



QRM

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

Our systems: Packet 145.07, Repeaters: 146.760, 147.260, 224.640, 440.400

Spring 2019 no.1

President's Corner de KI8W

First, let me express my gratitude to all of you for electing me to be your President for the year 2019. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any concerns, questions or suggestions on how to make this club a better one.

You can reach me several ways. My current home phone number is 616-608-4165. My personal email address is ki8w@ki8w.com and you can also reach me at president@w8dc.org.

Let's review what has taken place in the club during 2018.

1. A new operating desk was built and put into operation.
2. Proper grounds were established on that desk.
3. A new Test bench was built and equipped with donated equipment and thousands of parts.
4. New antennas were built and installed on our tower, specifically 4 – GP-15 verticals, a 160-80-40 meter dipole and a 30 meter dipole. Recently installed was a 43 foot

- vertical system on the Red Cross Garage roof with 1000 feet of radial wires of various lengths.
5. The tower had new ground rods and cables installed.
6. A 160 meter receive loop was mounted to the fence.
7. Internet access was installed in our radio shack and on the 76 repeater for the WIRES system.
8. The beginnings of contest operations have begun. We earned a couple of certificates for our efforts.

Currently we are conducting a survey to get an understanding of how our members feel and what we can do to improve things in 2019. The survey is available on our club website at w8dc.org. We are planning to increase our contesting operations in 2019. We invite all members with an interest in learning how to participate in a really fun activity to join 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 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 MC DONALD AA8MG

Publisher

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

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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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There has been some interest expressed about a Morse Code class. Stay tuned for that.

I would also like to see an increase in club participation with the Red Cross. What this may involve is yet to be seen.

There are other projects in the works and you will hear about them soon.

Club Events

Open Radio Room

Open Radio Room, our most popular club activity, is held every Wednesday beginning at 6pm and on Sundays from 1 to 4:30pm. Please join us and you can operate our Amateur Radio station, enjoy some coffee and perhaps a few cookies. The conversation is always lively and you will certainly have a good time.

We Moved....

Well, our Super System repeater, 147.260 did. The old WLAV tower had to come down, and with it, so did our Super System repeater. We had to find a new home for it. Thanks to Dave of T&W electronics and Sam K8NS and Dan N8WKM, we're back up and running, but from a different location. Moline Michigan.

The V.E. Program

Following, are some answers to questions people have asked regarding the new Laurel VE program.

How much does it cost to take an amateur license exam? All exam sessions conducted by Laurel VEC sponsored VE Teams are free

Do I need to bring my own pencils, papers, etc.?

No. Everything you will need, such as pencils and scratch paper, will be provided.

Can I use a calculator?

Yes. Some VE teams may provide a calculator. However, if you bring your own calculator and it has a programmable memory, the memory must be cleared. The VEs will inspect your calculator before letting you use it.

Can I use my cell phone as a calculator?

No! In fact, all cell phones must be turned off. If it makes any kind of noise you may be dismissed from further participation in the exam session.

What do I need to bring to the Exam session?

1. A photo ID. Children without photo IDs may be tested providing that they can prove their identity to the satisfaction of the LARC VEC Team Leader.

Do I have to pass a Morse code test to get my ham license?

No. While Morse code is still a popular mode of communication among hams, it is no longer required to earn a new or upgraded amateur radio license.

If I fail my exam, can I take another exam during the same session?

The decision to let you take a second exam during the same test session after failing a previous attempt is up to the VE Team. The VE team is not required to let you take another exam.

The mission of the Laurel VEC is to:

(1) Coordinate amateur radio license exam sessions scheduled and conducted by 26 teams of Volunteer Examiners (VE) accredited by the Laurel VEC;

(2) Provide policies, procedures, and instructions to ensure that all exam-related

activities are conducted in accordance with the applicable rules and regulations of the FCC; and **(3)** maintain the value and integrity of the Volunteer Examiner program.

Thanks goes out to Nathan Hardman, N8THN of the LARC for providing this information.

Silent Key

N8XX



Henry "Hank" Rudolph Greeb of Rockford, Michigan, age 81, passed away on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. He earned B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Denver in chemical engineering. Henry was an avid amateur radio operator from his teens preferring to communicate by Morse code. He was a compassionate person who used this hobby to aid the Red Cross in weather related disasters. Hank loved contesting and he kept us all informed about the latest contest and special event stations going on the air. Hank would also go out of his way to get new Hams to try their hand at Morse code. But the one thing we'll all remember "Hank" for, is his altruistic attitude towards everybody. R.I.P. our friend. God Bless you.

Silent Key

K8EX



MICHAEL J BOTTEMA at age 71, became a SK on June 12, 2018

Michael was involved in many areas of Ham radio, and in GRARA in particular. Michael served as President in the 1990's, was involved in the V.E. program, and loved DX-ing. He also was involved in starting up the "linoleum" adventure event: a mini-swap at the club. We hams remember Mike when he was the night time engineer at WOOD-FM in the midnight to 6AM Shift. He would be talking with Mike Partridge, as he drove his 18 wheeler up north. Some of us will remember when he would invite his friends aboard his sail boat on a Friday night and sail across Lake Michigan to Chicago, to the A.E.S. store. But all of us will remember how friendly he was, opinionated and willing to share what he knew about Ham Radio. His involvement in Ham Radio got him to experiment with New Rigs, like the "Signal One", and the first Digital rig by Icom, the ic 701. He will be missed, as a friend, and a good person to know.

R.I.P. Mike.

Spring has finally arrived.....at GRARA's Open Radio Room!

Our Radio Room Manager has been busy. We've got new lights, new operator chairs and a new HF Right too. Bob Moe, our Member-at-Large, is responsible for putting up the lights. Thom KI8W got the chairs and cleaned up the room. Thank you guys for your great work and investment.

History of Grara....Part 2

When one is trying to find out information on any topic, no matter how hard one works, it's often the case, the answer is provided by an accident. Hank, N8XX, a S.K., wanted to know what year GRARA was formed. He was in a contest and the number they wanted participants to use was the year the club was formed, the last two numbers. He asked other members if they knew and none provided a solid answer. Till LARC's P.I.O., Jack Amelar NY8D provided the hint Hank could use.

Below is what Jack discovered for the 1930 Callbook listing:

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

Mr. Wittkowski was the trustee of "The Amateur Radio Club of Grand Rapids". What does that have to do with GRARA?

Mr. Wittkowski's son is a member of our club. Jerry Wittkowski, W8MSK. I had a delightful conversation with Jerry how his dad was the trustee of GRARA. The exact year when the name was changed isn't clear. But Jerry and I had a wonder trip down memory lane over when GRARA met at the upstairs room of the Michigan Consolidated Gas showroom, on Division Street. How they had a wire antenna

stretching between two buildings downtown. While the people who created ARCGR and then GRARA have become S.K., I can discover when W8DB was first issued to the club. This has been a good exercise in the need to keep records of the life of our club.



Above: Jerry receives the "West Michigan Ham of the Year" award at the New Hams Dinner.

A New Gathering place...

Tom KD8DEG and Dave KC8PCL, created the **2nd Hand Ham Shop**. Location is 7830 80th Ave between Polk and Baldwin, Zeeland (Blendon Township). The primary purpose of this shop is to fill a big hole in the area. Access, locally, to parts, and equipment related to the ham, computer, DIY, enthusiast. Along with providing a place for all to gather/hang out, to brag about their shack, equipment, projects, offer your expertise to help in resolving problems, and suggestions for projects for others, or just BS, all over a cup of coffee, and donuts.

All things change. The 2nd Hand Ham shop is no different. Dave KC8PCL has retired from working at the shop. He recently lost his wife to cancer. Tom, KD8DEG is recovering from a stroke, and can't always open up the shop. That's where local Hams have come to lend a hand in keeping the shop open and helping Tom out. Thanks to all of you for volunteering to help Tom out. Thanks to Tom, K8TB.

You can still chat with tom at this number.
Phone# 616-292-3335.

112th Tuesday Night Net

112. That's how many Tuesday night nets we've had since we started the Grara net. This past Tuesday, we had a whopping 12 check ins. Not bad, considering we've had to move the net from the 146.760 repeater to the 147.260 repeater. A problem came up that simply wasn't manageable. So we moved. Problem

Solved! We now have revolving net control operators. Steve, KD8MUY and then Richie K8JX. Join us if you can. We have a bunch on nice and interesting people check-in. It's on every Tuesday night at 7PM, on 147.260.

Michigan QSO Party...

During the last full weekend of April each year, GRARA participates in the Michigan QSO Party where we make a contest out of contacting other stations throughout Michigan and the nation. In Michigan, we try to make at least one contact in each county. Across the United States (and beyond) we make as many contacts as possible representing Michigan. Members with technician licenses get an opportunity to operate on the high frequency bands while other hams get practice making fast and accurate contacts during day and evening shifts. Everyone enjoys the relaxing, easy going nature of the event.

ARRL Field Day...

Every year, GRARA joins ham operators across the nation in the annual ARRL Field Day contest. This is a fast-paced exercise where teams set up field ham radio stations in temporary locations and then contact as many other ham stations as possible during a 24-hour period. We tell ourselves that this is training for emergency communications situations, but it is really just a lot of fun and great for club camaraderie.

The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Hamfest...

In early September each year, GRARA hosts their annual Hamfest where amateur radio operators and computer enthusiasts gather to buy and sell equipment and to attend technical seminars. Official amateur radio license examinations are also given, but the real fun is again in the camaraderie with fellow hams that we often just talk to "on the air."

Changes in the QRM Newsletter.

I'm sure all of you notice this Newsletter has taken a long time in coming out. I wanted it to reflect the membership's interest and what GRARA feels like. To that end, I'm trying to design a banner that fits the clubs imagine. I think I'm close. If you have any suggestions, pass them on. Through the secretary@w8dc.org.

Acknowledgements

I want to acknowledge the contributions the following individuals have made to this issue:

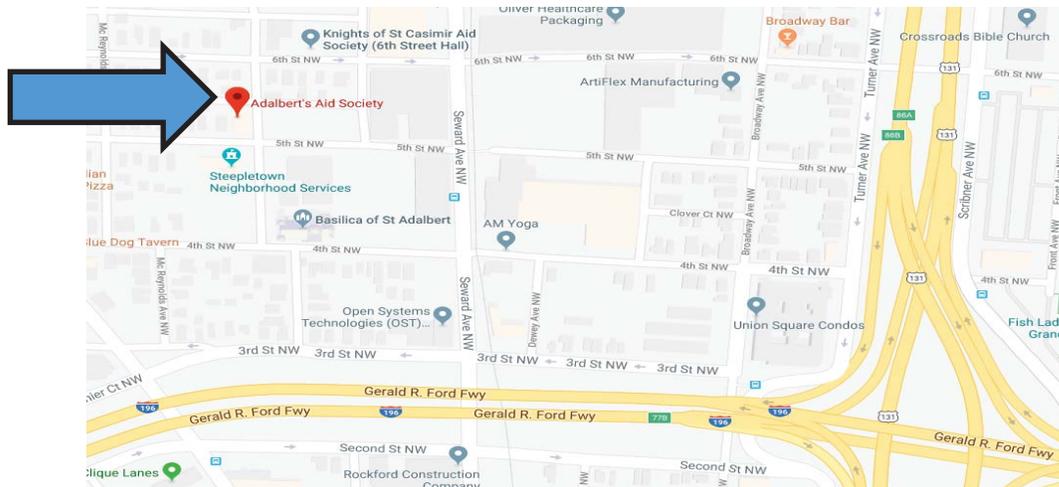
Paul Hummel K9BOJ, of MARA. for the photo of W8MSK. Nathan Hardman, N8THN, of LARC. For the Laurel information. Jack Amelar NY8D from LARC. For the data on ARCGR, Joe Bell WD8USA, Jay Hoppe WB8SQJ, Wendell Broome K8OO, Bob Moe AC8ZX for photos on K8EX.

Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance

W8USA Presents -

\$9 BURRITO NIGHT

FRIDAY, May 3, 6 PM



Burrito Meal \$9.00 Come Early, Burritos are very popular...Don't miss out! Bar serving delicious drinks is on premises!

701 5th Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49504

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: _____