



QRM

The Official Newsletter of GRARA
The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Volume 2 Spring 2022

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Spring 2022 is here!

Our cold, long drawn out winter is past us. (we hope!) We started out the season by attending the "New Hams Dinner". They've changed the name, but the event still serves us by getting us out of the house and among our Ham Friends. Below is Tom, K8TB who has helped keep the even going over the past 10 years or so.



Same restaurant, just different city. We picked Hudsonville, since it was located near the other clubs. It was well attended by many of our friends. Photo's on page 4.

In **2022** we also elected a new group of Hams into Grara's Board.

President: [Greg Stoike \(N8HR\)](#)

Vice President: [Steven Haeisen \(KD8MEY\)](#)

Secretary: [David Britten \(KZ8SQL\)](#)

Treasurer: [Dave De Vos \(KF8QL\)](#)

Liaison Director: [Joe Bell \(WD8USA\)](#)

Technical Director: [Stephen Provost \(AC8QE\)](#)

On Air Director: [Jared Bergeron \(N8CZ\)](#)

Off Air Director: [Madison Willemstein \(KE8ROZ\)](#)

Director at Large: [Lisa Britten \(W8LSA\)](#)

Trustee: [Tom Hansen \(N8DGD\)](#)

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-Madison Willemstein KE8RQZ

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- Editor@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.

GRARA Membership Survey Results - Spring 2022 by Lisa Britten W8LSA

Director-at-Large

With the COVID-19 pandemic beginning to wane and new opportunities for the club on the horizon, the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association executive board started the new year by considering the club's past, present, and future. Officers hoped that the membership could provide information around three questions (*How are we perceived as a club?*, *What do we offer to the membership?*, and *What do we want to become?*) in order to help the executive board develop a vision for club activities and assist with long-term planning.

To that end, a Google Forms survey was created and sent to all members in early February using the *groups.io* email list. Members had several weeks to respond. By February 24, 16 members had completed the survey and two members sent additional feedback via email.

The first survey question asked members what they wanted GRARA to prioritize in 2022. Overwhelmingly, the survey results suggested that the membership is highly interested in events that connect the club with the community. 75% of respondents wanted GRARA to prioritize **communication**-oriented events such as public demonstrations and other forms of outreach that provide opportunities for club members to educate the general public about what amateur radio is and can be.

In second place was **stewardship**, including the development, care, and maintenance of club assets and equipment. At the forefront of many members' minds is outfitting the new radio room over the summer, as well as upgrading and maintaining other club equipment.

There was a three-way tie for third place between **service**, **education**, and

mentorship. On an equal level, members want to see GRARA actively volunteering in the community, helping members to advance their knowledge around various aspects of the hobby, and mentoring young people (e.g. Scouts, school clubs) and/or "new hams." To that end, the GRARA executive board is exploring ways that members can increase both their technical and operating skills in 2022, as well as passing along their own knowledge to others.

Rounding out the priorities list were **belonging**, **camaraderie**, and **teamwork and competition**. It is clear that GRARA members value activities that bring the membership together. In fact, 87.5% of the survey respondents ranked camaraderie – including on- and off-the-air social events – as one of their top four priorities.

When asked about their vision for the future of GRARA, many members expressed the desire to see the club continue to grow. Members envisioned this happening by reaching out to younger and newer hams, continuing to cultivate a strong partnership with W8GVU, and by being more visible in the Grand Rapids area by participating in community events. Members enthusiastically described their visions for the future of GRARA with language that captured the desire for the club to be welcoming, friendly, active, and technologically savvy. Among the comments included the desire for GRARA to become the "number one source of practical RF technology, education, fellowship, and service"; "a STEM club teaching radio to the next generation"; "a dynamic, welcoming organization"; "multifaceted"; and "a nice group of people who share the radio hobby and support each other in lifelong learning about amateur radio".

Members were also asked about the aspects of amateur radio that they are most interested in or passionate about, and the results were not surprising. The GRARA membership has VERY diverse interests. Out of the responses received, no two were exactly alike. This illustrates several things about our club: #1, that the hobby is extremely diverse and has a niche for everyone; #2, there are always new topics to learn about and explore; and #3, a major strength of this club is the diversity of interests and the knowledge base that the membership brings to the table. If there is something that a GRARA member wants to learn more about, chances are that there is another member who is knowledgeable in that area and is able to help guide them along.

The results of the survey were presented to the membership at the March 2022 business meeting, and it sparked a lively, hopeful, and energized conversation about possibilities for the future of GRARA, which was refreshing after enduring so many months of the pandemic. Interested members will be able to view the full survey results on <http://w8dc.org>. A second survey will be sent out to the membership in August 2022; nominations for 2023 Executive Board positions will also be taken at that time. Comments and inquiries regarding the survey, as well as other thoughts and feedback for the Executive Board, can be sent to the Director-at-Large at community@w8dc.org. Thank you for allowing me to represent your voices!

Did you know? GRARA is now on Twitter! Find us at @W8DC_GR.

Lisa is also starting another project by creating a **"Time-Line" of Grara's History.**

I am interested in adding a section about the history of GRARA to the club website. I am wondering if anyone has worked on a project like this in the past and if there is already anything out there that could be

used and built upon as needed. For example, maybe someone already created a timeline or typed up an account of the club's history, but it was never put online. In addition, I would love to have any pictures that would illustrate past club activities. You can send any documents or pictures to community@w8dc.org, or bring them to the next meeting. I have a scanner app on my iPhone that I can use to make copies, so you wouldn't have to give me any physical documents. If you don't have any documents or pictures, but have some ideas about where I could find information to work on a club history, that would be helpful, too. Thanks in advance

Photographs from the "New Hams Dinner". Thanks Chris KE8LQH



Events for April 2022

The FCC has now posted the date upon which the licensing fees will begin to be implemented. That date is April 19, 2022. In other words, get your licenses upgraded and any updates submitted before then! Do you need to upgrade your license? See VE exam listings in monthly events below.

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/effective-date-wireless-application-fee-rates>

<http://www.arrl.org/news/new-amateur-radio-license-applications-fee-to-become-effective-april-19-2022>

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

It's that time of year again. Time to start recruiting for the **2022 River Bank Run**. The Main Event Which is on May 14th from 6AM - 1PM with varying end times. We will also have a RBR Pre-Meeting on Friday May 13th at KCSD 701 Ball Ave from 6:30PM - 8:30PM. (We need about 80-85 People to help with the main event in various positions). Sign up at: <https://bit.ly/3txJ8Vl>

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! Please feel free to send this to any hams you think may be interested in assisting with this event. Thank You, Karl Palma www.kcest.org

CW PRACTICE. Having settled on a good frequency, (146.480), I would like to invite you to join us Thursday evenings, 8PM for a little fun with FM Simplex. If you have an oscillator, we can practice some CW on 2m, or if you want to test your radio for Simplex operation, we got that too. 73, Greg, KE8GC

The **West Michigan Technical Group** Thursday Night dinner 6pm. Check Facebook page for current location.

West Michigan Technical Group is a group of "Hams" that support the West Michigan Amateur Radio community with reliable and open communication systems. <https://www.wmtg.me/> <https://www.facebook.com/wmtgnet/>

LUNCH BUNCH FRIDAYS, Bob Evans Restaurant, 6565 Kalamazoo Ave SE just south of M-6 expressway exit 11.

<https://www.bobevans.com/locations/caledonia>

Lunch Bunch is 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. Inquires to Jack ny8d@arrl.net Cell: 616-438-1464. Heck, just show up!

The following **Net chart created by Dave KF8QL, TNX!**

Monday

12:00 IRA MI Noontime Net 147.16+(94.8Hz)
5:30pm After School 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 MI Noontime Net 147.16+(94.8Hz)
7:00PM (2nd & 4th) Riverside Radio Amateurs Net 444.725+(94.8Hz)
8:00PM West MI Emergency Comm Net 145.27-(94.8Hz)
8:00PM Allegan 10 Meter NET 28.380
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
8:00PM Fun with simplex + CW practice. 146.48 Greg KE8GC

Friday

3:00AM Insomniac Net 147.16+(94.8Hz)
12:00 IRA MI Noontime Net 147.16+(94.8Hz)
7:00PM TGIF Net Holland ARC 146.06-(94.8Hz)
9:00PM Michigan VHF Traffic Net 147.16+(94.8Hz)

Saturday

8:00AM MARA 6 Meter AM Net 50.400 AM
6:00PM IRA After Dinner Net 147.16+(94.8Hz)

Sunday

8:30PM Sidewinders Around MI Net 144.155USB
4:00PM 10 Meter Ragchew Net 28.870USB
8:00PM WM Classic Six Meter AM Net 50.400AM

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.

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.

2nd Hand Ham Shop, Saturdays, 9AM until 12 Noon or until everyone is gone. Used equipment, parts (some that are hard to find) and eyeball rag chew with fellow enthusiasts. The shop is heated!

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/>

"As of Feb. 1st, 2022 I will be stepping aside, not out of the picture, and KC8USP, Robert will be the go to person regarding most of the decision making regarding any of the "2nd Hand Ham Shop's" operations.

Kim, N8KAL, will be Roberts backup go to person in his absence, Jeff, KD8HTX, and Tom, K8TB, will be bring up the rear, since they have the most on their plates, and not always available. They will be the go to team from now on and into the future.

'Thank You All' for your support up to this point in time. Please show the same support and respect to Robert, Kim, Jeff and Tom, as you would Me!!!!

I will be going into the shop once the weather becomes more tropical and less arctic like!!!!

73 de KD8DEG Tom, QRP"

kd8deg@centurytel.net (616)292-3335

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association (GRARA) Our next meeting, first Friday, May 6th. CURRENT MEETING LOCATION: Grand Valley State University Downtown, Keller Engineering Building, room 124, 301 Fulton St W. MASK USE IS IN PLACE! Parking will be available in GVSU lots after 6:30 (parking enforcement ends then). Parking lot is the Mount Vernon Lot south of the building. Its encouraged to park on the northern most part to have a shorter walk. Entrance double doors on west face.

<https://www.gvsu.edu/homepage/files/pdf/maps/robertc.pewgrandrapids-campus.pdf>

<http://www.w8dc.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GRARA.W8DC/>

VE EXAM - GRAND RAPIDS, second Friday, May 13th, 6PM registration, 6:30 exam.

GRARA VE TESTING LOCATION UPDATE, GVSU, downtown campus, on the first floor of the engineering building. This is the same room we have been meeting in the past couple of months. Kennedy Hall of Engineering room 124. Testing will continue in this location until further notice - a least through the spring of 2022.

Before coming to the testing session we need you to complete two items, Obtaining an FRN and Filling out a Form. Details and registration at

MAP: <https://goo.gl/maps/1NSR5vPhSpGZDEfHA>

<https://www.gvsu.edu/homepage/files/pdf/maps/robertc.pewgrandrapids-campus.pdf>

<https://w8dc.org/license-testing/>

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

Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA-W8USA) meeting second Wednesday, April 13, 7:30 PM, Plainfield Township Fire Department Admin Building, 2nd Floor Conference Room, SW corner of 5 Mile and Plainfield.

Map: <http://w8usa.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Meetings.jpg>

<https://w8usa.org/interact/meetings/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MARAW8USA/> W8USA 145.230-(94.8Hz)

Lowell Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting, third Thursday, April 21, 6:30 PM social, 7PM meeting. All are welcome.

2022 Adopt-A-Highway Tuesday, April 26; rain date April 28. M57 and Northland Drive 5:30pm staging at the J&H Mobil station. Grand Rapids ARA in cooperation with the Red Cross and MDOT. Contact Tom N8DGD trustee@w8dc.org

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/hhjo1JkogmVqPpsAA>

The Independent Repeater Association (IRA-W8IRA), sponsor of the 147.16-(94.8Hz) link repeater system, monthly board meetings fourth Wednesday of the month, April 27, are now on ZOOM. Email info@w8ira.org

<http://w8ira.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1764710107178775/>

73 Jack NY8D

From Stephen AC8QE

The following is the results of the latest **VE Exam session**.

We added one Extra, four Generals, and eight Technicians to the local amateur radio community.

GRARA has a website at www.w8dc.org with resources for you to review.

We are glad to help you in anyway in your new hobby.

Stephen AC8QE

Bruce Dunlap KE8ULH Technician Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima Hotel

James Carlson KE8ULJ General Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima Juliett

Mark Foley KE8UEL General Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Echo Lima
Daniel Foley KE8ULK Technician Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima Kilo
Brian Meinecke KE8ULL General Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima Lima
William Krug KE8ULM Technician Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima Mike
Noah Marron KD9UUB Technician Kilo Delta Nine Uniform Uniform Bravo
Katherine Abernathy KE8ULN Technician Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima
November
Kaye Sumners KE8ULO Technician Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima Oscar
Timothy Ham KC8UXO General Kilo Charlie Eight Uniform Xray Oscar
Jonathan Reinbold KE8ULP Technician Kilo Echo Eight Uniform Lima Papa
George Ebeling KE8TXM Extra Kilo Echo Eight Tango Xray Mike

Congratulations. People. We at Grara will do everything we can to help you learn and enjoy our/your hobby.

To help you keep informed about our Hobby, and Grara, you can join our list server. Below is the information on how to join.

grara@grara.groups.io

This is the main email list server for the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association.

Group Information

- www.w8dc.org
- 72 Members
- 292 Topics, Last Post: Apr 11
- Started on 10/19/19
- [Feed](#)

Group Email Addresses

- Post: grara@grara.groups.io
- Subscribe: grara+subscribe@grara.groups.io
- Unsubscribe: grara+unsubscribe@grara.groups.io
- Group Owner: grara+owner@grara.groups.io
- Help: grara+help@grara.groups.io

Group Settings

- This is a subgroup of [main](#).
- All members can post to the group.
- Posts to this group do not require approval from the moderators.
- Messages are set to reply to group.
- Subscriptions to this group do not require approval from the moderators.
- Archive is visible to anyone.

- Wiki is visible to members only.
- Members can edit their messages.
- Members can set their subscriptions to no email.

GRARA Challenge April 2022

Chris Longcore, KE8LQH started this contest challenge a month ago. Below, you can see the smiling face of the first HF and VHF winner, Tom N8DGD.

VHF QRP 5 Watts or less. Any VHF Band. No repeater use.

Time Frame: First Saturday of April to the Third Saturday of April.

Goal: most contacts. Each Call Sign only counts once.

Note: Use QRP calling frequencies. Google for list of frequencies. Modes: FT8, CW and SSB.

Report: date, call sign and mode. Send email to longcore@aol.com.

HF QRP 5 watts or less. Any HF Band. Modes: FT8, CW and SSB.

Time Frame: First Saturday of April to the Third Saturday of April.

Goal: most Contacts. Each Call Sign only counts once. You may mix bands and modes.

Note: use QRP calling frequencies. Google for a list of frequencies.

Report: date, call sign and mode. Send email to longcore@aol.com.

Advice: There are YouTube videos on QRP operation. Patience is a virtue.

Feel free to consult with your fellow QRPers on the 147.260 repeater.

73 to all.



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: _____