



A look at what the GRARA has been up to...

W8DC Radio Room clean-up, removal of asbestos on piping, insulation replacement. Radio room upgrade, new operating desk, New HF Mosley 5 band beam on 60' tower, New Fan Dipole for 40, 80, and 160 meters, HF Digital operating station using the Kenwood TS-2000. Test bench for building projects/repair of equipment. Remote HF receive station, W8DC Packet station on 145.070 MHz. Upgrades to our 146.760/Repeater system using F.M. analog/C4FM Fusion system with WIRES that connects to stations around the world.

GRARA radio net, Tuesday evenings at 7 pm on 146.760/R. Meetings on the first Friday of the month with "Show and Tell" of what you are doing in Ham Radio. Open Radio Room every Wednesday evening with focus on operating radio/working at the bench and non radio talk taken to the adjacent room, both of which are great fun BUT now separated! A VE team using the Laurel VEC licensing exam system, still on the second Friday of the month. Instruction in obtaining the general and extra class classes. W8DC web site full of information along with YAHOO Group!

Great stuff as members of GRARA to use and improve, our skills, technical/operational by adding your time, your skills, which I call "Taking Ownership".

Tom Hansen; n8dgd GRARA President

2018 GRARA Officers

Below are the Officers of GRARA. For 2018!

President - Tom Hansen, N8DGD

Vice-President - John Streyle - W8QZ

Secretary - Richard Ranta - K8JX

Treasurer – Hank Greeb – N8XX

On Air Director - Greg Stoike - KN4CK

**Off Air Director - Dustin Olsen -
KD8PVZ**

**Website Administrator - Thom Durfee
- KI8W**

**Red Cross Liason - Jim Leys -
K8CAN**

Member at Large - Bob Moe - AC8ZX

**Technical Director - Steve Provost -
AC8QE**

**Grara Historian Frank D Thompson
KD8QXC**

2017 What a year!

GRARA, in 2017, had many events members and Ham's could participate in. We had the yearly trip to Dayton, the world's largest Ham fest and forum convention. Our Field Day was held at the Cedar Springs park. Everybody enjoyed the event. We then had many building improvements, such as removing the asbestos from all the rooms to fixing the tiles in the rooms.

We also established a microwave link so we could receive our internet connection. Our Radio Room was organized so people could work contests easier, and more comfortable too.

We are also holding our Christmas Party on January 5, 2018. During the monthly club meeting. For further information, listen to the 147.260 repeater. This is a potluck: bring family and friends, GRARA will provide (non-alcohol) beverages.

We're also using a new V.E. program which should make test taking and getting one's license quicker.

We reached into our history bag and brought out both the QRM newsletter, which is being published 4 times a year, to our very own 2 Meter Net. The net was decided on after the installation of the Yaesu Fusion Repeater. We're capable of either Analog or Digital: C4FM!

ARRL Field Day results are on the web. This means the December issue of QST is about to be released! Yup, W8DC did fine! We managed almost 5000 points, and placed 4th in Category 3A

in Michigan Section, and 8th in the Great Lakes Division! The following table is from:

http://www.arrl.org/results-database?fd_category=3A&fd_power=2&fd_sect=MI&ss_call=&sort0=fd_score+desc&sort1=&sort2=&event_id=91339

| | Call | Score | Category | GOT A Call | Section | Participants | Club |
|---|-------|-------|----------|------------|---------|--------------|---------------------|
| 1 | W8UM | 7,658 | 3A | W8RP | MI | 75 | ARROW/UMarc |
| 2 | N8SL | 5,826 | 3A | K8ERS | MI | 30 | South Lyon Area ARC |
| 3 | W8LRC | 5,718 | 3A | KD8RXD | MI | 25 | Lowell ARC |
| 4 | W8DC | 4,996 | 3A | | MI | 30 | Grand Rapids ARA |

Congratulation to all who helped with this effort. It's better than many of our former efforts!

But, please note, Field Day is NOT a contest in the usual manner. It is primarily an exercise in setting up and operating a station in a remote site, typically after a communications disaster, such as a flood, tornado, or other Natural Disasters. So, please consider joining this effort next year, even if you've never participated in a 'contest'. In an emergency all hands are needed!

72/73 de n8xx

Extra Class class

Starting January 3, 2018

Extra Class Upgrade Class

If you are a general and would like to upgrade to the extra class, you might consider this extra license class this winter, presented as a cooperative effort by the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association and the Holland Amateur Radio Club.

The classes will meet at 7:00 PM on Wednesday nights in the basement of the Red Cross building, 1030 Fuller, Grand Rapids, starting on January 3, 2018, and will run for 10 weeks. The cost is \$20.

More information and online registration is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/extra-k8tb>

For further questions, contact the instructor, Tom Bosscher, K8TB at 616-662-1080 or by email to k8tb@bosscher.org.

SKYWARN Recognition Day is Saturday, December 2

A heads up: [SKYWARN](#)™ Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 2 from 0000 until 2400 UTC (starts on the evening of Friday, December 1, in US time zones).

During the SKYWARN special event, ham radio operators will set up stations at National Weather Service (NWS) offices and contact other radio amateurs around the world. Participating Amateur Radio stations will exchange a brief description of their current weather with as many NWS-based stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters plus 70 centimeters. Contacts via repeaters are permitted.

SRD was developed jointly in 1999 by the NWS and ARRL to celebrate the contributions SKYWARN volunteers make to the NWS mission -- the protection of life and property. Amateur Radio operators, which comprise a large percentage of SKYWARN volunteers, also provide vital communication between the NWS and emergency managers, if normal communications become inoperative.---

I do SkyWarn. But unfortunately I have personal conflicts around this event this year and won't be able to participate; SkyWarn brought me into Ham Radio (I am a weather nut). Just hoping some of the club will be interested in participating.

Kreigh Posted by: wd8usa@aol.com

WEST MICHIGAN AREA AMATEUR RADIO BANQUET



Announcing the 23rd ANNUAL West Michigan Hams GET OUTTA THE CABIN DINNER

Formerly called "The New Hams Dinner"

SPONSORED BY:



www.w8usa.org



www.w8dc.org



www.w8lrc.org



www.hollandarc.org

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2018, 2:00 PM At PIZZA RANCH

3858 28th St SE (Hwy M-11), Kentwood, MI

From East Beltline/Broadmoor/ M-37, head east on 28th st/ M-11 for 0.7 mile passing Lake Eastbrook Ave. Turn right / south into the Burlington Coat Factory / ABC Warehouse complex.

Pizza Ranch is at the east end.

From I-96/Exit 43A, head west on 28th St/ M-11 for 2 miles passing East Paris Ave. Turn left / south into the Burlington Coat Factory / ABC Warehouse complex. Pizza Ranch is at the east end.

BRING YOUR SIGNIFICANT OTHER, the KIDS, FRIENDS, anyone involved or interested in ham radio is welcome, regardless of any or no club affiliation. In tradition, we especially like to encourage and welcome any new licensees or new to the area hams. Dress casual.

LET THE NEW HAMS KNOW WE WELCOME THEM, and enjoy each others company without the need to split so not to miss that hamfest deal! And you don't want to miss out on the door prizes, nothing spectacular like a new rig, but a prize is a prize. We'll all have a good time!

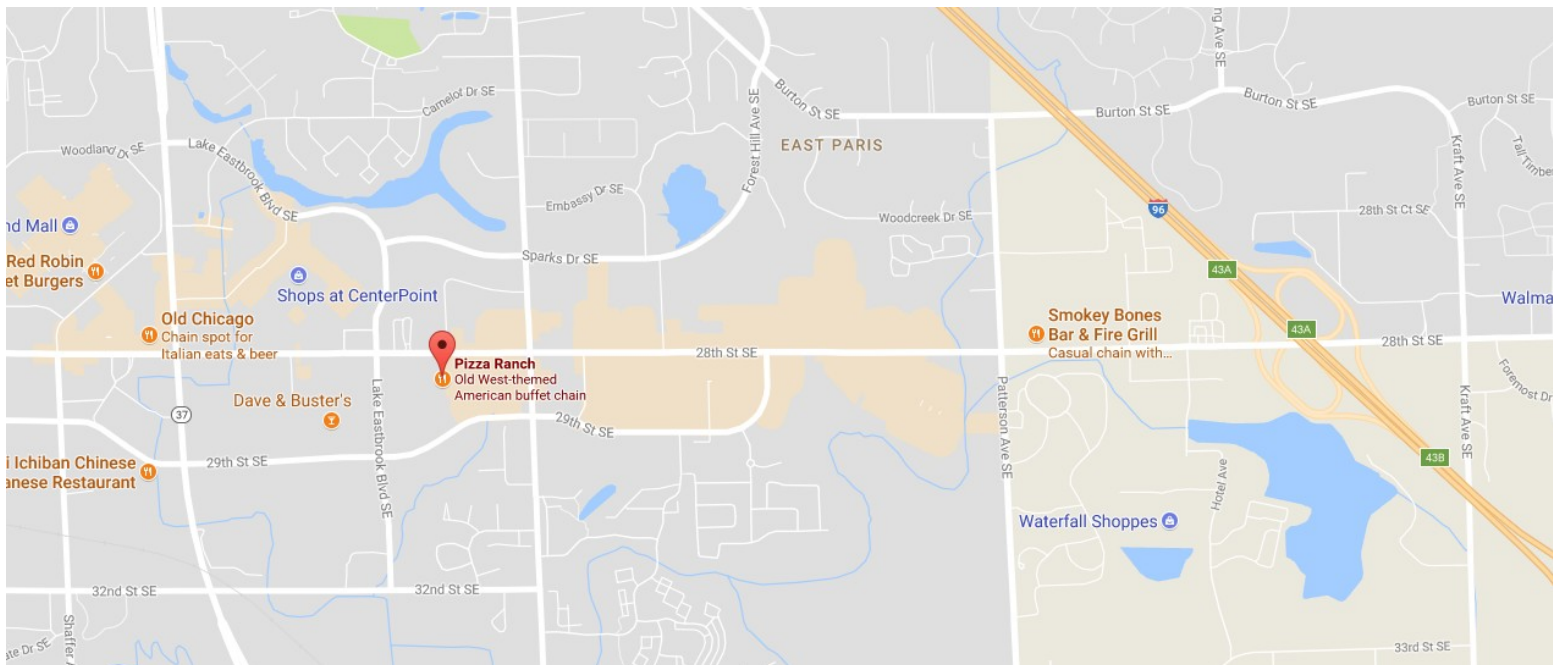
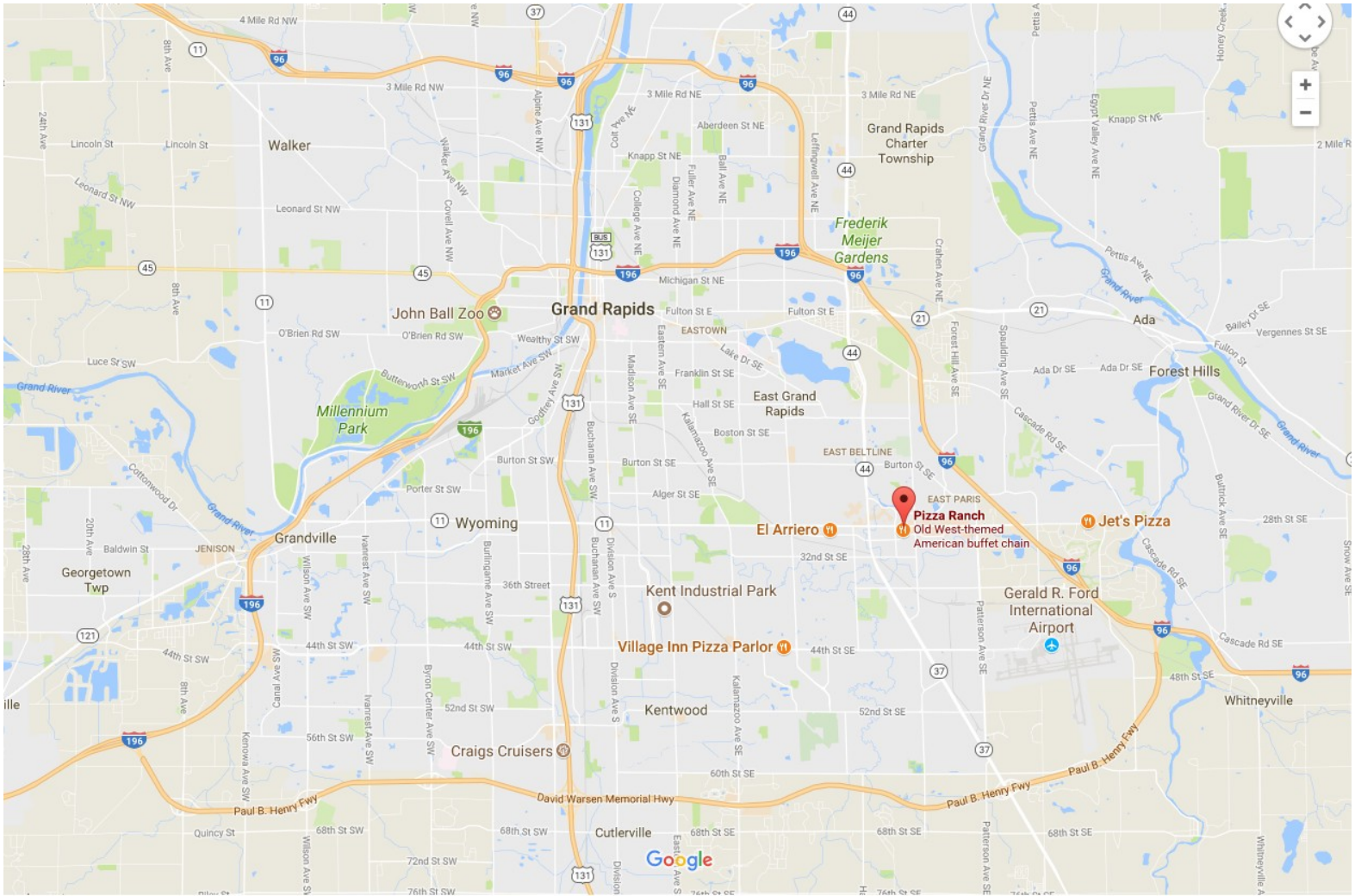
Buffet style including pizza, fried chicken, fixin's, desert and beverage. Pay at the door, proceed to the reserved room. Normal restaurant rates, gratuity apply. www.pizzaranch.com

No reservations, just show up.

Questions? Contact: Corey kd8szz@arrl.net (616)238-6125

Chef clipart courtesy of www.clipartbest.com

PIZZA RANCH, 3858 28th St SE, Kentwood, MI 49512



Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association Inc.

Membership Application

Please fill in the required information and send the form with your payment to

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association Inc.

P.O. Box 3282

Grand Rapids, MI 49501-3282

Or simply bring it to our Wednesday night Open Radio Room or our General Meeting.

Name: _____ Call: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Membership Type:

Memberships run January to December of each year

Full(\$25)

Spouse/Family(free) Call of Full Member: _____

New Ham (free for 1 year) Month joined: _____

Youth (free under 18)

Associate (\$25) Non-voting/officer membership non-ham

Over 70 (\$15) Reduced rate for our senior members

ARRL Member: Yes No Type: Regular Life

Would you like a callsign@w8dc.org email alias: Yes No

Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____