



The Open Feedline

M.A.R.A
Michigan Amateur
Radio Alliance

2016 PRE-FIELD DAY

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Special "Short" Edition

2016 – Field Day Plans

This year setup is planned to start right after a breakfast at the New Beginnings restaurant located on the Beltline and Plainfield. All members should plan to gather at 8 am as we plan to go to the Field Day site for antenna work shortly after 9:30 am.

This year we plan to operate 2A, but will have three complete stations at the ready. Only two will be operating at any given time, with the third station as a "Hot Swap" spare.

So far, we have Greg's terrific KX3 station again, and also Gale's Yeasu station and Paul's Icom IC-9100. We may need another Laptop in the mix. Paul is setting up a router to link all laptops to the Master Computer on Gregg's station.

Reminders for all laptops to be used:

1. Minimum operating system is either Windows 7 or Windows 10.

2. Each computer will need an **Administrator rights** User defined.
3. Username: W8USA - Password: w8usa (note the password is all in lower case.)
4. A full install of N1MM Logger + Software. As of this writing, the latest update is 1.0.5733.exe, 08 Jun 2016.
5. For updates:

http://n1mm.hamdocs.com/tiki-list_file_gallery.php?galleryId=15

For Power we will again use Gale's Honda EU2000i generators. We had excellent results last year having the two generators connected in parallel. This allowed us to run one generator at a time then when the running generator got low on fuel we started the second generator to take the load and then shut down the first unit so that it could be refueled. Using this method there was zero down time for the station operators

Remember, to run CW with your key you may need to have adaptors to ¼ inch and/or 1/8-inch radio jacks. Also if you are using a Bug or straight key you need to have a mono to stereo adaptor. This may not be true for all radios so take a look at them in the morning and be sure before the contest starts at 2 PM

We were not very successful in getting our digital station running last year and have decided to run only SSB and CW this year.

The Club has some Dipole antennas to put up and we will need some additional antenna rope for the contest. Bring what you can.

Band changing will also need to be done with care. Each station will be equipped with a "Attenuation" cable attached to the antenna to reduce adjacent station interference on the different bands. Each cable has been engineered to a specific length for the specific band that station is set up to operate. Stations will be clearly marked as to what band they are set up for.

This year the food situation will be a little different as the amount of food left over was quite high last year. This year we will be having a "self-catering" Saturday evening meal. Participants can bring their own choice of meat as the Grill will be fired up. And all are asked to also bring a dish to pass.

At this time, "Breakfasts by Jerry" will again be provided by Master Chef W8MSK on the Sunday morning.

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.

MARA OFFICERS

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

Bereavement Director
Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

Webmaster
Erin Ammonds KD8NSU
Webmaster@W8USA.ORG

Upcoming Events

These are the current Great Lakes
Division

ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest
Schedule covering the next few
weeks taken from ARRL Great
Lakes Division

Director: Dale R Williams, WA8EFK

July 10 - 20/9 Tailgate - Austintown,
OH

July 16 - GMARC Trunk Swap -
Shelby Twp., MI

July 16 - NOARS Fest - Elyria, OH

July 17 - Van Wert - Van Wert, OH

July 30 - Big Sandy - Louisa, KY

July 30 - CMARC Outdoor - Lansing,
MI

Board Announcements

The following announcements have been made to the General membership.

President Barton Bechtel, N8QXH, has announced this will be his last term as president. Interested parties are encouraged to consider running for President or another board position for the 2017 term. Elections and nominations will begin at the November meeting.

Trustee Gale Scholten, N8GS, has also asked that members consider becoming the club trustee. Now that Donna has also retired, Gale and Donna are planning some "retirement expeditions", and would like to be free of the trustee obligations as soon as practical. This position is appointed and can be approved by the membership at any time.



FOR LAST MINUTE FIELD DAY AND CLUB INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK INTO THE MARA
2 METER NET THURSDAY EVENINGS AT 7:30 PM ON 145.230