

The Open Feedline

2019 Activities—Fusion!

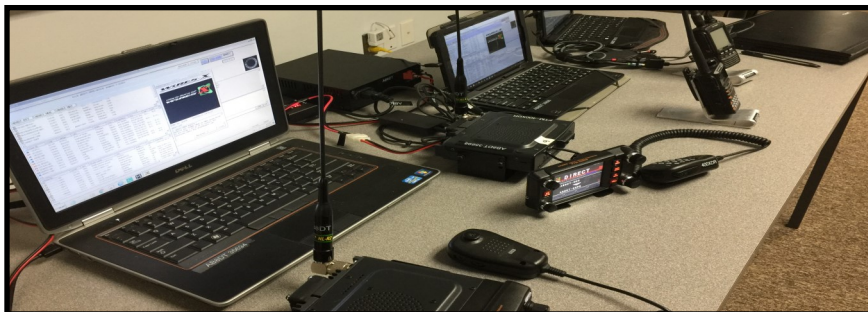
2019 Started out as a bad year for antennas! Wow... What a winter. But yet we all managed to stay on the air and work some DX on (of all things) our repeater. With the addition of Wires X last year, and now with the connection to the West Michigan (Fusion) Connect group there have been some interesting calls coming up on our system. (Just the other day I heard a JA5 Call come in over West Michigan Connect.)

Starting the year off on a good foot many of us attended the West Michigan Connect Fusion Seminar held on March 23rd, at the Red Cross building on Fuller. (Courtesy of GRARA) The Seminar was very informative and well attended.



Left: Corey, KD8SZZ Fore-ground, Larry , KC8KVR; and Dan, N8NIJ were some of the audience for the West Michigan Connect Fusion Seminar, Host Moderator Mike, N8UKF is in the back-ground..

Below: A large array of equipment that was on an operational display at the Seminar.



MARA Repeater
145.230 Mz PL 94.8

WiresX

W8USA

Node 30382

Room 40382

2019 A New Year and New Activities

Thursday Nights

7:30PM

**Net Night on
W8USA**

Repeater.

**6 METER AM NET
FOLLOWS ON 50.4
AND ALSO SUNDAY
MORNINGS AT 8
AM**

MARA REPEATER NEWS W8USA

The M.A.R.A. Repeater is now connected to the West Michigan Connect Repeater System. While the repeater continues to be available in the FM mode when there is not a C4FM conversation in play.

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/>

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, KD8JB.

Immediately following the net is an Informal 6 Meter AM net on 50.4 Mhz. Please check your mode to be sure you are on AM before checking in. The 6 Meter net also meets on Sunday Mornings at 8 am, and many Holidays at 8 am as well.

Win a FT-70D Handheld !

MARA is currently sponsoring 2 drawings for a Yeasu FT-70. The first drawing will be held shortly after this issue is published. There were/are only 30 tickets in this drawing!

The second drawing for another FT-70 will commence during the IRA Hamfest in Hudsonville, June 1. (See Page 3)



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: Paul K9BOJ

Webmaster@W8USA.ORG

Newsletter Editor

PAUL 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.

2019 Board and Current Officers.

No Changes for 2019

President Corey Grahn KD8SZZ

Vice President Dan Markowski N8NIJ

Secretary Mike Eilers K8OOK

Treasurer Jerry Wittkoski W8MSK

Field Day Chairperson Paul Hummel K9BOJ

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

2019 ARRL Field Day June 22-23

Well, the 2019 Field Day activities are fast approaching. As your Field Day Chairman, I will list out some of the information of what we already have, and what we will need for Field Day 2019.

First and foremost, we will need an RSVP for the evening meal, Saturday, June 22. (RSVP to Webmaster@W8USA.ORG) We will need your RSVP of number attending No later than June 15. Why!...The Club will be purchasing Beef Brisket for the evening prepared by our Master Brisket Chef James, KE8JUG. When you RSVP. Please let us know what dish you will be bringing to pass.

Categories: Appetizers, Salads, Main Dishes (Casseroles, etc.), Snacks and Desserts. The food list will be discussed at the June meeting to help eliminate duplication.

We plan to operate 3A (Commercial Power) again this year and we still need an HF Radio and laptop for Station number 2. We have Antennas pledged and the third station will be an FT-8/FT-4 station supplied by Gale, N8GS. This will be your chance to experience the amazing new digital modes.

Field Day this year will again be held at the Madison Square Sportsman's Club, located at [5321 7 Mile Rd](#) (corner of 7 Mile and Blakely Dr).

For more information, equipment needs and general information, contact Paul, K9BOJ. Easiest way is by email. Simply email to Webmaster@W8USA.ORG.

Set aside June 1
for the Hudson-
ville IRA swap!

Win a



Yaesu FT-70D

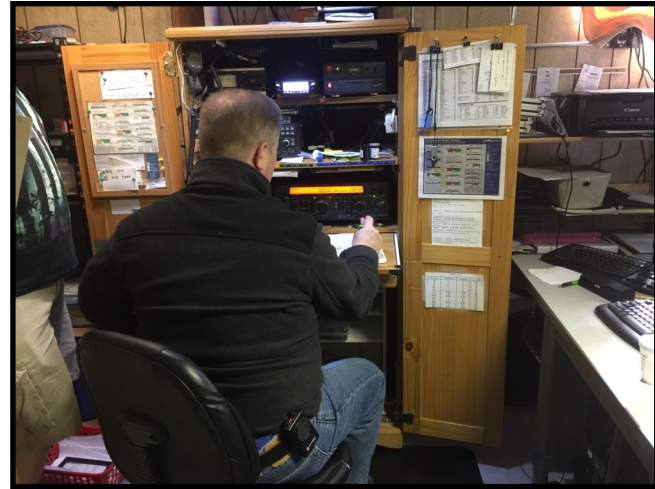
Tickets \$10 at
the MARA

Table

Drawing at end
of Swap!

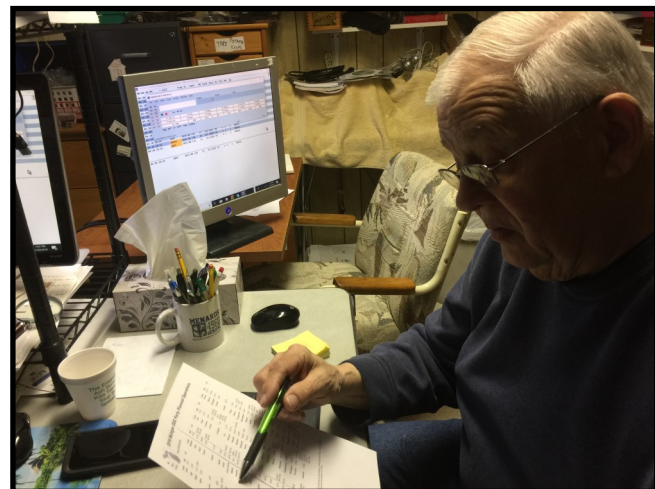
Michigan QSO Party!

W8USA again participated in the 2019 Michigan QSO Party. This year was a bit soured with exceptionally poor band conditions, however our intrepid operators pressed on through the noise on 40 and later on a more responsive 80 meter band. Results: 82 Contacts for a claimed score of 3840. It was a fun event held at the shack of KC8KVR.



Above: Corey, KD8SZZ operating at the 2019 Michigan QSO Party as W8USA.

Left: Johann, KE8LQI, a new technician, observing contest operating techniques.



Above: Dan, N8NIJ, performing log duties at the Michigan QSO party.

Left: The 'ol Master Operator himself: Larry, KC8KVR, proudly displaying his antique transceiver collection.

MICHIGAN DISTRACTED DRIVING LEGISLATION UPDATE ACTION REQUIRED !

To all amateur radio operators in Michigan:

The message below is from Ed Hude, Larry Camp, John McDonough, and Dale Williams. A special thanks to these gentlemen for their efforts!

Please feel free to pass this on to all radio amateurs, and please publish this widely!

MICHIGAN DISTRACTED DRIVING LEGISLATION UPDATE

There are several bills (HB 4181, 4198 and 4199) that have been formulated in the Michigan House of Representatives that deal with Distracted Driving. These bills have been assigned to the House Transportation Committee for further work and study.

As written these bills did not exempt amateur radio operation from a vehicle from being considered as distracted driving.

The Michigan ARRL legislative team has been watching as these bills were introduced in the House. As the Michigan ARRL State Government Liaison, I recently testified before the House Transportation Committee. As a result, Amateur Radio was granted an exemption (the use of amateur radio while driving) from being considered a distraction. The exemption amendment referenced 47 CFR Part 97, 47 CFR Part 90 and a reference to CB radio.

The Committee vote to include said exemption language in any Distracted Driving Legislation was unanimous. The bills will now go to the House Ways & Means Committee for their consideration. If any of the bills pass out of the Ways and Means Committee, they will go to the House floor for a full vote. If the bill(s) pass the House, they will then be referred to the Michigan Senate. If a bill passes the House and Senate vote, then it will move to the Governor's Desk for her approval.

There seems to be a great deal of interest in the Governor's office to have a Distracted Driving law in Michigan. We would appreciate if every Michigan amateur radio operator would send a very brief email to the members of the Transportation Committee thanking them for their support of the amendment exempting amateur radio and other 2-Way radio services from being considered as distracted driving.

Here is a list of the Representatives on the Transportation Committee:

Shannon, Haadsma, Yanrey, Clemente, Sneller, O'Malley, Eisen, Cole, Sheppard, Alexander, Bellino, Howell, and Afendoulis. You can find a list of representatives and their email addresses here:

<http://www.house.mi.gov/MHRPublic/frmRepList.aspx?all=true>

It is appropriate to have friends who are or are not fellow amateurs and their friends and relatives to send a note similar to this:

"I wish to thank you for supporting the two-way radio exemption on HB 4181, 4198 and 4199. In light of the public services that amateur radio operators provide free of charge for the citizens of Michigan, it is important that amateur radio operation while driving to not be considered to be driving while distracted."

As these bills move forward in the legislative process, there will be additional opportunities for the amateur radio community (and friends) to once again communicate with our legislators. We will provide the specific names and a suggested message(s).

Thank you for your interest and for taking action on this important topic.

73,

Ed Hude, WA8QJE

Michigan ARRL State Government Liaison

ARRL Michigan Section

Section Manager: James A Kvochick, K8JK k8jk@arrl.org

MARA Webpage

The Website at <https://w8usa.org> is continuing a slow progression into a more user-friendly Webpage with more access from the homepage than in the past. This is due mostly to the fact that the current menu system does not seem to be smartphone friendly.

There is nothing like an efficient antenna to make operating more fun than ever. With that in mind, we have also added an antenna building page to accommodate both new members and the current cadre of experienced antenna builders.

If you run across antenna building ideas that are available on the internet, or some printed instructions you would like to share, please contact the Webmaster,

Webmaster@W8USA.ORG

W8USA 2019 Field Day

Bulletin #2

June 22-23

♦ **IMPORTANT—RSVP TO WEBMASTER@W8USA.ORG NEEDED !!!**

- ♦ The Club will be providing Beef Brisket for the Saturday Evening Meal— Please RSVP with a Count for the number attending!
- ♦ Dinner will Begin at 5PM Saturday, June 22
- ♦ In your RSVP the Dish you are Bringing to Pass.
- ♦ We will start the listing with an open selection. As of the date of this publication, we only have a commitment for Potato Salad (K9BOJ) and Bagged Snacks (KE8JUF) Please figure amounts for about 20+ people. Categories are Appetizers, Salads, Main Dishes (Casseroles, etc), snacks and Desserts.
- ♦ Chief Chef James (KE8JUG) will need to know exact diner count No Later than June 15 for ordering the Brisket.
- ♦ Please RSVP ASAP

Field Day 2019 (Needed in Red)

- ♦ Station 1: TS-480 w/Tuner & Laptop (K9BOJ)
- ♦ Station 2: **Need HF w/Tuner & Laptop**
- ♦ Station 3: FT-991 & Laptop (N8GS)
- ♦ GOTA Station: FT-897 & Laptop (KC8KVR)
- ♦ Antennas: Multi Band (2) KD8SZZ & K8OO; KC8KVR
- ♦ Misc: **Needed- Extension Cords, Power Supplies (Spare) Table Lamps, Code Keys, Audio Adapters, RF Adapters,**
- ♦ **Coax Jumpers (PL259/PL259) Extra Laptops are always a plus.**
- ♦ Crews: Antenna Crew Captain: Corey, KD8SZZ * Computer and Station Setups: Paul, K9BOJ * GOTA Station: Larry, KC8KVR * Inside Setup Crew: (Tables, chairs, Power, Ant Cables, etc) **Need Volunteer** * Media and Information Captain: **Need Volunteer** * Digital Captain: Gale, N8GS

M.A.R.A.

Membership Information

MARA Meeting— 2nd Wednesday of
each Month 7:30 PM

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

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 Be-
ginnings Restaurant on
Intersection of Belt-
line and Plainfield.
(8:00 AM) All are wel-
come.
- ♦ 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!