

# The Open Feedline



Field Day 2018 was another successful gathering of our intrepid local Hams.

Pictured on the left at the controls of Station 1 are Corey, KD8SZZ and Jerry, W8MSK logging.

On the right manning Station 2 is Wendell, K800 and Mike, K800K, an effective pair of double O's on 40 meters!



On the left is our first wandering into satellite operations with a unique satellite system designed and built by Larry, KC8KVR. More pictures later in this issue of this hombrew project.

**MARA Repeater**  
**145.230 Mz PL 94.8**

**WiresX**  
**W8USA**  
**Node 30382**  
**Room 40382**

## Field Day Issue

In this issue:

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- ◆ Membership News

## MARA REPEATER NEWS W8USA



After many hours of configuring and working with the repeater, we have come to the conclusion the repeater is working quite well without the added confusion with controllers.

With that in mind we have decided to put the two controllers up for sale. Currently the repeater and wires-x are operating normally.

Since this change, we are re-searching a better way to get the EchoLink back into operation.

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

Every third Thursday of the

month, the Net will operate Simplex on the output Frequency of 145.230 Mhz. No PL tone is needed. This is being done to test the emergency preparedness in the advent of a power failure and the emergency battery source runs out of energy.

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/>

*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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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 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



Manning the Field Day GOTA station is Larry, KC8KVR (Back Turned) Joe KE8JUF, (Orange shirt) and James, KE8JUG. Joe and James, Both brand-new Techs got to operate on the GOTA and later on one of the two main stations for Field Day 2018. A third new Technician visiting (Not Pictured) was Mike, KE8JLN. MARA is looking forward to participating in other events with our newest members!

## MARA 2018 So Far!

.A Belated welcome to the Summer of 2018. We endured the cold, the Wet, and finally reached the official start of the Ham Radio Summer Season with the Dayton Hamvention. The IRA Swap, and the upcoming Field Day being held shortly after the Summer Solstice. Then we endured the hot and dry.

Let's start talking about these in the reverse order...Starting with the Annual ARRL Field Day Contest held this year on Saturday, June 23 at 1800 UTC (2:00 PM Eastern Time) to Ending Sunday, June 24 at 1800 UTC (2PM Eastern time). Field Day again was set up at the Madison Square Sportsman's Clubhouse, Located at 5321 7 Mile Rd NE, Belmont, MI 49306. The clubhouse is located at the intersection of 7 Mile and Blakely Drive NE. ([Link to Map](#))

All Hams and especially many guests were welcomed and encouraged to view the stations and some even got the chance to operate. A great follow-up to field day will be the great Antenna shoot-out (HF antenna efficiency comparisons) hosted by the W8USA trustee, Gale Sholten, N8GS.

This year the membership decided that the Club would purchase the Main Course of the Saturday night Dinner. (Burgers, Hot Dogs, Buns, Condiments). Pot luck comprised the rest of the meal and what a success it was! This year we had a large contingent of members and their wives and families show up for a very enjoyable repast! Let's hope this starts a trend for upcoming events.

### 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.

# MARA 2018 So Far!

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Also successful was the Sunday morning breakfast again traditionally prepared by Jerry, W8MSK.

Now for the 2018 Ham Swaps. The annual Dayton Hamvention (Now held on Greene County Fairgrounds in Xenia, OH) was quite Successful this year. Official attendance figures are not out yet, but it was quite a crown. The Hamvention Group kept their improvement promises which resulted in improved parking, routs, and above all, LESS MUD in the Flea market! In actuality , they reduced it over an estimated 98% by laying down ground asphalt roadways in the grassy infield. Word has it they will be increasing the width or the roadways next year. The vendor areas were busy with a lot of vendors announcing new gear! All in all, Dayton was a success!

Hudsonville also got the summer off to a good start. I noticed a better turnout than last year, albeit colder than last year. I saw many bargains leave the swap. All in all, a good start to a Ham's summer.

For further information on upcoming swaps, please refer to the W8USA website. From the Main Home page, Click to View the Calendar. As the information for swaps comes available there will be links you can click on to get Hamswap information and Maps to the event. This is a work in Progress, so please be patient! If you know of an upcoming swap that you don't see, please email the [Webmaster@W8USA.ORG](mailto:Webmaster@W8USA.ORG)



**Carl Thompson**

**WA8AAT**

**SK on 7/1/2018**

**89 years old**

**RIP**

## Memorandum

### WA8AAT

#### Carl Thompson

Carl A Thompson, WA8AAT, has been a solid fixture in the Grand Rapids area since he became a Ham in 1965. Public service was where he excelled! He was responsible for including Ham Radio in the Old Kent River Bank run. Before Ham Radio, CB-11meters was used. He also had a hand in operating packet to keep track of the runners. Since 1965, he volunteered with the Kent County Civil Defense and the Civil Air Patrol: Red Robin, for 22 years. He also volunteered with the American Red Cross and the RSVP program: Retired and Senior Volunteer Program. In 2000, Carl and his wife Evelyn, were acknowledged for their significant contributions by being awarded "West Michigan Ham of the year". Being ill in his later years didn't stop him from

## 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!



## Antenna Testing—N8GS Sept 8, 2018 3pm—?

After spending all your money on goodies at the GRARA Hamfest, come to my QTH for an afternoon of antenna testing, real food, and good conversation.

We'll have burgers on the grill about 6:00.

Please bring a dish to pass, your favorite beverages, plates, cups, etc, and chairs.

Please let me know if you will attend so that I can have enough burgers and buns. And bring your spouse or significant other.

We will be running performance comparison tests of several antennas so that we can be better equipped for Field Day next year.

If you have a favorite antenna that you think might be a contender and is easy to put up, bring it. I have plenty of rope, pulleys and supports (trees and tower) available.

I have a few missing email addresses, so if you see someone that I missed please forward this invitation to them.

Please RSVP.

If you have not been here before, my address is:

8530 Peach Ridge Ave NW  
Sparta, MI 49345

If the weather doesn't cooperate, I'll get back to you with an alternate plan

Ham Radio Swaps.

The Newest information on close-by swaps is now located on the [W8USA.ORG](http://W8USA.ORG) Website.

Click on the Calendar access from the homepage, and you will be taken to a full page menu. There you can click on an event date, and it will link you to the swap information and a map. This is a work in progress so please, if you don't find a close swap listed, please e-mail

[Webmaster@W8USA.ORG](mailto:Webmaster@W8USA.ORG)

## Significant Changes in Store for FT8 and MSK144 with

[WSJT-X](#) co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has announced that major changes are coming to the FT8 and MSK144 digital protocols when *WSJT-X* version 2.0 arrives in a few months. Taylor said version 2.0 should be ready by January.

Taylor ticked off a few possibilities *WSJT-X* version 2.0 will bring to the table:

- ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges.
- ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges.
- North American VHF contest operation with full support of grid exchanges and rover (/R) call signs.
- European VHF contest operation with the exchange of six-digit grids, QSO serial numbers, and portable (/P) call signs.
- Better and more user-friendly support for compound and nonstandard call signs.
- A special "telemetry" message format for exchanging arbitrary information up to 71 bits.
- Support for the existing "FT8 DXpedition Mode," with a more powerful DXpedition Mode possible too.

"All of these features work seamlessly and automatically," Taylor said. "No 'contest mode' checkboxes are needed. In most situations, decoding sensitivity will be slightly better than at present for FT8; for MSK144 it will sometimes be about 0.5 dB worse. Occupied bandwidths will be the same as they are now, and false-decode rates will be significantly lower."

Taylor said *WSJT-X* version 2.0 will be available in time for users to digest the new documentation and to practice using the software before actually using it on the air, but he offered one important caveat. "The new protocols cannot be backward compatible with the existing ones," he said in his post. "We will probably provide some temporary 'bilingual' capability for FT8, but not for MSK144. It will be essential for users to upgrade to version 2.0 in order to use the new features and communicate with others who have made the upgrade."

Taylor promised "plenty of advance notice" about the transition period and a must-upgrade-by date.

(Edited extract from ARRL Newsletter) <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/?issue=2018-07-26>

# 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

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

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- ◆ 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!