



QRM

The Official Newsletter of GRARA
The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Volume 4 Summer-Fall 2020

Packet .070, Repeaters 146.760, 147.260, 440.400

RE-TESTING 2020 Style.



This past July, Grara held their first VE exam session. Outdoors! They observed the CDC's guild lines on proper distances and wearing masks. This was our second occasion of getting back to normal. We haven't seen each other for a few months and it was great to just get together again. The first instance, was when we held our first Monthly club meeting: in the same parking lot! We Hams can adjust to many different environments. This issue contains Field Day 2020 photographs, information regarding meeting for lunch, once again, and other information that you will find useful.

As I'm often saying, "STAY SAFE" Your important to us.

(The following people contributed to this issue:
Jim K8JH, Tom N8DGD, and Jack NY8D and
KE8LQH Christopher Longcore)

The Lunch Bunch is Back

when the restaurants had to close and the weekly meet at Bob Evans off M-6 on Kalamazoo Ave had to take a hiatus, some of us then QSOed on the KR8T repeater 443.800+(94.8Hz), Echolink KR8T-R. As the weather improved, it was decided to resume Lunch Bunch at a park. Although restaurants have reopened, group's sizes are limited.

Creekside Kent County Park, 1035 68th St St SE, about a mile from the Bob Evans restaurant, has a large covered open air pavilion with lots of picnic tables, plenty of room to spread out as necessary. Even on hot days, there is plenty of breeze to stay comfortable. Starts 11:30AM or whenever you get there, stay until you're ready to leave. Bring your own lunch or snack and libation (coffee, tea, pop, etc.) from a drive thru or home brown bag. No club sponsors this. All are welcome. Open to all hams, aspiring hams, inquisitive non-hams, old, young, etc. The park is on 68th St between Kalamazoo Ave SE just south of Hwy M6 exit 11, and Hwy US131 exit 76. Enter Creekside Park north off of 68th st, proceed to the covered pavilion. FYI, the rest rooms are

open <https://www.kentcountyparks.org/creekside/index.php>

We expect when cool weather returns in the fall, we will return to Bob Evans. So come join us. We'll monitor the K8RT repeater for talk-in. If you have any questions, go ahead and contact me ny8d@w8dc.org Cell: (616)438-1464. 73 Jack NY8D.

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 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 – Tom Hansen N8DGD

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**

Editor

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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.

FIELD DAY 2020



These are some of the photographs Christopher Longcore KE8LQH took at GRARA's Field Day site in Cedar Springs. Greg is finishing up the score and will publish it shortly on our web site. All participants got involved in making this one Field Day to remember. See you all next year.

Events August 2020 for the WM Amateur Radio community

Some meetings, lunches, VE Exams, etc. are starting to come back in modified form. Check with the club's Web or Facebook page for updated information. Web and FB page links listed below.

COULDN'T GO TO HAMVENTION THIS YEAR? Consider donating what your expenses would have been, transportation, lodging, meals, HV ticket, to radio related causes. Your club, repeater association, and so on. You were going to spend it on the hobby anyway!

MAJOR AREA EVENTS AT PRESS TIME

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS needing AR volunteers

KENT COUNTY SIREN TEST net Friday, August 7 at 12:05 Check in W8LRC 145.27-(94.8Hz) or K8SN 442.175+(103.5Hz) or Smart phone <https://t.ly/E0le>

GRAND RAPIDS Amway River Bank Run 2020 Communications, *RESCHEDULED* to Saturday, October 24, 6AM - 1PM with varying end times. <https://amwayriverbankrun.com/>

Pre-Meeting on Friday, October 23 at Kent County Sheriff Department, 701 Ball Ave from 6:30PM - 8:30PM. (We need about 80-85 People to help in various positions)

For those who have never worked the River Bank Run. This is the PREMIER Communications event in Kent County. This event is one that you'll enjoy and come back every year for more! The RBR event is HUGE and keeps growing!

<https://www.kcest.org/events/> <https://www.facebook.com/41KCEST>

SKYWARN KENT COUNTY: Anyone interest in being a Net Control Station please contact Tom KB8TYJ tombehler@gmail.com To be NCS you will need 2M/440 base station and a high speed computer to work radar.

NEWS BROADCASTS on the IRA Link System 147.16

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE Tuesdays at Noon

ARRL NEWS Thursdays at Noon

Coverage map with remote frequencies: <http://w8ira.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/largemap.jpg>

FOLLOWING THE NEWSCASTS the IRA Repeater enters Parrot (Echo) mode for 5 minutes. Good time to check your signal and modulation as this mode repeats your transmission.

NEWS BROADCASTS on the Lowell System 145.27

ARRL NEWS Saturdays 7AM & Sundays 7PM

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE Sundays 7PM & Sundays 7AM

Other area repeaters carrying news, send me details to be included.

It is **fox hunting time again.** (Lowell ARC)

What you will need to bring on this fox hunt:

Walking shoes or hiking boots, sunscreen, bug spray, water (for staying hydrated), an HT to send DTMF 1 to activate the fox and your choice of RDF equipment.

The "fox" has about a 1 second delay upon receiving the DTMF signal before it transmits and then will transmit for about a minute to allow you to hopefully get a bearing on it.

Please only disclose general radio signal levels from major intersections to <https://groups.io/g/MichiganFoxHunter> You don't want to give to many clues to your competition now do you?

Upon a successful hunt email photographic proof directly to N8THN (good on QRZ)

Open to all hams, aspiring hams, inquisitive non-hams, etc. We don't care, regardless of any, or no, club affiliation. It's a Beer & Bull session, without the Beer. We'll talk about radio and most any other subject that comes up.

Who sponsors this? NOBODY! It's just a gathering of hams, and there's always room for you.

2nd Hand Ham Shop, Saturdays, 8AM "until it ends". Used equipment, parts (some that are hard to find) and coffee with fellow enthusiasts. Operated by Tom KD8DEG.

7830 80th Ave between Polk and Baldwin, Zeeland (Blendon Township)

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/mJ82NL1a9U12>

<https://www.facebook.com/2nd-Hand-Ham-Shop-1007064166010266/>

kd8deg@centurytel.net (616)292-3335

Check out the only full time Amateur Radio store in Michigan. HAMSTERS in Dowagiac, new and used radio gear.

"HAMSTERS, Your place for amateur radio items at a fair price."

<http://ham-sters.com/>

MONTHLY EVENTS

Some meetings taking place on air or online. Visit club Website or Facebook page for more information.

North Ottawa ARC (NOARC -W8CSO) Thursday, July 30 meeting, 6:30 PM at Central Park in Spring Lake, 17158-17298 Railroad Ave, Spring Lake, MI 49456.

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/bpf8a8AszcauSs9y6>

Drinks and goodies will be served. We will have a hidden transmitter fox hunt. The fox will be hidden somewhere along the walking path near the park. The fox is low powered (.1 of a watt) and quite small. You need a 2 meter FM radio and you will be on foot-not in your car. Who will find the fox?

North Ottawa ARC (NOARC-W8CSO) <http://www.w8cso.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/401316979888404/> 145.49-(94.8Hz)

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association (GRARA-W8DC) regular MONTHLY meeting, first Friday, August 7, At American Red Cross building, 1050 Fuller Ave NE between the I-196 Ford Fwy and Leonard St. Social 6:30PM, meeting 7PM.

MEETINGS WILL BE HELD IN THE RED CROSS PARKING LOT or garage until further notice. Best bring a chair with you.

Map: <http://www.w8dc.org/pages/Red%20Cross.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/GRARA.W8DC/>

<http://www.w8dc.org/> 147.26+(94.8Hz)

Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council (MAARC-W8ZHO)

SPECIAL CLUB MEETING, Saaturday, August 8 (The Saturday following the first Thursday for this month only. No meeting on the 6th)

"Back to the Club" Potluck at 5PM, Meeting at 7PM. At the clubhouse, 2888 Scenic Drive, Muskegon, MI

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/4nzyiVrsBNt>

Meeting topic, Foxhunt plans for Thursday, September 3

<http://www.w8zho.com/> <https://www.facebook.com/w8zho/> 146.94-(94.8Hz)

VE TESTING. Be sure to spread the word.

Second Friday, August 14, 6:30PM, American Red Cross Building at 1050 Fuller NE, Grand Rapids MI

Map: <http://www.w8dc.org/pages/Red%20Cross.html>

We will be conducting the tests in the parking lot or garage.

Register on our website:<http://w8dc.org/pages/exams.html>

please ignore the covid statement, since we are doing the testing outside.

We will be following CDC guidelines for covid.

We will provide a clip board and a pencil for the test.

Best to bring a chair or test in your vehicle.

No exam fee, Laurel VEC. Email questions to stprovost@provtechs.com

Holland ARC (HARC-K8DAA) meeting Second Tuesday, August 11, 7PM.

Chick-Owa Sportsman's Club, 9279 Ottogan St., Holland. This meeting will be limited to the first 20 persons. Please bring your masks and observe social distancing. As always, you need not be a club member join in!

Map <https://goo.gl/maps/qiQPS9EVgTx>

<http://www.hollandarc.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233793361844/> K8DAA

147.06+(94.8Hz)

Lowell Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting, third Thursday, August 20, 6:30 PM social, 7PM meeting.

All are welcome.

THIS MEETING WILL BE OUTSIDE either in the parking lot. Best to bring a chair with.

At the "Shack" location, the Flat River Outreach Ministries (F.R.O.M) Building, 11535 Fulton St E (Hwy M-21), Lowell, just west of the Lowell Meijer.

<http://www.w8lrc.org> <https://www.facebook.com/w8lrc/>

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/9e7G2FVkjI2> 145.27-(94.8Hz)

MORLEY RECEIVE SITE GROUNDS CLEANUP, Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, September 5, 10AM

start. Arrive when you can, leave when you need to. Donuts and coffee, lunch provided.

Yes, we know it's Labor Day weekend. If you like camping out, RV or tent, for the weekend, this is a great place with electric and WiFi. Bring own water.

At the 250 ft tower, 3814 155th Ave, just south of 4 Mile Rd.

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/48cdZhJ7DCr> Lowell ARC. W8LRC 145.27-(94.8Hz)

Contact: Jack NY8D ny8d@arrl.net (616)438-5412

IRA OPEN HOUSE & SITE CLEANUP, Saturday, September 26, 9AM to 2 or ?.

Alternate inclement weather day Saturday, October 3

The Independent Repeater Association (IRA) W8IRA is doing Open House and cleanup at the 92nd Street Hill repeater site.

This site hosts many other Amateur Radio groups equipment as well.

If you have never set foot on "the hill", or it's been a while, or

last week, this is a great time to get a tour of the place. We will be showing off the (not fancy) place as well as doing some tidying up inside and out.

DO NOT FEEL ANY OBLIGATION TO PARTAKE IN CLEANUP. We look forward to your company. Arrive when you can, leave when you want to.

We'll have coffee, donuts, and for lunch burgers and dogs, all free.

Talk-in (as you can guess) 147.16+(94.8Hz)

566 92nd St SE, Byron Center, MI 49315

Lat 42.796779, long -85.650055 Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/Zp7RSg9cQpR2>
<http://w8ira.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1764710107178775/>

Contact ny8d@arrl.net (616)438-1464

UP COMING HAMFESTS

MINI-SWAP Allegan County Amateur Radio Club (ACARC-AC8RC) Executive Order Mini-Swap. Saturday, August 15 at the Salem Township hall building from 8am-11am. Rescheduled from April 4. Set up beginning at 6:30AM. Snacks and drinks will be available for sale. \$5 entry, \$5 tables first come first serve, trunk sales are also welcome. Hope to see you there. Salem Township hall, 3003 142nd Ave, Dorr, MI 49323, Corner of 142nd Ave and 30th Street, Allegan County. US-131 exit 68 / Dorr. west 8.6 miles.

Contact Phil W8PDH philholscher@gmail.com (616)217-6427

Talk In AC8RC 147.24+(94.8Hz)

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/6GUW1qPMUdJ2>
<http://ac8rc.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/ac8rc/>

CMARC Hamfest, Saturday, September 19

Location: Okemos Conference Center, 2187 University Park Drive, Okemos, Michigan 48864

Website: <http://www.centralmiarc.com/hamfest.php>

Sponsor: Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club

Talkin: 145.39- (100Hz)

Email: hamfest@centralmiarc.com

Sponsor: **Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services**

Talk-In: 146.820 -600 (94.8Hz)

Public Contact: James Duram, K8COP, PO Box 386 Fruitport, MI 49415

Phone: 231-638-7010, Email: jimk8cop@afo.net

If I missed something or there is something coming up of interest to the West Michigan Ham community, let me know by the 25th of the month, email: ny8d@arrl.net

73 Jack NY8D

Weekly Radio Nets in West Michigan

Monday	12:00 IRA Michigan Noontime Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz) 9:00PM Michigan VHF Traffic Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz)
Tuesday	6:00PM IRA After Dinner Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz) 7:00PM GRARA Net 147.26+ (94.8Hz) 8:30PM WM 6 Meter SSB Net 50.140 USB 9:00PM Covid-19 net 145.27- (94.8Hz)
Wednesday	3:00AM Insomniac Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) 12:00 IRA Michigan Noontime Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz) 8:00PM West MI Emergency Comm Net 145.27- (94.8Hz) 9:00PM Michigan VHF Traffic Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz)
Thursday	9:00AM Auto State YLs TASLYs Net 3940KHz 6:30PM SATERN Net K8SN 442.175+(103.5Hz) and W8LRC 145.27-(94.8Hz) 7:30PM MARA Net 145.23- (94.8Hz) x3rd Thursday 7:30PM MARA Net 145.23 simplex 3rd Thursday 9:00PM Covid-19 net 145.27- (94.8Hz)
Friday	12:00 IRA Michigan Noontime Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz) 9:00PM Michigan VHF Traffic Net 147.16
Saturday	8:00AM MARA 6 Meter AM Net 50.400 AM 6:00PM IRA After Dinner Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz)
Sunday	9:30PM Sidewinders Around Michigan Net 144.155 USB 4:00PM 10 Meter Ragchew Net 28.870 USB 8:00PM WM Classic Six Meter AM Net 50.400 AM

Chart design by Dave Devos KF8QL
List of WEST MICHIGAN HAM NETS http://w8lrc.org/net_calendar/



GRAHamfest 2020

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest
Saturday, September 12th
an ARRL Approved Hamfest

Opens at 8 AM

Set-Up at 7:30AM

Ends at 1:00 PM
Outdoor Trunk Sales Only

Admission: FREE
Donations gladly accepted.

Concessions provided on-site
by NY8D

A Door Prize of
one years membership in
Grara will be given. Fill out
your ticket.

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

See: www.w8dc.org for
updates and any additional
information.

VE Exams will not be held during
this swap. They will be held at the
normal time, September 11th

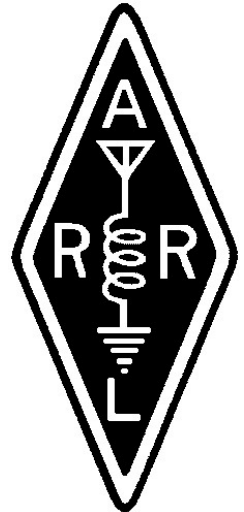
Due to the Covid-19 virus crisis, we have
limited our swap size and location. This
"Asphalt Adventure is our way of
maintaining our club's Tradition of
providing a yearly get together for
"Hams" and saying Thank You For your
undertanding at this time.
Stay Safe

**At The RED CROSS
Building**

Directions on next page

Due to Covid-19
We will have no
access to the Red
Cross Building. We
will have a porta-
potty.

*We Have No
Tables
You can bring your
own Table. This is
a Trunk Sales
Swap.*



Red Cross Directions

Directions and Map to the Red Cross Building 1050 Fuller Ave NE Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503

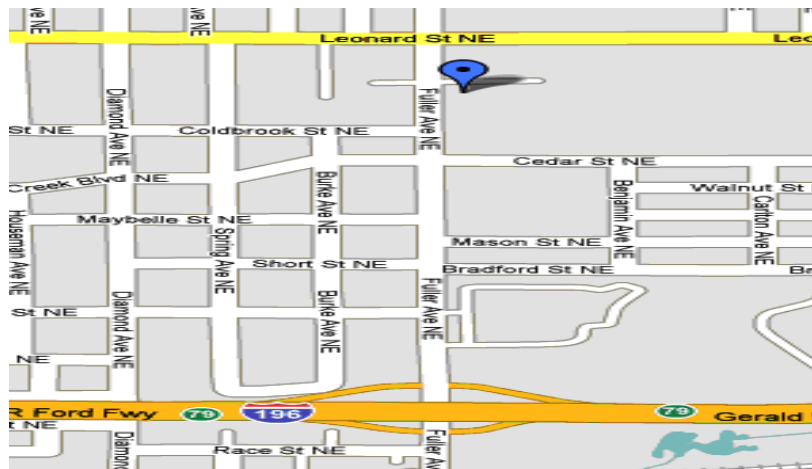
Most GRARA events, including general membership meetings, license testing sessions, are held at the West Michigan American Red Cross Building.

From the I-196 Expressway, Exit 79, take Fuller Avenue north approximately 3/4 of a mile.

The Red Cross Building is on the right hand (east) side off the Fuller Avenue.

Turn into the driveway immediately before the building and park in the lot in the back of the building.

The entrance is in the back of the building. Take the stairs or elevator to the lower level of the 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

ARRL Member: Yes No Type: Regular Life

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

Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____