

The Open Feedline



Spring is finally here and this issue we will explore some of the member's shacks. Above is the nice looking and functional shack of our VP, Dan Markowski, N8NIJ. This is Dan's "Winter shack"

where he spends a lot of time on FT-8.

On the right, active DX chaser shack of KD8SZZ, Corey, MARA President. Corey has a DXCC and is now working on more DX!



An Active Classic Radio restorer and experimenter extraordinaire Mike, KD8JB, MARA Net Coordinator owns the shack on the left. Mike is also working with K9BOJ in creating a new Great Lakes award Contest.



MARA Repeater
145.230 Mz PL 94.8

WiresX

W8USA

Node 30382

Room 40382

Echolink Node

296185

MARA BURITTO NIGHT

FRIDAY APRIL 13
5TH STREET HALL
GRAND RAPIDS, MI

COME EARLY TO
GET IN ON SOME
GREAT BURITTOS!

[LINK TO MAP](#)

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MARA REPEATER NEWS W8USA



Currently, The Echolink is down on the repeater. We have determined there is a conflict between the controller and the repeater that is preventing the echolink from working. We are aware of the situation and are working diligently to resolve the issue. Meanwhile, the repeater and wires-x are operating normally.

Since 2016, the MARA net's time was shifted to a starting time of 7:30 pm every Thursday evening on the MARA repeater.

MARA has tried many ways to keep the Net interesting, and fun to participate in, but they've found that the best way is to have different folks be Net Control. To help make it

easier for you to be Net control, we've included just about everything you'll need on the club website at:

<http://w8usa.org/interact/2-meter-net/>

In the website you will find the latest MARA 2 meter Net operation script, which is a PDF file. We also have a simple Net Log to help you keep track of who checked in. (Print 2 of them-if you run out, you'll have one handy). Please contact Mike to schedule yourself as Net Control. Hopefully we can offer Internet sign-ups on the website in the future. For now, contact Mike.

Immediately following the net is

*Current Net Director is Mike Hood, **KD8JB**. You can usually find Mike on the MARA Repeater: 145.230 Mhz, -600 PL 94.8 and/or he has been known to frequent 6 meters on 50.4 Mhz AM.*

MARA

Michigan amateur radio alliance

MARA

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Webmaster **Pending**
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.

2018 Board and Current Officers.

President Corey Grahn KD8SZZ

Vice President Dan Markowski N8NIJ

Secretary Mike Eilers K8OOK

Treasurer Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

Field Day Chairperson Gale Scholten N8GS

Net Director Mike Hood KD8JB

Awards Manager Under Committee: (Mike, KD8JB and Paul, K9BOJ)

Club Trustee Gale Scholten N8GS

Membership Director Mike Eilers K8OOK

Education Director Larry Dells KC8KVR

Bereavement Director Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

Webmaster Paul Hummel K9BOJ

Newsletter Editor Paul Hummel K9BOJ Newsletter@W8USA.ORG



MARA Webpage News

It's now official, Paul, K9BOJ, is now the new Webmaster after Erin Ammonds, KD8D-SU, handed over the reigns to the website in February. Erin did a great job in her capacity as Webmaster to move us into the new era of Websites with her expertise in design and function. I ask all members to be kind to me as I endeavor to navigate the workings of WordPress (a Website authoring software) of our new Host Site, Blue-Host.

As we travel further into 2018 you may see some "enhancements". I have begun with minor changes and updates to several of the pages, and began to learn the potential of some of the new "tools" provided. As I muddled through changes (Mostly Date oriented) changes on the site, I found that many of the Links on the Link page had expired or the manufacturers and some dealers had disappeared or got absorbed / merged into different companies. I have corrected most of these, and began categorizing the links into groups to make searching easier. I am open to any suggestion of categories I can create for specific links. One I am working on next will be creating two Antenna Categories: Antennas (Mfg) and Antenna Projects linking to homebrew antenna "How to" sites. I hope to expand more categories as well.

Finally, as I learn more about site structure and operation, I will try to increase the "interaction" of the site with "fill out" forms and other ways to make your membership to MARA easier and more meaningful to you, the members.

In the interim, the look and feel of the site will remain the same. I have a lot to learn before I start making any significant changes. I have enhanced the calendar a bit by adding Hamfests and other Ham activities. In some cases, if you click on the event, it will link to an information page to the activity. I don't have them all defined as of yet, but if you visit the calendar, just click the event to learn more.

Send any and all suggestions to webmaster@W8USA.ORG.

W8USA Web Page Info

The Webpage is now being Hosted on a server owned by the Blue Host Company. We purchased a 3 year commitment to BlueHost who seems to have all of our needs satisfied to this point.

Any and all suggestions for further enhancement are welcome. Just email the Webmaster .

Send me all of your current project notes, new Web links you have discovered, and any plans you have for Antennas, accessories, Etc.

GREAT LAKES HAMCON

Michigan International Speedway

October 6/7, 2018.

The newest major Hamfest in our region debuted October 7/8, 2017 at Michigan International Speedway.

This year the Great Lakes Hamcom will be held on October 6 & 7th, 2018 again at the Michigan International Speedway located just outside of Brooklyn, MI.

Follow the link Above For the latest information on this venue. Attendance last year was just under 1000, but progress is being made for a bigger flea-market as well as increased Dealer and Manufacturer's participation. This is a two day event with Spacious

campgrounds on the site!



Hamvention 2018—May 18, 19 and 20, 2018

Hamvention will be held held May 18, 19 and 20, 2018 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center Xenia, OH.

We are pleased to announce The Greene County Commissioners and the Greene County Fair Board have approved the construction of a new building at the Fairground/Expo Center. Unfortunately, the construction is delayed due to a backorder of the structural materials for the building.

However, another building on the property previously known as Fairgrounds Furniture, is being vacated and will be available for use by Hamvention 2018.

More details regarding the building sizes will be forthcoming but Hamvention is told the floor space added will cover an area larger than the tents Hamvention used in 2017.



Although this decision was made to expand opportunities at the

Ham Radio Swaps.

Lots coming up in 2018 with the Dayton Hamvention announcing major improvements to its new venue in Xenia, Ohio. K9BOJ had a talk with the Hamvention representatives in the Fall of 2017 and they are planning to make the flea market more accessible and making provisions to reduce and hopefully eliminate the mud! They also recently announced a new building is underway to eliminate some vendors having to be in tents.

And the new Major Hamfest in Michigan at the Michigan International Speedway in Brooklyn, MI is also announcing its second year with logistical and other improvements in the plan. One of the key improvements planned (according to former SCM Larry Camp, WB8R) is more participating Vendors. Last word was that Yeasu was an early requester for space in 2018. More information on this venue as time moves on!

Cadillac Annual Swap & Shop

05/05/2018**Start Date:** 05/05/2018**End Date:** 05/05/2018**Location:** Cadillac Jr. High School
500 Chestnut Street
Cadillac, MI 49601**Website:** <http://www.wexaukeearc.org>**Sponsor:** Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club**Type:** ARRL Hamfest**Talk-In:** 146.980 (no PL tone)**Public Contact:** Alton McConnell , NU8L
PO Box 163 Cadillac, MI 49601

Phone: 231-862-3774

Email: nu8l@yahoo.com

[Link to](#)
[Cadillac](#)
[Map](#)

Support Your Local Hamfests -

Hudsonville IRA Hamfest

06/02/2018**Start Date:** 06/02/2018**End Date:** 06/02/2018**Location:** Hudsonville Fairgrounds
5235 Park Avenue
Hudsonville, MI 49426**Website:** <http://w8ira.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/IRA-Hamfest-2018-Full-Sheet-03-13-18.pdf>**Sponsor:** Independent Repeater Association**Type:** ARRL Hamfest**Talk-In:** 147.16+ (PL 94.8)**Public Contact:** Tom Bosscher , K8TB

3148 Rosewood Street Hudsonville, MI 49426

Phone: 616-662-1080

Email: k8tb@bosscher.org

[Link to](#)
[Hudsonville](#)
[Map](#)

M.A.R.A.

Membership

Information

MARA Meeting—Wednesday, Apr 11, 2018

Plainfield Township Fire Department
Training Center—
5 Mile and Plainfield Avenue

7:30 PM

**Don't forget to renew
your dues!**

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.

MARA Meetings, Nets & Breakfasts

- ◆ MARA meets every 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7:30 PM
- ◆ Meetings are currently at Plainfield Township Fire Department Training Center
- ◆ Saturday Mornings Breakfast at **New Beginnings Restaurant** on Intersection of Beltline and Plainfield. (8:00 AM) All are welcome.
- ◆ Net: 2 Meter - Thursdays at 7:30 PM On W8USA Repeater.
- ◆ Thursdays, after 2 Meter Net, 6 Meters AM 50.4 Mhz
- ◆ Sunday mornings & Holidays 8AM on 50.4 AM—All are Welcome!