



The Open Feedline

M.A.R.A
Michigan Amateur
Radio Alliance

FIELD DAY JUNE 27 & 28 2015
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

IN THIS ISSUE

Pre -Field Day information

"ARRL Field Day is part operating event, part educational event, part public relations event and all about FUN!" So reads a Headline on the ARRL Web site. More information along with rules and regulations can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

In preparation for Field Day we are looking for two or three modern SSB/CW transceivers to use for the festivities. Accompanying this issue are Spreadsheets where you can submit gear, and commit to operating times. You may also send your requests to Newsletter@W8USA.ORG and we will make sure the Field Day Chairman gets the information.

We are always looking for Operators and loggers/volunteers. You do not have to be a member of MARA to participate. And yes, we have non-licensed positions to fill as well.

We will be meeting at the Madison Square Sportsman Club on Friday, June 25 in the afternoon to put up antennas and string cables. Address: 5321 7 Mile Rd NE, Belmont, MI 49306

My thoughts for Field Day 2015 by N8GS

Field Day weekend, June 27th and 28th, will soon be here. Now is the time to get our ducks in a row.

First off I want to lay out some goals. Without radio specific oriented goals Field Day is little more than a picnic with a bunch of wires and cords taking up space on the table so let's get organized. Several of the points below will result in bonus points for us.

- Let's have a smooth running event. One that we will be proud to ask members of the media to come and visit.
- Demonstrate to new hams and visitors the fun of contesting.

- Demonstrate our ability to operate in a simulated emergency environment.
- Operate in the 3A class and have a digital station too.
- Make a satellite contact
- Copy the ARRL bulletin
- Send an official message to the ARRL section manager
- Get an elected gov't official to visit the site
- Get an officer from, Red Cross, Salvation Army, emergency management, or law enforcement to visit the site
- Generate a score that puts MARA in the first column in our operating class. In 1982 I ran a field day that came in 13th out of more than 200 entries. There is no reason that MARA can't do just as well.

Setting up for Field Day can be a challenge. Finding people that can get to the Field Day site Friday afternoon as well as getting the equipment there can be a daunting task. Our first order of business is to get all of the equipment to the site. If the gear isn't there we can't set it up or test it. One person needs to be in charge of insuring that every item has the owners name or call sign on it so that they can get their stuff back after the event.

We need at least four helpers to work on setting up the antennas, rotators and running coax to the operating stations. A second crew is needed to set up the operating stations. On Friday this involves setting up the tables, chairs, running power and network cables as well as placing the radios, tuners, mic's, key's, pencils and paper, computers, and maybe paper towels for the occasional coffee spill.

Saturday morning is when we need to be testing everything.

- Are the radios talking to the computers?
- Are the antennas and feed lines going to the right station?
- What does the SWR look like for each station?
- Is the network working?
- Is the software (N1MM) configured correctly for this event?
- Is the generator full of fuel?
- And a hundred or so other little details.

Then we get into the hard part. How many operators do we need and who is going to operate each of the stations and when. If we are going to operate *3A plus a Digital station* we will need at least 24 operators with each one operating for 4 hours. A few will elect to operate for a longer period but most op's find it difficult to run that long so I have set up the schedule using two hour shifts for the op's. So if everyone takes two shifts we will be OK. However what about the op that does not show up because of illness or some other last minute commitment. The late night shifts are always the toughest time slots to fill but that is part of the challenge of emergency communications operating and Field Day was designed to demonstrate the ability of Amateur Radio to get the job done. We need to recruit as many operators as possible from the area and by that I mean all of West Michigan because without those extra hands we will be forced to make drastic cutbacks to our goals.

After all of this I haven't even mentioned feeding everyone. We need to have food and fresh coffee available around the clock especially for the operators in the middle of the night.

TOWER NEWS

Well, finally, the K9BOJ tower is UP! It's a wonder what Hydraulics can do for you! Thanks to all who helped in the assembly, equipment loans and advice throughout this project. Special thanks to Corey, KD8SZZ for the climb to straighten it out and add the 6 Meter beam



UPGRADES!

Congratulations go to NEW GENERAL Class Licensee Dan Hartman, **KD8ZAT**. Hope to find you working HF DX soon!

Another Call to Remember is a new EXTRA Class Licensee Roger Day, with a new call of **W8DAY**. Hope you can remember that new call Roger!

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The Open Feed Line is now published on a sliding schedule and you can expect a minimum of four issues per year.

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

05/15/2005	Dayton Hamvention
06/06/2015	IRA Hamfest - Hudsonville
06/27/2015	Field Day Start at 1800 UTC
06/28/2015	Field Day ends 2059 UTC
07/18/2015	CMARK (Lansing) Outdoor Swap
10/03/2015	GRARA Swap (Wyoming)
10/17/2015	Muskegon Color Tour Swap
10/18/2015	Kalamazoo HamFest 2015

MARA OFFICERS

President
Barton Bechtel N8XQH

Vice President
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

Bereavement Director
Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

Field Day Chairperson
Barton Bechtel N8XQH

Net Director
Larry Dells KC8KVR

Field Day Signups

Field day assignment spreadsheets are being sent out as a separate mailing. Please take some time to view and add your name to the lists for the various items you can supply. We are looking for Radios that are straight forward as far as operating and that have some type of computer interface capability so we can make N1NM logging easier. When you complete your Spreadsheet copy, please email it to NEWSLETTER@W8USA.ORG or send to

Field Day
c/o MARA
PO Box
Comstock Park, MI 49321



Independent Repeater Association, Inc.

2015 IRA Grand Rapids Hamfest

Hudsonville Fairground, 5235 Park Avenue, Hudsonville, MI 49426

Saturday, June 6, 2015 -- 8 AM until Noon



West Michigan's Largest Hamfest and Computer Fair !

Proceeds Support the W8IRA/R Linked Repeater System

◆ DEALERS - HAMS - COMPUTER HOBBYISTS

◆ SHOW - TRADE - SELL

- ◆ All ham equipment, radios, coax, antennas, accessories, software, hardware, books, parts, alternate energy equipment, ham related clothing, and all other ham related gear.

MULTIPLE DOOR PRIZES !!

- ◆ Convenient, spacious facilities at the Hudsonville Fairgrounds
- ◆ Indoor Sales Floor with 22,000 Sq Foot of Display Area
- ◆ Convenient Access and Free Parking - Handicapped Parking and Access
- ◆ Children under 12 admitted FREE (when accompanied by a paying adult)
- ◆ Food and drinks available in comfortable indoor facilities
- ◆ Interesting and Informative Forums and Seminars
- ◆ VE Amateur Radio License Exams - All Levels Offered

Admission Fee: \$6

Ray's Road Kill Chili and Potluck Dinner

6:30 PM Friday Night

Bring a dish to pass and join in the fun Friday at 6:30 P.M. after helping with setup. Enjoy "Eye-ball QSOs," entertainment, awards, and surprises. This will be the last opportunity to purchase reduced-price Hamfest tickets.

Don't miss this fun, exciting and well-attended social event!

For Reservations

Complete Reservation Form on Reverse and Send with your Payment

Questions ??? Call Wayne, 616-866-3316

or

E-Mail -- hamfest@W8IRA.org