



QRM

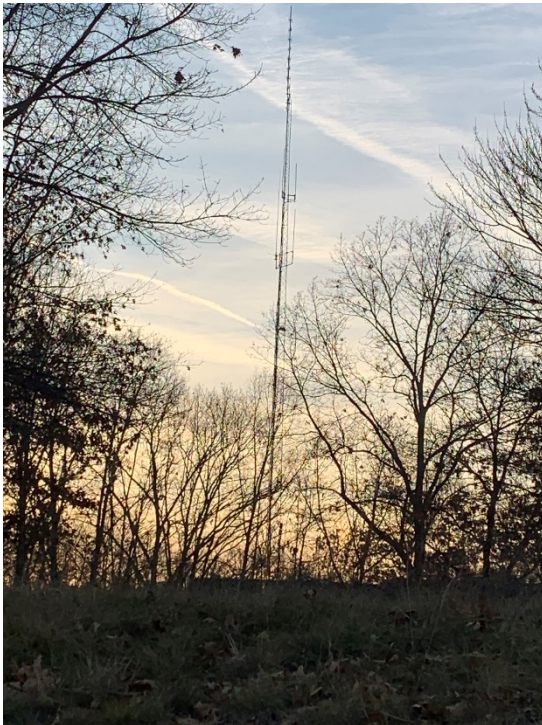
The Official Newsletter of GRARA
The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Volume 1 Winter 2021

Packet .070, Repeaters 146.760, 147.260, 440.400

2020

The one thing that has changed for us, is our move to a new location. No, not the building, the VHF 147.260 repeater transmitter.



Above is the photograph of our "New" Transmitter location and the antenna. We're at 5 mile RD and East belt line. While the range

seems to have increased, we're experiencing RF power level problems. When it first went on the air, the power was 8 watts. Later, it was up to 30 watts. The I.R.A. is letting us use a 60 to 70 watt linear. That should blanket the area we've had in the past.



Above, the repeater in its' cabinet. Thanks to Tom N8DGD for the photographs.

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. **2021**

GRARA Officers

President – Jim Hessler-K8JH

Vice-President – Greg Stoike-KN4CK

Secretary - Richard Ranta - K8JX

Treasurer –Dave De Vos- KF8QL

On Air Director –Tom Hansen- N8DGD

Off Air Director - Ron Fredricks - K8DMR

Red Cross Liaison – Joe Bell-WD8USA

Member at Large – Chris Longcore
KE8LQH

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.

HF Modulation & Propagation Webinar

Here is the link that GRARA (and IEEE) members can use to register for the free HF modulation and propagation webinar. That should get them an E-mail with the sign in link a day or two ahead of the 17th. Again it is listed as 12 noon central which would be 1 PM Eastern. A recording and the slides will be available afterwards for all registrants. It turns out the actual co-sponsor was not the Twin Cities IEEE Section but the New Jersey IEEE Section (I corrected the announcement). Regardless, the webinar originates at Rohde and Schwarz. The featured speaker is a ham.

Tom Hansen successfully registered already. I already registered last month using that same link. Several West MI IEEE members are also registered.

Ron
DMR

Direct Link:
https://webinars.on24.com/rohdeschwarzusa/introHFMTT?partnerref=na_m4c_inv1

A note about GRARA's meeting times and VE exams. Due to the nasty Virus that has blanketed our "world", we are only holding "Executive" and General meetings on ZOOM. We have no VE exams scheduled at this time.



GRARA volunteer David DeVos - KF8QL is shown assisting John Ball Zoo staff with installation of a new 40' tower to support the Motus wildlife tracking project. Directional YAGI antennas will be mounted on the tower to receive VHF/UHF tracking signals from special radio collars on migrating bird species. Ornithologists (bird experts) have a nation-wide network of these towers to study migration patterns of several species, and the John Ball Zoo staff approached GRARA looking for technical help to get in on the fun. Tom Bosscher - K8TB, and Dave answered the call and provided technical assistance, along with practical advise on erecting the donated tower, and antennas. Antennas and receivers will be connected in the Spring, and the system will be operational. See [Motus Wildlife Tracking System](#) for more information.



Events February 2020 for the WM Amateur Radio community

Email information to ny8d@arrl.net by the 25th of the month

YOUR WB / FB PAGES during these uncertain times, actually, DO IT ALL TIMES.

Check with Web or Facebook pages for updated information. Web and FB page links listed below.

MAJOR AREA EVENTS AT PRESS TIME

2021 Basic NWS SKYWARN Spotter Training

From Tom Behler KB8TYJ

Hello again, everyone.

I have been corresponding with Ernie Ostuno, and Jim Maczko from the Grand Rapids NWS office regarding Basic SKYWARN Spotter Training opportunities for 2021.

My understanding is that, at this point, due to the Covid 19 situation, and to resource shortages, The NWS is not planning to offer "in person" Basic SKYWARN training for at least the next few months.

Ernie Ostuno did tell me, though, that he will talk with Jim Maczko about doing something virtual, and will let me know of any details if they become available.

I'll try to follow up from this end as well as we get closer to when basic spotter training programs typically are offered.

In the meantime, there are online SKYWARN and severe weather spotter training classes you can take advantage of, which I would encourage you to do if interested.

One possibility is the IS271 Severe Weather Basics course offered by the FEMA independent study program <http://www.training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

In addition, the Comet program out at the National Center For Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO, has a number of very good severe weather spotter classes.

https://www.meted.ucar.edu/training_course.php?id=23

If I remember correctly, the two most relevant courses are "Role Of The SKYWARN Spotter", and "Convective Weather Basics". I have taken these courses, and have found them to be quite valuable.

I'll provide updates on any future local "in person" SKYWARN training opportunities if I receive them, so please stay tuned to your e-mail for those details.

Thanks for your patience and understanding. Tom Behler KB8TYJ

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS needing AR volunteers

DIRTY 30 GRAVEL GRINDER, Saturday, March 27, Ionia County start-stop Saranac.

<https://dirtythirtygravelgrinder.com/>

Contact: Email n8mrc@yahoo.com
Cell 616-272-1341, leave message...

AMWAY RIVER BANK RUN,
Saturday, May 8, Grand Rapids.

<https://amwayriverbankrun.com/>

kcest_info@kcest.org

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

GRAND RAPIDS MUD RUN,
Saturday, August 28, Kentwood
<https://www.grandrapidsmudrun.com/>

kcest_info@kcest.org

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

NEW ADDITION: One net that has a pretty large following is the **Michigan One DMR net** held on the Michigan Talk Group 3126 at 8:30 pm each Monday. It has quite a few statewide and even out of state check in's with a core of West Michigan stations including two Net Controls from the Kalamazoo area. They have been averaging about 20-25 check-ins every Monday evening. Frequency would be local DMR repeaters supporting Brandmeister TGs or hotspots for those not close to a repeater.

73, Paul K8PD

Regional or national nets carried on the N8JPR 223.92+(94.8Hz) repeater.

Daily: The Nightcrawlers 220 Net, 1-2am hosted by the WM9W group in IL.

Sunday: The 220 at 2:20 Net, 3:20PM- 4:20PM, hosted by the WM9W group in IL.

Tuesday: Parker City IN 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the K5VOM group in IN.

Thursday: DFW 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the MJARS group in TX.

Friday: Oklahoma 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the W5CUE group in OK.

Saturday: The Original 220 Preservation Net, 9PM, hosted by the W9MW group in IL.

TNX to Greg KE8GC and Tom KB8TYJ for the 220 list.

List of **WEST MICHIGAN HAM NETS**

http://w8lrc.org/net_calendar/

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.

Want your NET listed here? Send me the information.

From Quin Schultze, K8QS

I launched a YouTube channel, "**Ham Radio Perspectives**," which addresses amateur radio culture and history as well as technology. You can access it at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3MJT8o8-XMxF8XROf7Q5GA/videos>

Videos already include:

A History of the Ham Shack

10 Ways the IC-7300 Has Impacted Ham Radio
A History of Ham Radio
Print Publications
The Worst HF Rigs of All Time
Ham Radio Pranks -- Part One
A History of Ham Rig Visual Design -- Military to Modern
Reviews have been very positive. Please take a look at some of the videos and post your comments on YouTube or send me a note directly.

73, Quin

2nd Hand Ham Shop, Saturdays, 8AM "until it ends". NOTE: the Facebook page indicates a change in hours, but none posted. Check before heading out.

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/>

<https://www.facebook.com/HamStersSomewhereInTime>

MONTHLY EVENTS

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

SATERN (Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network-W8SAT)
First Tuesday of the month, February 2 (time not given) Dickinson Park Facility, 1632 Linden Ave. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49507

MAP:

<https://goo.gl/maps/nZNZKYNysaQzdzaz5>

Contact Bob WX8BOB

dennis49544@gmail.com

<http://www.satern.org/> <http://eds-satern.sawmni.org/>

Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council (MAARC-W8ZHO).

Monthly meetings are on the first

Thursday of the month February 4, 7 PM. Held at the MAARC clubhouse, 2888 Scenic Drive on the east side of Scenic Drive. Look for our sign.

MAP:

<http://www.mapquest.com/maps/map.adp?address=2888%20Scenic%20Drive&city=Muskegon&state=MI&zipcode=49445&zoom=10>

<http://www.w8zho.com/>

[https://www.facebook.com/w8zho/146.94-\(94.8Hz\)](https://www.facebook.com/w8zho/146.94-(94.8Hz))

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association (GRARA-W8DC)

regular MONTHLY meeting, the first Friday, February 5, via ZOOM. Check with the GRARA Facebook page for ZOOM link.

Map:

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

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

[http://www.w8dc.org/147.26+\(94.8Hz\)](http://www.w8dc.org/147.26+(94.8Hz))

The Holland Amateur Radio

Club's monthly general membership meeting will be held Tuesday night, February 9, 7PM, on the air, 147.06+(94.8Hz) You don't have to be a club member to attend. All hams welcome to join in!

<http://www.hollandarc.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/233793361844/K8DAA>
147.06+(94.8Hz)

Allegan County Amateur Radio Club (ACARC-AC8RC)

monthly meeting second Tuesday, February 9, 7PM Plainwell Public Safety Complex, 119 Island Avenue, Plainwell, MI 49080.

The training room entrance is just North of the main entrance, towards the big doors used by the Fire trucks.

Map:

<https://goo.gl/maps/MrttWWZJc3B2>

<https://ac8rc.org/>

[https://www.facebook.com/ac8rc/147.24+\(94.8Hz\)](https://www.facebook.com/ac8rc/147.24+(94.8Hz))

Michigan Amateur Radio

Alliance (MARA-W8USA)

second Wednesday, February 10, meeting ON AIR, 7:30 PM. Currently, the MARA meetings at the Plainfield Township Fire Station Conference room have been canceled. Instead, the meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM on the 145.230-(94.8Hz) repeater. Meetings are held in Analog mode. Note, there is a "pre-net" held in C4FM digital at 7 PM. Please continue to check our website for further information.

<https://w8usa.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/MARAW8USA/>

VE TESTING. GRARA's testing for February is **canceled**.

Register on our website:

<http://w8dc.org/pages/exams.html>

We will provide a clip board and a pencil for the test. No exam fee,

**Laurel VEC. Email questions to
stprovost@provtechs.com**

***CANCELED* (Ham in a Day)**

class, Lowell, Saturday, February 13.

Next HIAD scheduled, Saturday, April 10 in Holland (info below) and Saturday, June 12 in Lowell.

Lowell Amateur Radio Club

monthly meeting, third Thursday, February 18, 6:30 PM social, 7PM meeting. All are welcome.

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

ALTERNATIVE ADDITION ZOOM meeting being arraigned for off-site participation.

Map:

<https://g.page/FROMlowell?share>

<http://www.w8lrc.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/w8lrc/>
145.27-(94.8Hz)

The Independent Repeater Association (IRA-W8IRA),

sponsor of the 147.16-(94.8Hz) link repeater system, monthly board meeting Wednesday, February 24, 6PM, on the IRA system or Russ's Restaurant in Wyoming DEPENDING ON THE HEALTH SITUATION. Russ's is located at 2340 28th St SW, Wyoming, MI 49519 Visitors, curious, etc. welcome.

Map:

<https://goo.gl/maps/PNnxmehUAFm>

Check with the website or Facebook for updates.

<http://w8ira.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1764710107178775/>

<mailto:info@w8ira.org>
147.16+(94.8Hz)

North Ottawa ARC NOARC-W8CSO

monthly meeting fourth

Thursday, ON-AIR 7PM

<http://www.w8cso.org/>

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

HIAD, Ham License in a Day ~

Saturday, April 10 This activity will be held following the requirements for the safety of all involved, including wearing masks, limiting class size, and social distancing:

"Ham in a Day" will be held at the Chick-Owa Sportsman's Club located at 9279 E. Ottogan Street (just west of Winding Creek) in Holland. This is an opportunity for anyone wishing to get their amateur radio technician license to study and take the exam all in one afternoon. Directed study starts at 1:00 and continues till 6:00, when the test will be given.

For registration and more information, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/holo-hiad-ve>. Cost for the Ham in a Day study session is \$25 (which includes the book Ham Radio by Bob Heil), but there is no cost for testing.

In addition to the Ham in a Day students, anyone can arrive at 6:00 and take the technician, general, or extra class exam at no cost. Also, anyone whose license is within 90 days of expiring can renew their license between 6:00 and the end of testing at no charge.

UP COMING HAMFESTS

ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database

<http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/search>

Check ARRL hamfest search and sponsor websites for any updates or cancellations before heading out

IRA Hudsonville Hamfest, Saturday, June 5

Location: Hudsonville Fairgrounds,
5235 Park Avenue, Hudsonville, MI
49426

Website: <http://w8ira.org/hudsonville-hamfest/>

Flier: <http://w8ira.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/IRA-Hamfest-2021-Full-Sheet.gif>

Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.16+(94.8)

Public Contact: Kathy KB8KZH, PO
Box 8122, Kentwood, MI 49518-8122

Phone: 616-541-4090 Email:
hamfest@w8ira.org

GRAHamfest 2021 (Grand Rapids Area Hamfest), Saturday, September 11

Website: <https://w8dc.org/>

Cadillac Hamfest, Saturday, September 18

Location: Cadillac Junior High School,
500 Chestnut Street, Cadillac, MI
49601

Website:
<https://www.wexaukeearc.org/>

Sponsor: Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.980 No Tone

Public Contact: Donald La Brenz WB8I,
5108 Sandy Run Road, Sears, MI
49679

Phone: 231-206-5691 Email:
dlabrenz@comcast.net

/

Kalamazoo Hamfest, Sunday, October 17

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.org/>
<https://www.facebook.com/kzoohamfest/>

email: ny8d@arrl.net

73 Jack NY8D

Weekly Radio Nets in West Michigan

Monday	12:00 IRA Michigan Noontime Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz) 7:30pm Holland ARC Net 147.06+(94.8Hz) 8:30PM Michigan One DMR Net Mi talk group 3126 local Brandmeister DMR repeater or hotspot 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
Wednesday	12:00 IRA Michigan Noontime Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz) 7:00PM (2 nd & 4 th) Riverside Radio Amateurs Net 444.725+(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 6:00PM IRA After Dinner Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) 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
Friday	3:00AM Insomniac Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) 12:00 IRA Michigan Noontime Net 147.16+ (94.8Hz) 7:00PM TGIF Net Holland ARC 146.06-(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, updated for February 2021
List of WEST MICHIGAN HAM NETS http://w8lrc.org/net_calendar/

Regional or national nets carried on the N8JPR 223.92+(94.8Hz) repeater.
Daily: The Nightcrawlers 220 Net, 1-2am hosted by the WM9W group in IL.
Sunday: The 220 at 2:20 Net, 3:20PM- 4:20PM, hosted by the WM9W group
Tuesday: Parker City IN 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the K5VOM group in IN
Thursday: DFW 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the MJARS group in TX.
Friday: Oklahoma 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the W5CUE group in OK.
Saturday: The Original 220 Preservation Net, 9PM, hosted by the W9MW group in IL.
TNX to Greg KE8GC and Tom KB8TYJ for the 220 list.

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: _____