



# QRM

The Official Newsletter of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association  
The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Our systems: Packet .07, Repeaters: 146.760, 147.260, 440.400

Fall 2019 no.3

## Field Day 2019

Once every year, we Hams get together and operate "Field-Day". That special time when we test our Emergency Preparedness by setting up our radios and attempt to make as many contact as possible. As the Boy Scouts motto says: "Be Prepared!"



Above,  
Steven Haueisen KD8MEY, takes a

break while operating a Digital mode.



Dave DeVos, KF8QL, operates VHF and beyond. Field Day is open to the public. It's a great opportunity to introduce Ham Radio to the public. We once again held it in the Cedar Springs Area.

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## QRM

The QRM Newsletter is published quarterly. It is the official journal of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association. GRARA is an American Radio Relay League affiliated club.

You may freely reprint any material in the QRM, but please credit the QRM, the original author, and the original publication, if given.

Everybody is encouraged to submit original articles on topics relevant to the hobby of Amateur Radio. Submit articles to the Editor, care of Secretary@W8DC.ORG. **2019**

### GRARA Officers

President - Thom Durfee - K18W

Vice-President - Jim Hessler- K8JH

Secretary - Richard Ranta - K8JX

Treasurer -Steven B Haueisen- KD8MEY

On Air Director -Greg Stoike-KN4CK

Off Air Director - Ron Fredricks - K8DMR

Red Cross Liaison - Jim Leys - K8CAN

Member at Large - Robert Moe - AC8ZX

Technical Director - Steve Provost - AC8QE

Webmaster - Greg Stoike - KN4CK

Station Trustee - Tom Hansen N8DGD

Club Historicism: Michael McDonald AA8MG

### Publisher

The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association. PO Box 3282; Grand Rapids, MI 49501-3282 Visit our website- <http://www.w8dc.org> E-mail us at- president@w8dc.org

### Editor

Richard Ranta K8JX  
812 Graceland NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49505  
616-361-5975

E-mail- secretary@w8dc.org

### Membership Information

Anybody interested in the exciting hobby of Amateur Radio is invited to join the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association. There are four classes of membership: **Full Membership:** Full membership costs \$25/year and is open to licensed Amateur Radio operators. Full members may run for a GRARA elected officer position and may vote on Club business.

**Spouse/Family Membership:** One spouse or an immediate adult family member of a Full member may apply for Spouse/Family membership at no cost. A member of this type, who is a licensed Amateur Radio operator, has all of the privileges of a Full member.

**Senior Membership:** Dues for members 70 and over are \$15/year. Senior members have the same privileges as Full members.

**Youth Membership:** A licensed Amateur Radio operator under the age of 18 years old may apply for Youth membership at no cost. Youth members have all of the privileges of Full members, except they may not run for the elected positions of President, Vice President, or Treasurer.

**New Ham Membership:** A newly licensed Amateur Radio operator may apply for New Ham membership at no cost. A New Ham member has all of the privileges of a Full member. Free New Ham membership lasts 12 months. Associate Membership: A non-licensed individual may apply for Associate membership. Adult Associate memberships cost \$25/year. Associate members may not vote and may not hold office.

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While our members each have their own favorite mode of operating, they can all agree on when it's time to eat.



Above, Left in photo, Stephen Provost, AC8QE. Looks on, while others chow down. Hams are known for putting on a tasty table! Come and join us next summer!

(Photographs courtesy Steve KD8MEY and all the others who shared their photos)

### **GRARA Elections**

"Who do you know would be a good fit for the Grara Board?" It's that time of year, when we decide who will be nominated for Grara's Board. The Board consists of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. If you are interested in serving your club, or know someone who would be a good fit, Let our Nominating committee know. They are, Ron K8DMR, Steve AC8QE, Phillip AE8IN or Greg NK4CK.

### **Technical Report**

It's been almost a whole month since we've moved the Super System Repeaters' Transmitter to the Red Cross site. So far, all of the reports have indicated we've increased the coverage. Our Tuesday night Net, has received good reports on the signal of the repeater. Keep listening and let us know how the repeater sounds to you. We've also changed two of our repeater systems: the 6 meter is out of service: the equipment wasn't up to a working condition and it would cost a lot to bring it up to a satisfactory condition. We also turned in the frequency pair back to MIARC. The 220 repeater simply didn't have the use it once did: it was donated to the I.R.A.. They are using it. The other systems are being upgraded and improved, when possible. We want our systems to be state of the art, in coverage and performance.

(Our trustee, Tom N8DGD, contributed to this article)

***Support the RED CROSS***



## An Open Letter from Nikki Salladay Disaster Program Manager

(Following is a letter Nikki sent to the DCS team and to GRARA members also)

Good afternoon, DCS team! I wanted to let you know as soon as possible that I have accepted the Senior Disaster Program Manager position for the Kentucky Region and my first day on the job will be September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As many of you know, Kentucky is home for me. I spent the first 25 years of my life in Louisville and it is where much of my family still lives. When I first moved to Michigan, I believed I would only be here for 3-5 years. 13 years later, I'm heading back to be closer to aging grandparents and watch two of my nieces grow up. I am thrilled to move back home and STILL be with an organization that I love so very much. However, it is bittersweet as I am leaving the best job I have ever had. I owe all of that to each of you.

As there are almost 300 of you, it isn't possible to call or share this message face-to-face with you—though I wish I could. I still hope to see as many of you as possible before I move, so let's please connect. If we were face-to-face, here's exactly what I would say (at least in an email you won't have to wait if I choke up):

Thank you. I know I say it often, but it is no less true today than it was the first, second, or fortieth time I said it. YOU are incredible. We CANNOT do the work we do without each, and every, one of you. Thank you for choosing us. Out of the hundreds of places you could volunteer, you chose the Red Cross, and I am deeply grateful you did. This work is often difficult. Preparing, training, planning, organizing, creating and developing partnerships, calling for appointments, building databases can be tedious and-sometimes-boring work. However, it is necessary because, without it, WE are not prepared to best serve our clients when they need us most. Thank you to those of you who do this work, who help us prepare, and who go out and make our communities safer and more resilient as well.

Thank you for standing with us through changes. I know it is not always easy, desirable, or fun. Every time our organization responds to large- and small-scale disasters we learn from our mistakes and seek to improve. This means we are an organization in flux-frequently changing and evolving into,

*Not all heroes wear capes.*



Celebrate Red Cross Month.  
Be a hero and donate today!

hopefully, the better version of ourselves. Sometimes we succeed and sometimes we fail; but we persevere. I appreciate that you continue to stand in the gap with us for our clients and community.

Thank you for the hundreds of fire responses, the 3am wake up calls you respond to, the thousands of clients you listen to, support, hug, and provide a lifeline to when they- sometimes- can't even remember their phone number or birthday because of the trauma they've endured. Thank you for staying up all night in shelters when you would rather be sleeping. Thank you for sitting in uncomfortable vehicles, in extremely hot or cold weather, driving treacherous roads to provide meals, supplies, damage assessment or recovery assistance. Thank you for helping locally as well as nationally. Thank you for using your skills in health services, mental health, spiritual care to assist all who need it, but especially those who have lost loved ones because of a disaster.

Thank you for saying "yes" when comfort screams "no".

Thank you for being my friends. As I said before, this is the best job I have ever had; and it is because of you. You have laughed, cried, debated, challenged, taught, encouraged, and supported me

through the past two years as a Disaster Program Manager. Your wisdom, skill sets, background, and experience has been invaluable. I have incredible memories to carry with me- from short, impactful conversations to traversing large scale disasters in West Michigan together. We have accomplished so much, and I am unbelievably excited to see where you take our chapter from here.

Your leadership team is phenomenal. They really run this chapter and I know will do well in my absence. Trust them, support them, offer your aid and volunteer in ways you haven't yet. I will miss you all dearly. It has been my deepest honor, joy, and privilege to serve our West Michigan community with you. However, Kentucky is not so far away. Come on down for the bluegrass, bourbon, and horses! I'll happily meet you there!

Nikki Salladay

Disaster Program Manager

American Red Cross of West Michigan

269.303.2135

(This article was reprinted by permission of the author)

# The American Red Cross of West Michigan

## Volunteer Opportunities

### **OFFICE**

- Enlist and Update Community Partnerships
- Inventory of Supplies
- Update and Stock Trailers and Kits
- Maintain Shelter Supplies
- Sort Closets
- Engage in Volunteer Success
- Become a Pillowcase Presenter
- Receive In-Person Training
- Plan Exercises and Drills
- Shelter Surveys
- Volunteer Appreciation Tasks
- Updating Disaster Response Plans
- Coordinate and Organize Home Fire Campaign
- Prepare Training Folders
- Create Education Packets
- Stock and Replenish Casework Folders
- Input Hours
- Help Onboard New Volunteers
- Help with Deployments Locally
- Enlist and schedule Preparedness Educations Presentations
- Media Outreach
- Translate Preparedness Education Materials
- Connect with Fire Departments

### **HOME**

- Bake Cookies for Fire Department
- Enlist and Update Community Partnerships
- Create Excel Sheet for Past Preparedness Educations
- Input Hours
- Translate Preparedness Education Materials
- Work on Essential Elements of Information Per County
- Volunteer Appreciation Tasks
- Coordinating Smoke Alarm Install Appointments
- Schedule In-Person Trainings
- Take Online Training Courses
- Engage in Volunteer Success
- Duty Dispatch Officer
- Client Casework Support
- Keep Available Resources Relevant and Up-To-Date

### **COMMUNITY**

- Attend Fire Department Meetings
- Smoke Detector Installs
- Attend Community Meetings , Representing the Red Cross
- Attend Events In the Community
- Attend Preparedness Education Presentations
- Participate in a Call Party
- Canvassing for the Home Fire Campaign
- Enlist Vendor Agreements Through Canvassing
- Distribute Fliers to Local Businesses
- Disaster Action Team Member



## GRAHamfest 2019

Hams have several traditions that come up each year. One, is Field Day. That's is a National event supported by the American Radio Relay League. The other is our clubs Ham Swap. Usually in the fall, we set up tables, print up tickets and purchase gifts and grand prizes for the attendees. This is the place where you can sell your "Treasures", or gander at other Hams merchandize. While "shopping", you will of course, get into a conversation with other likeminded Hams, about the latest gear, antennas, what DX you've worked, and just about anything that comes up. What more could a Ham want: Food, coffee, friends, old and new, and of course, the gear being for sale or being got! This year Jack NY8D will be handling the food booth: Donuts, coffee, and Jacks famous Hot-Dogs! Our Grand Prize is going to be a Yaesu FT=70D, Fusion, VHF-UHF Handi-talkie. Below, is a photograph taken during "Dayton

2019". That is the world's largest Ham Swap. Photo courtesy Ron AB8DT



On the following pages, you'll find all the information you'll need to discover the Swap and how to get there. We've also included a membership form, if you wish to share in the fun Ham Radio and our club, GRARA, has to offer.

Hope to see you at the GRAHamfest 2019!



Above, Field Day 2019, setting up the dipole antennas.

(Photographs in this issue are from Steve, KD8MEY, Ron AB8DT and others.)



# GRAHamfest 2019

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest  
**Saturday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 an ARRL Approved Hamfest

Annual Electronics, Ham Radio, Shortwave  
 CB and Computer Equipment, Trains, Airplanes  
*or just about anything with an electron in it!*  
 Swap Meet / Flea Market

**Opens at 8 AM**

*Ends at 1:00 PM*

**Seller Setup: Friday 7- 9PM, & Saturday 7AM**

(Vendors only prior to 8AM)  
 Indoor and Outdoor Sales

**Laurel VE Session - 10AM**

DX Card on-site checking  
 Concessions provided on-site

**Admission: \$5 at the door**

**K-12 students free admission  
 with student ID**

**See: [www.w8dc.org](http://www.w8dc.org)**  
 for updates and  
 additional information.

**The Home School Building**  
**5625 Burlingame, SW**  
**Wyoming, MI 49509-9702**

General questions:

KC8NKA 616-531-6218

Table reservations:

Bob Moe 616-648-6087

AC8ZX@arrl.net

Deadline for advance paid  
 reservations: August 25th

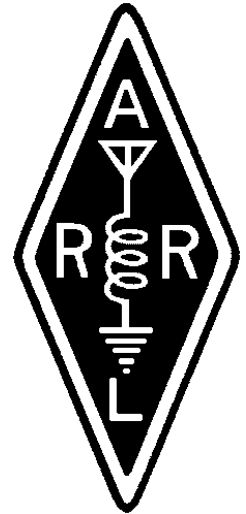
Make checks payable to:  
 G.R.A.R.A.

Tables unclaimed after 8 AM are  
 available first-come basis!

No refunds on unclaimed tables!

Reservation form and payment to:

Bob Moe AC8ZX  
 2235 Valentine Blvd NE  
 Grand Rapids, MI 49525



**Talk-In:** W8DC on 147.26+ (94.8HZ PL)

**Table Reservation Form**

Description	Qty.	Ext. amount
6' table along wall* ( <i>check for availability—limited quantity</i> ) @ \$12		
6' table (middle of the gym) @ \$10		
Total	—	

\* *Only wall tables have access to electricity.* Table rental does *not* include admission to the swap. No charge for tailgate spaces, except a hamfest admission ticket is required for each person.

Name / Callsign

Phone (optional)

Email (req'd for table confirmation)

Address (optional)

City, State, Zip (optional)


See other side for map & directions



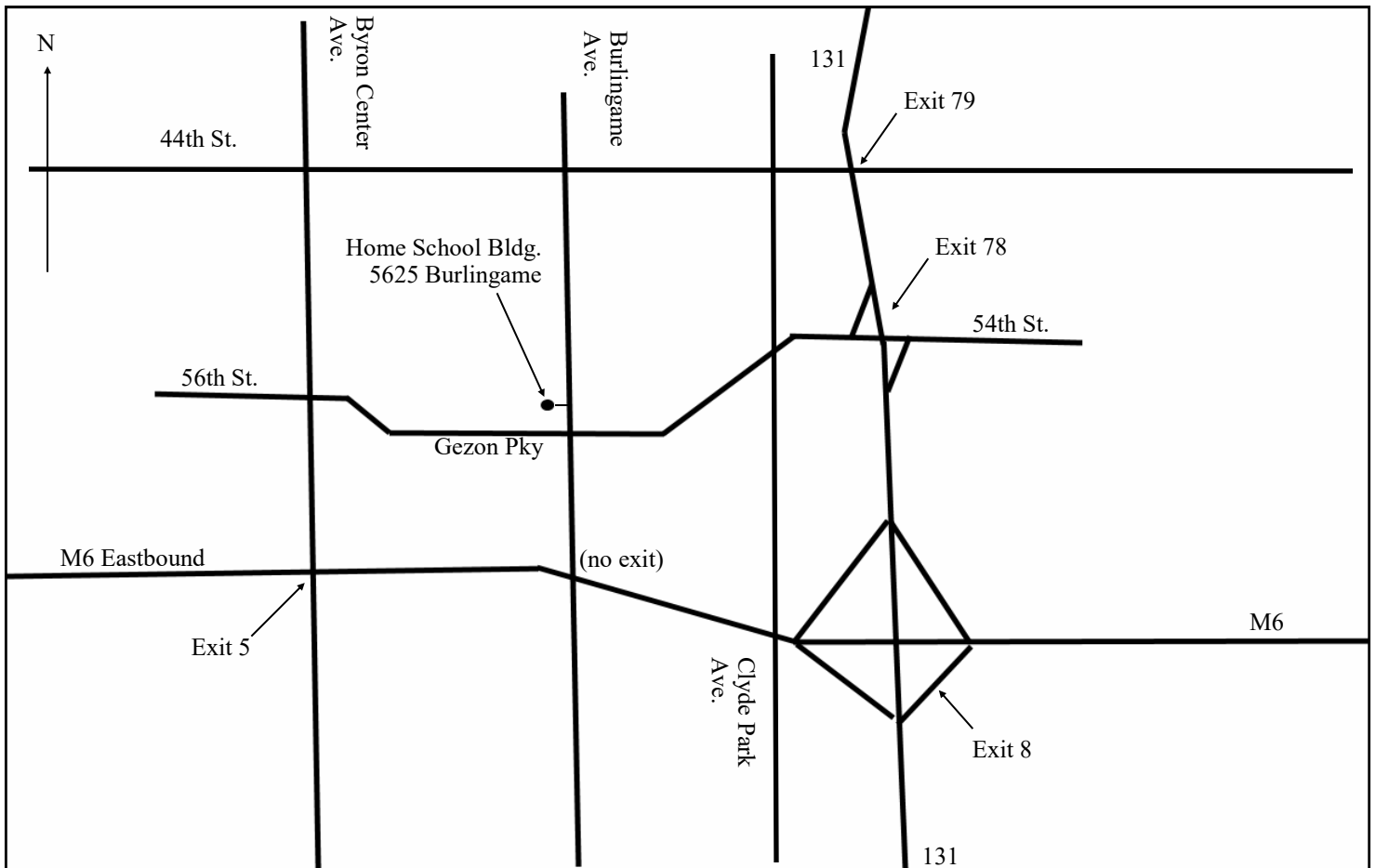
# GRAHamfest directions

## From the West:

Take M6 East / Lansing to exit 5 / Byron Center Ave. Turn left onto Byron Center Ave., drive 0.8 mi. Turn right onto Gezon Parkway, Drive 1.0 mi. Turn left onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.

## From the North:

Take 131 South, to exit 78 / 54th St. Turn right onto 54th St. (turns into Gezon Pkwy) Drive 1.1 mi. Turn right onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.



## From the East:

Take M6 West / Holland to exit 8, 131 North. Drive 1.3 mi. to exit 78 / 54th St. Turn left onto 54th St. (turns into Gezon Pkwy) Drive 1.1 mi. Turn right onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.

## From the South:

Take 131 North to exit 78 / 54th St. Turn left onto 54th St. (turns into Gezon Pkwy) Drive 1.1 mi. Turn right onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.

# 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

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ARRL Member:  Yes  No Type:  Regular  Life

Would you like a [callsign@w8dc.org](mailto:callsign@w8dc.org) email alias:  Yes  No

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_