



QRM

The Official Newsletter of GRARA
The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Volume 4 Winter 2020

2019 a year of change!

2019 started out with a new president being elected to our board. Thom DurFee, KI8W, took the helm of our club for 2019. Tom Hansen N8DGD, decided to retire from being president. We thank him for his "years" of service as being President of GRARA. We looked forward to Thom KI8W bringing enthusiasm to our club in the year ahead. He didn't disappoint! We also greeted 2019 with a return to Winter Field Day, during the last weekend of January. We held our potluck the first week in January. We actually had a line of people waiting to make their food selection. We said goodbye to a lot of our Ham friends in 2019. Hank Greeb, N8XX, passed away and is greatly missed. We also had many technical presentations by Ron K8DMR, our off-Air-Director. The QRM Grara newsletter is back. The 2-Meter Tuesday night net, is now established, and picks up new listeners and check-ins each week. The open Radio Room has been cleaned and sparkles, it's so clean. 2019 was filled with many activities for Hams.

2020 and onward

We greeted 2020 with many issues to deal with. The possibility that the Red Cross was moving, and we wouldn't be going with them. While the country is changing, so must we. The club is already searching for another home. GRARA's members never sit on their hands. As more information develops, we'll share it with you. We held elections in November, and changed some appointments, and elected a new Secretary. Greg Stoike KN4CK is our newly elected Secretary. On-Air-Director is Mike McDonald AA8MG. Off-Air-Director is Ron Fredricks K8DMR. Member-At-Large (the name has been changed to Director-at-Large) is Chris Longcore KE8LQH. Returning, after many years to become The Red-Cross-Liaison, is Joe Bell WD8USA. We wish them all well in the coming year. We thank Bob Moe, Jim Leys and Richie Ranta for the job they did during the past year. 2020 will also introduce us to a New Disaster Program Manager. More on page 3. 2020 will also see us firm up plans on how to celebrate Grara's 100 year anniversary. A busy year await us!

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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 scooter1cat@comcast.net.

2020 GRARA Officers

President - Thom Durfee - KI8W

Vice-President - Jim Hessler- K8JH

Secretary – Greg Stroke KN4CK

Treasurer -Steven B Hauelsen- KD8MEY

On Air Director –Mike McDonald AA8MG

Off Air Director - Ron Fredricks - K8DMR

Red Cross Liaison – Joe Bell WD8USA

Member at Large – Chris Longscore
KE8LQH

Technical Director - Steve Provost -
AC8QE

Webmaster –Thom Durfee KI8W

Station Trustee - Tom Hansen N8DGD

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**

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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.

Red Cross gets a new Disaster Program Manager

(The following was provided by jack NY8D)

CONGRATULATIONS to Jeff Nawrot N8JSN. Jeff Nawrot has excitedly accepted the position of Disaster Program Manager for the American Red Cross of West Michigan.

"Jeff joins the Red Cross after a 22-year career managing his family-owned, 46-year old small business in Wyoming, Michigan.

A former West Michigan Red Cross volunteer, he has also served as the volunteer director for the Kent County Search and Rescue for the past 15 years. Jeff has an extensive background in managing and recruiting a workforce, and engaging volunteers around an emergency response mission. Additionally, through his work with the Kent County Sherriff's Department and Office of Emergency Management, he has built a deep base of strong emergency management relationships within Michigan's Homeland Security Division Region 6.

Jeff is a life-long resident of West Michigan, and the Grand Rapids area."
- Tony Lasher

Jeff's first day on the job will be Monday, November 4, 2019.

Thank you all for your patience, and let's ensure to welcome Jeff into your

chapter with full support and compassion.

Very Respectfully, Raul J. Galvan,
Disaster Program Manager, American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan.

You can tell, Jeff is also an active Ham: N8JSN. Let's help make his new role an exciting one.

Thanks also goes to Joe Bell WD8USA for providing other information on Jeff.

MI-7 WINLINK PACKET

ON THE AIR-!.

(the following article was submitted by Joe Bell WD8USA-Thanks Joe!)

The long awaited BPQ node **Winlink server packet radio system** is now up and running!

Using the call W8DC-14. it will allow you to send e mail to any valid e mail address in the US.

You must download and install RMS express B-4 so you can access the system and register with Winlink .org

If you use a program other than RMS Express the system will not work!

This is a separate system from Out Post and serves a different purpose- Both are recommended to have available!

(continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 4_ Joe Bell
WD8USA)

There are packet stations having BBS and standard commands you are used to using B-4 the new system went on line are still present on 145.070. A good number are on the air in fact! The key is to have your TNC set to "MONITOR" packets so you can see just who you can reach!

It is recommended you use a KPC-3 or KPC-3 plus for your TNC and have the INTFACE set to TERMINAL for the complete list of commands to set up your modem properly. The KPC-3 are readably available on E Bay for very reasonable prices!

(The following is from the District 6 Digital coordinator and his assistant)

Dave Lamer, WA8RSA is the District 6 Digital Coordinator, and I am his assistant. Neither of us could make the November 9 DRG meeting. In the meantime, we have made up a report of what we are aware of in what is going on in District 6 on the digital side.

Please note that we said "of what we are aware of".

If you see any corrections that have to be made, or any updates, please email me, and it will be corrected in the next quarterly report.

Dave and I consider having all the information as to what is going on District 6 to be the number one issue. And for that, we need input from other folks in the district.

We also hope to have the information in a more database form on the DigitalD6mi@groups.io site.

If you are aware of anyone who would like to be on the "DigitalD6Mi" email list, please have them visit <https://groups.io/g/DigitalD6Mi>

That list is open to just about anyone who has an interest or runs any digi/node/aprs i-gate in District 6.

Thanks to Joe Bell WD8USA, Dave Lamer WA8RSA and Tom, K8TB for their fine efforts.

How old is GRARA?

Richie Ranta K8JX

3 years ago, I decided to research when exactly, GRARA first came into existence. Luckily, I had held, mainly from the persistence work of Jack NY8D and the son of GRARA's first repeater trustee: Jerry W8MSK. Below is what was discovered.

**"US Department of Commerce,
Radio Division**

**Amateur Radio Stations of the
United States**

Edition of June 30, 1930

https://archive.org/details/1930_Ama_teur_Callbook

W8DB Thomas J. Wittkowski, 811
Grand Rapids Trust Building, Grand
Rapids, Mich. 50 Watts

(continued on next page)

(Continued from page 5)

1931 listing:

https://archive.org/details/1931_Amateur_Callbook

W8DB Thomas J. Wittkowski,
trustee, Amateur Radio Club of
Grand Rapids. 812 Grand Rapids
Trust Building, Grand Rapids, Mich.
(P>O> address, 818 Veto St.) 50
Watts

W8DC is assigned to a ham in Oil
City, PA.

https://archive.org/details/1931_Amateur_Callbook

There is no way to discovering exactly when GRARA changed its' name from "Amateur Radio Club of Grand Rapids", to what we know now. It would seem that all the Hams who would know, have become Silent Keys. This is a great example of why it's so important to keep good records of the clubs activities. Now is the time to start planning how best to celebrate Grara's 100th year anniversary. A special event station, running year long, a special QSL, assorted events throughout the year ending with a large celebration? There are many ways we can celebrate, but we need to start planning now. 10 years from now is just around the corner.

Grara Tuesday Night Net

3 years ago, GRARA started up a club net. At first, it was to demonstrate our new Yaesu Fusion repeater. We would have the first part of the net in the analog mode, and then, after the normal net, we would open it up to digital "Fusion" stations. That didn't work out as planned. We were connected to the X-Wing net, and whenever a fusion station would pop up, it would make it impossible for analog traffic to communicate. We then decided, that as popular as the net was, we would change the repeater to the "Super System", 147.260 Mhz. It has worked out great since then, and now, with Steven KD8MEY taking every other weeks net, and Rich K8JX taking up the rest, we've got a new, dependable net operating. We have topics, and even trivial questions. A fun time can be had by all. Join us. Tuesday night, at 7PM on 147.260 MHz, analog.

Why we're late

As you can tell, this issue isn't from November. The best laid plans.... Besides sickness, shoveling too much snow till my back aches, and illness, this issue is finally put together. I apologize for its' tardiness. I'll work harder next issue.



Ottawa and Kent County

SKYWARN

Basic Spotter Training

Hudsonville High School—Freshman Campus
Fine Arts Auditorium
3370 Allen Street
Hudsonville, MI 49426

Tuesday February 25, 2020
6:30pm—9:30pm

Register at : <https://skywarn2020.eventbrite.com>

WEST MICHIGAN AREA AMATEUR RADIO BANQUET



Announcing the 24th ANNUAL West Michigan Hams GET OUTTA THE CABIN DINNER

Formerly called "The New Hams Dinner"

SPONSORED BY:



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www.hollandarc.org

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2020,
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 always have a good time!

Buffet style including pizza, fried chicken, fixin's, desert and beverage. Pay at the door, Normal restaurant rates, \$12.99 (senior \$11.69) + tax, gratuity. Proceed to the reserved room.

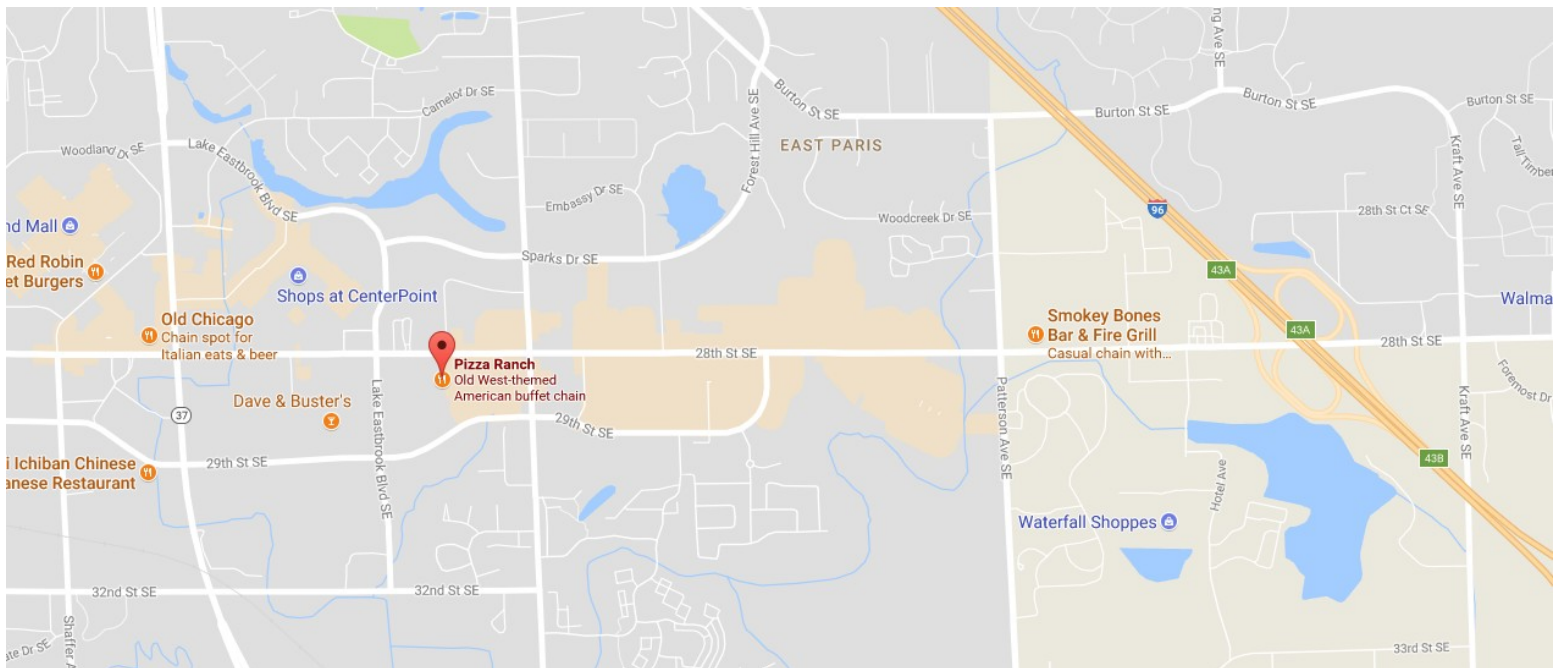
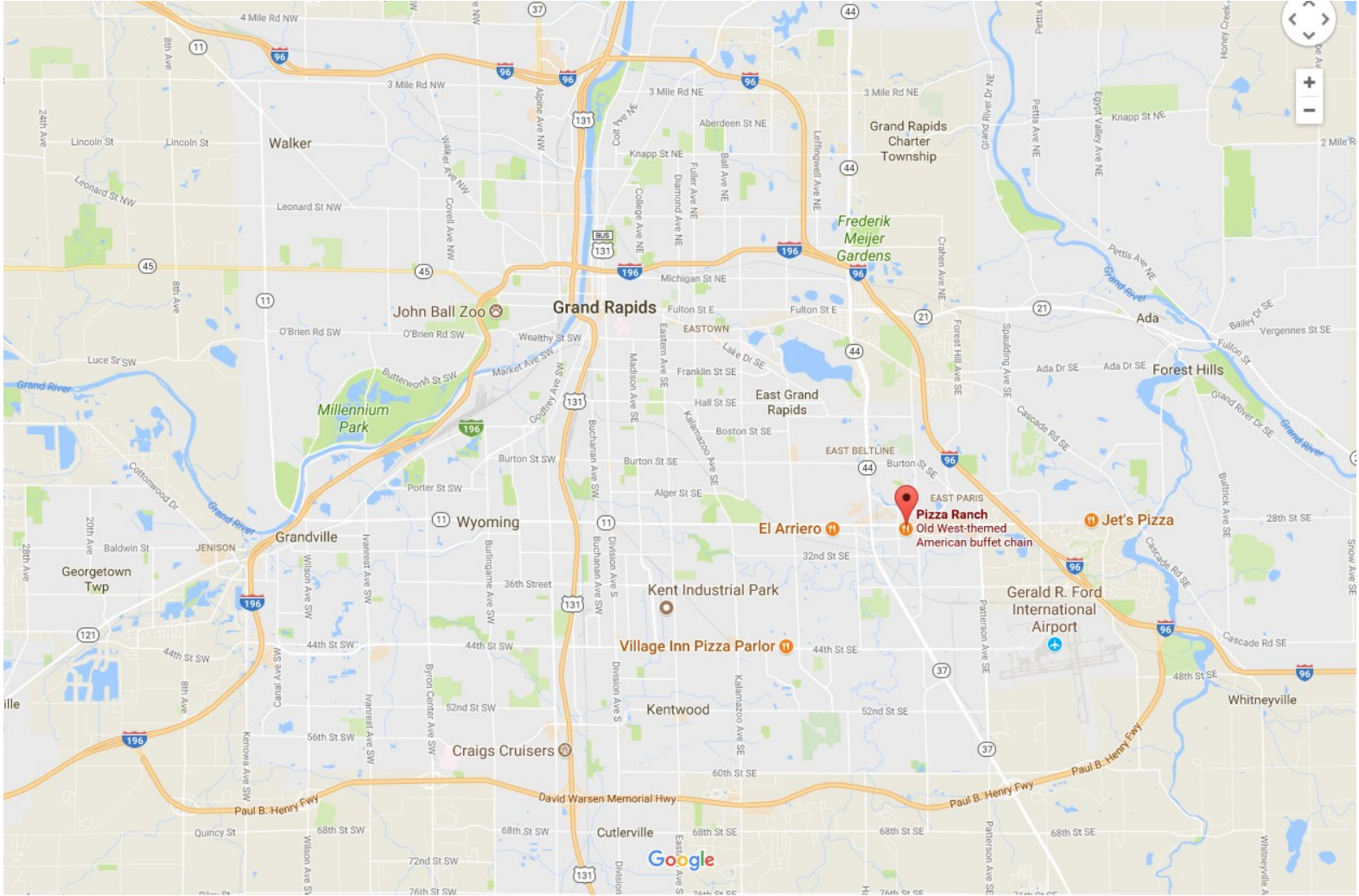
www.pizzaranch.com. All attendees must purchase a buffet.

No reservations, just show up.

Questions? Contact: Jack ny8d@arrl.net (616)438-5412

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: _____