be some omissions and format changes that may not work for all readers. Saying that, I would like all of you to contact me at

Newsletter@W8USA.ORG

And let me know your thoughts and any suggestions, corrections, or complaints. As this is *YOUR* newsletter, I will make accommodations to hopefully please everyone.

Also, I will be announcing a new publication schedule that may work in more fluidly to club activities. (*i.e.* – *Perhaps a special Field Day and or Contest edition*)

Finally, expect more Format changes as I experiment to find the best format to present new information to you.

Paul Hummel K9BOJ
The Open Feedline Editor