



# QRM

The Official Newsletter of GRARA  
The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Volume 1 Winter 2022

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## Winter 2022 is here!

We're in for a busy winter. We have been invited by GVSU to hold our meetings, through the winter, at the Fred Keller Engineering Building in downtown GR. Please check back for further details. Below is a photograph of the newly formed W8GVU ARC.



Everyone loves a feast! Specially, during a cold winter night. Our first Business meeting, January 7<sup>th</sup>, will be our annual, winter banquet. While the club will provide the yummy meat, the rest of the participants are encouraged to bring what they want to share.

## And not forgotten..

We owe a thank you to all the members who stepped up and ran the club during these last 2 terrible years. We went through 2 presidents, Thom Durfee, KI8W, then Jim Hessler K8JH.

Vice President Jim Hessler K8JH, then Greg Stoike KN4CK as Vice President.

For Secretary, Greg Stoike KN8CK, then Richie Ranta K8JX.

Treasurer Dave DeVox KF8QL, for both years.

The rest of the Board comprised of, Mike McDonald AA8MG, Ron Fredricks K8DMR, Joe Bell WD8USA Chris Longcore KE8LQH Steve Provost AC8QE, Tom Hansen N8DGD and Webmaster Greg Stoike KN8CK. We owe these folks a Big Thank you for their tiredness efforts and determination. Thank You..

## 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.

### 2022 GRARA Officers

**President - Greg Stroke KN4CK**

**Vice-President -Steven Haueisen  
KD8MEY**

**Secretary – David Brettin KZ8SQL**

**Treasurer –David DeVos KF8QL**

**On Air Director –Jared Burgeon N8CZ**

**Off Air Director - Ron Fredricks  
K8DMR**

**Red Cross Liaison – Joe Bell WD8USA**

**Member at Large –Lisa Brettin W8LSA**

**Technical Director - Steve Provost -  
AC8QE**

**Webmaster – Greg Stroke KN4CK**

**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***

Richard Ranta K8JX  
812 Graceland NE  
Grand Rapids MI 49505  
616-361-5975

E-mail- **scooter1cat@comcast.net**

### ***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.

## Directions on getting to the GVSU DownTown building.

Good afternoon, here is some of the details to forward to the membership in terms of the logistics for the GRARA Oct. 1 meeting. Meeting will be in Kennedy Hall of Engineering room 124. Parking will be available in GVSU lots after 6:30 (parking enforcement ends then) Primary parking (closest to the meeting space) is in the Eberhard lot on Front St. Secondary parking lot is the Mount Vernon Lot south of the building. If using the Mt. Vernon lot, its encouraged to park on the northern most part to have a shorter walk. A parking map is available here:

<https://www.gvsu.edu/homepage/files/pdf/maps/robertc.pewgrandrapidscampus.pdf>

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Entrances to the building are on the north and west faces.

Let me know if you need any more details to share.

Cheers,

Justin

From the Outgoing President, Jim, K8JH:

## For the Record

To say the least, these past two years, 2020 & 2021, have been significantly more challenging for the club than we could have anticipated. Of course, Covid hit us in March of 2020, forcing us to be creative in meeting and conducting club business.

First, we met outdoors in the Red Cross parking lot and then in the Life EMS garage with masks and social distancing. We even did outdoor VE testing. Along the way, we tried Zoom, teleconferencing a few times with good success. In spite of Covid, we managed to hold a revised 2020 Swap & Shop. At the last minute, this was moved from our planned indoor venue to the Red Cross parking lot, but still managed to be a success.

In the meantime, the long-anticipated sale of the Red Cross grounds to Life EMS took place and presented some additional challenges, as they began remodeling the building and had to close the meeting rooms. Fortunately, our new landlords (Life EMS) were very accommodating and open to allow our continued presence in their building, after renovations are completed. We were able to use their garage for a while, but as the weather turned colder, we looked for a new, heated venue.

Another highlight of this period was a newfound relationship with GVSU and its radio club, W8GVU. Two hams with GVSU connections arranged for meeting spaces at the Kennedy Engineering Building in downtown GR. Since then, we have been developing a partnership relationship with the University. Along with us assisting in the re-establishment of their radio club, they have been providing meeting spaces and other support. Our club has assisted them with monetary donations and personnel to get W8GVU back on the air. My hope is that this relationship will continue and be mutually beneficial for years to come.

Probably the biggest disappointment was the cancellation of Field Day. We had developed big plans to hold the event on the Allendale GVSU campus. We had media attention lined up and were to be in the middle of campus, hoping to attract attention to ham radio and the GVSU radio club. It had potential to be the best Field Day ever. Regrettably, due to threatening weather, we were forced to cancel it all. It was quite a let-down.

Fortunately, we were able to hold our 2021 Swap as planned at the Home School Building in September of 2021. This proved to

be a success and was well received. We had somewhere around 250 in attendance.

At the Swap, we had the opportunity to sell many items donated to the club by the wife of long-time member, Bob Sheneman, K8EIO. Bob, who was a past-president and member for many years, passed away in May of 2021. In addition to the donation of Bob's ham equipment, we received items from the widow of another area ham, W8JAW. Earlier, we benefitted from the donation of Hank, N8XX's equipment, as well. With these 3 estates, we added several thousands to the treasury. I encouraged other hams to let their families know of their wishes for their ham equipment. Donating it to the club is always a good route to take.

I have a couple reasons for writing this article. One reason is to briefly document the club history of the last couple of remarkable years. The second is to thank the team of officers I have served with. They have been dedicated and hard-working, helping us navigate a barrage of challenges and moving targets. Thanks, as well, to the membership who stood together.

As I stand down as president, I hope to continue as an active member. Thank you all for your support. Best of luck to our new officers of 2022.

Best regards (73),  
Jim Hessler  
K8JH

## **The latest on the Life-EMS**

The meeting with EMS and Mike Neumann the IT guru went well Stephen, AC8QE and I met for an hour or so to discuss when the club can return to the old RC building's radio room- The projected return time is May, 2022. They have had supply problems and the construction has been delayed because of this.

We will enter through the door by the radio room and have access to it through that door.

Mike told us that they plan on doing very little in the radio room at present- They are using some fiber for their applications from the club.

We checked out the garage radio room enclosure, restored the heat in there and turned back on the MARS repeater. All except for that looked all OK-

EMS looks forward to having the club partner with them and is delighted to have the club present in the building.

Overall, a great meeting-

Respectfully Submitted, J Bell/  
Liaison to EMS/Red Cross

# 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](mailto:callsign@w8dc.org) email alias:  Yes  No

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_