



# 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, 440.400

**Summer 2019 no.2**

## Trustee's Report

The last couple of days have been very active at GRARA. Friday morning, we had many hands helping out with the "Smoke Alarm" installation: "Sound the Alarm" program. The repeater was very active with not only GRARA members, but LARC as well. Saturday's antenna work party at the Red Cross went well. Our 2 meter High-Gain vertical antenna went on the Verizon tower, inverted, of course. Initial tests sound promising. A dual band vertical was added to the Red Cross tower, for our new Yaesu FT-7250 Fusion Radio and a new multi-band dipole, Alpha Delta, covering 160-80-40 meters also was mounted. The 43' vertical was also adjusted for better performance and has been a killer antenna for us. The Gap vertical was adjusted too and

more work to follow on it. Many thanks to our president, Thom DurFee, KI8W, who was an excellent teacher, instructing Tom Hansen N8DGD, on putting on a coax connect at 30 feet on the tower. Thanks to all who participated in this work weekend.

73, Tom n8dgd

### "Sound the Alarm"



The "Sound the Alarm" program was attended by far more individuals than was anticipated. They are expecting about 300 volunteers. There were only five "hams" that showed up. Only 3 from the club. Registration started at 7:45 AM. Light breakfast was provided. The dress code was casual and comfortable, a Sound the Alarm t-shirt was provided.

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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: Mike Stark KB8KB

### **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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Please wear closed toed shoes as you will be going into homes within the community. The picture below is from the registration. It was very well attended.



### **VE Schedule**

Official One of the longest continuous projects for the amateur radio community is the club's monthly Volunteer Examiner (VE) program. These sessions are held on the second Friday of each month at the Red Cross, lower level. Examinations are given for the Technician, General and Extra FCC Licenses to operate amateur radio stations. Testing starts at approximately at 6:30 PM. For further information visit our web site: [W8dc.org](http://W8dc.org).

### **The Red Cross**

#### **Our QTH**

For as long as I've known, GRARA and the Red Cross have been linked. The first time I took the General 13 WPM code exam, was at the Red-X, by a FCC examiner. That goes back a few years. I'm bring this up since on page 4, there is a list of opportunities volunteers have to help the Red Cross,

our Amateur community and our general community. Niki Salladay, of the Red Cross gave a presentation at one of our meetings, to let us know all the different opportunities that are available for the community to participate in. By helping the Red Cross out, you help our community and our Amateur Radio community. Volunteer today!

### **Field Day 2019**

It just seems like yesterday when we held Winter Field Day at the Radio Room. Now, we're about to plan and operate Field Day 2019. We'll be able to decide what we need and how many stations and what gear we'll use at the June's 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, club meetings. The 5<sup>th</sup> is our normal Board Meeting and the 7<sup>th</sup> is our normal Business meeting. We need to use this time well, it may be the last time we're together before FD starts. On page 5 you can use the link to find the information on the rules and regulations of Field Day.

### **Club news**

This year, we're holding our June club meeting at the normal location: The Red Cross. We'll still attend the I.R.A. Road Kill dinner on May 31<sup>th</sup>, Friday. But we won't hold our club meeting till the following week. The IRA Road Kill dinner and the following Swap that happens on June 1<sup>th</sup>, starts us off to all the fun events we'll have this summer. We have lots of opportunities for high way clean up, more Smoke Alarm installation and that will end with our swap.



# 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



# Field Day June 22-23, 2019

**Start: 1800 UTC Saturday**  
**End: 2059 UTC Sunday (see rules 3.1, 3.2, 3.3)**

*Always the fourth full weekend in June*

For information contact:

Field Day Information  
ARRL  
225 Main St.  
Newington, CT 06111  
fdinfo@arrl.org

(860) 594-0232

<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

# 2019 HUDSONVILLE IRA HAMFEST

Independent Repeater Association, Inc.

West Michigan's Largest Hamfest

**Saturday, June 1 ~ 8AM-Noon**

Tickets \$6 ~ 12 & Under Free  
Spacious Indoor & Trunk Sales  
Food & Drinks Available



**Hudsonville Fairgrounds**

5235 Park Avenue, Hudsonville

GPS: N42.8645 / W85.8763

**FREE PARKING!**

**MULTIPLE DOOR PRIZES!!**

**FRIDAY 6:30PM ~ Ray's Roadkill and Potluck Dinner**

Bring a dish to pass and join the fun after helping with setup. "Eyeball QSOs," entertainment, awards, and surprises. .

**FRIDAY NIGHT ~ Camping Available on the Grounds**

Showers & restrooms available. (Reservations on reverse.)



**SATURDAY 10AM ~ FREE VE Testing**

Questions? Email [hamfest@w8ira.org](mailto:hamfest@w8ira.org)

Talk-in on the IRA 147.16 repeater.

**PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE W8IRA/R  
LINKED REPEATER SYSTEM.**

Your financial assistance is required to maintain this system.

## TICKETS & RESERVATIONS

Complete this form and send with your payment and SASE to:

IRA  
PO Box 8122  
Kentwood, MI 49518

## QUESTIONS?

Email [hamfest@w8ira.org](mailto:hamfest@w8ira.org)

~ or call ~

Kathy KB8KZH 616-541-4090  
(If no answer, leave message)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

|       |                          |   |         |   |          |
|-------|--------------------------|---|---------|---|----------|
| _____ | Tables                   | @ | \$10.00 | = | \$ _____ |
| _____ | Outside Trunk Space      | @ | \$ 5.00 | = | \$ _____ |
| _____ | Outside Electric Hookup  | @ | \$ 5.00 | = | \$ _____ |
| _____ | Campsites                | @ | \$20.00 | = | \$ _____ |
| _____ | Campsite Electric Hookup | @ | \$ 5.00 | = | \$ _____ |
| _____ | Tickets                  | @ | \$ 6.00 | = | \$ _____ |

Donation to IRA \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Thanks for your support!*

**PayPal**

PayPal Email:

[treasurer@w8ira.org](mailto:treasurer@w8ira.org)



## Hamvention 2019

Once, every spring, we hams mosey down to Ohio to attend the World's Largest Ham swap-display event. " DAYTON 2019".

They've changed the name and location where they have it, but it is still the most talked about event we hams look forward to.



Above, Dave Devos, KF8QL, answers questions from folks who were interested in his "Rover" vehicle. Not bad considering he is

recuperating from replacement surgery.



Above, Ron "The Fusion Man" Karger AB8DT, has his flea market set up, all ready for the first customers of the day.

If you haven't attended Hamvention, one should always make at least one trip to experience the event. They hold seminars, talks from federal agencies, ARRL discussions and many more Ham Radio events. Of course, the main attraction is viewing what the equipment manufacturers are putting on display. There's nothing like asking a representative what's new from Icom, Kenwood, Yaesu, and this year, from Health=Kit. Yes, they're back. So start planning now for next year's Hamvention.

Thanks to KC8DWR Anna Kamphaus for the photo of Dave and Ron Karger AB8DT for his market photo.



# 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

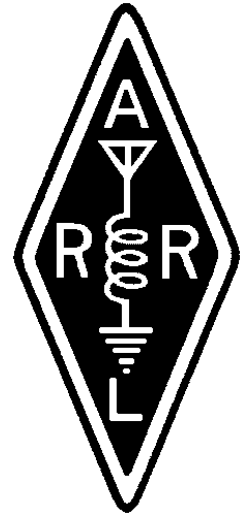
Make checks payable to:  
 G.R.A.R.A.

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)

|  |
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|  |
|  |
|  |
|  |

See other side for map & directions



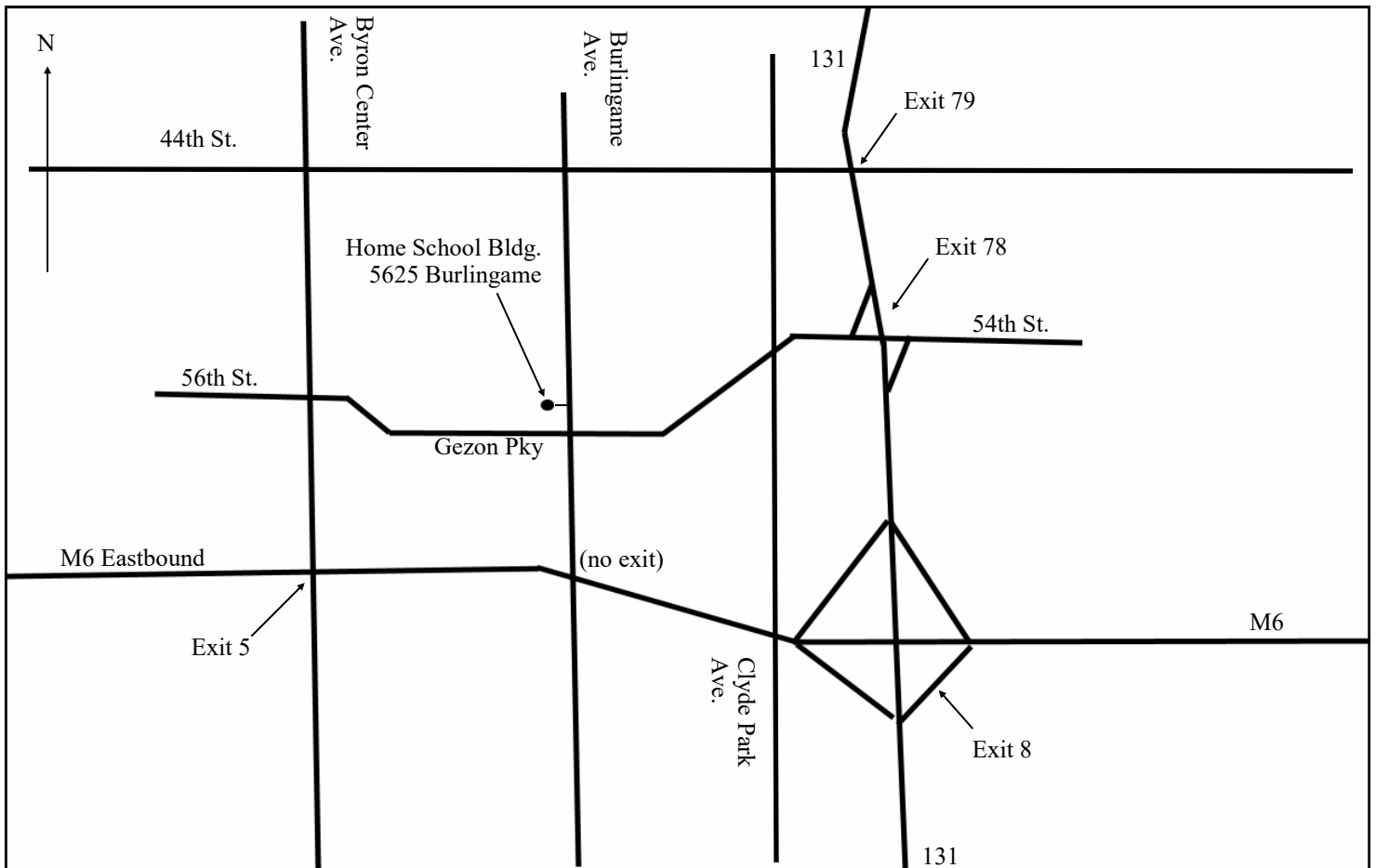
# GRAHamfest directions

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: \_\_\_\_\_