

The Open Feedline

M.A.R.A.
Michigan Amateur
Radio Alliance



Merry Christmas W8USA

2015 ROUNDUP

IN THIS ISSUE

Annual After Christmas
Dinner
Updates on Member
Activities

Significant M.A.R.A. events of 2015

Starting with the most recent... I was delaying the newsletter in hopes of reporting the restoring of repeater services. Unfortunately, the repeater has developed a condition from which we are unable to recover. The Yeasu Repeater is currently being returned to Yeasu for service. The condition it developed was the inability to transmit. All connected equipment (Controller, etc.) was removed from the repeater to no avail. Transmit power is not at the output.

Meanwhile, as we await the return of the unit from Yeasu, the old ICOM repeater will be put into service. This is likely up by the time you read this. Please note the controller will not be in the repeater chain, nor will the internet access via EchoLink be active.

In other repeater news, the old 2 bay antenna was removed from the old site this fall and is now installed on the N8GS tower at the 110-foot level.

In other events, the Burger Nights were successful this year, as well as Field Day and several contest events. We are looking forward to more Burger Nights and/or Burrito Nights in 2016.

I did not get much response from members and their summer activities and trips, but will note two significant trips.

Gale, N8GS, traveled to Alaska, had a great time and was even able to check into the two-meter net from his Cellphone!

Paul, K9BOJ also completed a significant trip to Helsinki, Finland and St. Petersburg, Russia. And Yes! They are using Hex Beams in Russia. Two were spotted in rural St. Petersburg.

After Christmas Dinner

The After Christmas Dinner will again be held On Saturday January 30, 2016, 8:00 P.M.

Rio Grand Steakhouse

5501 Northland Dr.

Grand Rapids, MI 49525



Menu Link:

<http://riograndsteakhouse.com/menu/starters/>

After Christmas RSVP

PLEASE RSVP YOUR ATTENDANCE INTENTIONS FOR THE AFTER CHRISTMAS DINNER TO:

LARRY DELLS KC8KVR

EMAIL: LLDGRD@NETSCAPE.NET

OR

CONTACT LARRY ON A RADIO CONTACT, EYEBALL OR PHONE CALL. PLEASE LET LARRY KNOW ASAP NAMES OF ALL PLANNING TO ATTEND. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE A MARA MEMBER TO ATTEND. ALL ARE WELCOME.

White elephant gift exchange

As in past years, we will also be offering a "White elephant gift exchange" at the After Christmas Party for all of you that wish to participate.

In its most basic form, the game is as follows: Each participant supplies one wrapped gift. The gifts are placed in a central location, and participants determine in which order they will take turns selecting them. (Usually directed by a Club member "Host".) The first person opens a wrapped gift, and the turn ends. On subsequent turns, each person can open a new present or gets the choice to "steal" another person's gift. The gift cannot be stolen once the third participant touches the gift (i.e. - it is stolen for the 2nd time). When a person's gift is stolen, that person can either choose another wrapped gift to open or can steal from another player.

Gifts are typically inexpensive, humorous items or used items from home. The term white elephant refers to a gift whose maintenance costs exceed its usefulness. In the past gifts have ranged from wine glasses, decorations, Ham items such as antennas, coax switches, items of interest to the ladies, etc. Values are typically \$10 or under.



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.

MARA OFFICERS

Official Results for 2016 from November Meeting

President

Barton Bechtel N8XQH

Vice President

Corey Grahn KD8SZZ

Secretary

Mike Eilers K8OOK

Treasurer

Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

Appointed Positions

Field Day Chairperson

Gale Scholten N8GS

Net Director

Larry Dells KC8KVR

Awards Manager

Larry Dells KC8KVR

Club Trustee

Gale Scholten N8GS

Membership Director

Mike Eilers K8OOK

Education Director

Larry Dells KC8KVR

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Upcoming Events

02/13/2016 | Cherryland ARC's 43rd Swap & Shop

Location: Traverse City, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://cherrylandarc.com>

03/19/2016 | Crossroads Hamfest

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.w8df.com>

05/07/2016 | Cadillac, Michigan Hamfest

Location: Cadillac, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.wexaukeearc.org/>

05/20/2016 – 05/22/2016 HAMVENTION 2016 – Dayton, OH

10/16/2016 | 2016 Kalamazoo HamFest and Amateur Radio Swap & Shop

Location: Kalamazoo, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club & Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team

Website: <http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com>

Spring Burger Night: TBA



*Merry
Christmas*

Ham Radio News of Interest

Ten Tec – SOLD Again!

Word is now out that Ten-Tec has a new Owner. Rumor has it that new owner is the current owner of Vibroplex, Scott Robbins, W4PA. More information and discussions on the company's future plans are told by former Ten-Tec Software Engineer, John Henry, KI4JPL on the following links:

<http://swling.com/blog/2015/12/ten-tec-has-a-new-owner-with-long-term-vision/>

<http://lists.contesting.com/archives//html/TenTec/2015-12/msg00013.html>

<http://ke9v.net/tag/tentec/>

Lost Members!

We seem to have lost track of a few members we have not seen in a while. You know who you are, and you are missed! Mark your calendars for the next meeting on January 13, 2016, 7:30PM at the Plainfield Fire Station. Let one of us know you need a ride and we can make sure you are picked up.

Also, Join us for Breakfast most Saturday mornings at Russ' Restaurant in the Highpoint Center strip mall on 4 Mile and Alpine. We will see you there!