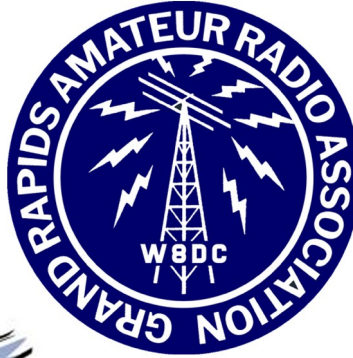
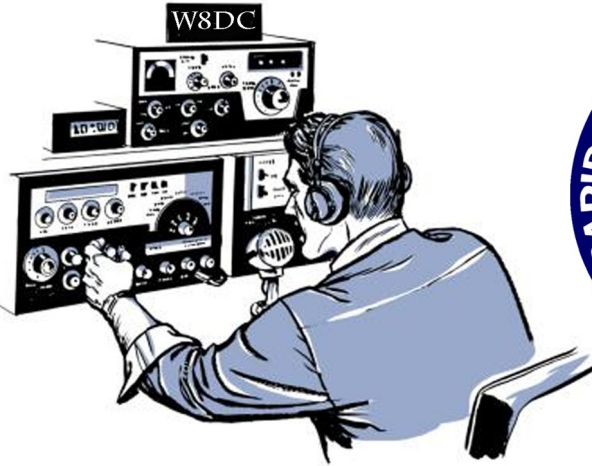


QRM

The Official Newsletter of

GRARA

The Grand Rapids
Amateur Radio
Association
WWW.W8DC.ORG



Winter 2026



Editor's Note:



Well, Not exactly how we planned this, but here is the Inaugural Edition of our newly revamped, QRM Newsletter. There were plans for a highly organized debut in the Spring with input and insights from various departments within our club, but there came a number of important events that would have passed by then.

In the future, look for various banners on these pages separating and highlighting important news and happenings in the GRARA world. We'll show you what

some of those graphics look like here, and if you can think of more we should add, please just let us know at editor@w8dc.org and we'll get right on it!

But in the meantime, here's your early peek at our New QRM, and after that... some very important events!

Bruce Jenvey

AA8YC



Incoming Message From Our President



VE Testing





Happenings

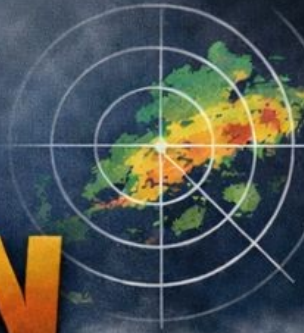


BE THE EYES ON THE STORM

Ottawa and Kent County

SKYWARN

Weather Spotter Training



Help protect your community by learning how to identify and report severe weather safely and accurately.

DATE:
FEBRUARY 19

TIME: Doors Open at 6:00 PM
Program Starts at 6:30 PM

LOCATION:
ALIVE CHURCH
263 Church Street
Jenison, MI 49428

WHAT IS SKYWARN?

A National Weather Service program training volunteers to report severe weather and help forecasters issue accurate warnings. Your report can make a difference.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

- First Responders
- Emergency Management
- Amateur Radio Operators
- Weather Enthusiasts

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN:

- Identify Severe Storms & Tornadoes
- Reporting & Safety Tips
- How to Be a Weather Spotter

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Alive Church

263 Church Street, Jenison, Mi 49428

https://ottawakent_skywarn2026.eventbrite.com/

If you are interested/involved in SkyWarn, you may also have an interest in learning more about the weather in general. There is a local chapter of both the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and the National Weather Association (NWA). This chapter, called the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the AMS and NWA, is open to not only professional meteorologists in the area, but also to anyone who has an interest in weather and would like to develop a relationship with those who have similar interests.

<https://sites.google.com/a/skywatch.org/swmi/Meetings?authuser=0>

Kreigh—KE8EAL





LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO YOUTH CLUB HAMFEST

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026, 9 AM to 12 NOON

WHERE: LOWELL HIGH SCHOOL

11700 VERGENNES ST

LOWELL, MICHIGAN 49331

ADMISSION: \$8.00 (Students K-12 free)

Website: <https://larc.club/>

Talk-in on the K8LOW Repeater: 147.370, + offset, 100.0 PL

Free VE Testing (All Classes) at 10:00 AM: Walk-ins Welcome

Tables: \$7 for one 5' table plus \$8 admission = \$15

Two 5' tables including admission for \$18

Contact Al Eckman to reserve table(s)

aeckman@lowellschools.com 616-450-4332



Al Eckman (WW8WW)

725 Bowes Rd Apt K6

Lowell, MI 49331

VENDOR SET-UP: 7 PM TO 9 PM ON FRIDAY, MARCH 20TH

and/or 7 AM TO 9 AM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21ST

\$100 CASH DOOR PRIZE, 50/50 RAFFLE TICKETS, CONCESSIONS ON SITE



Radio Events



By Jack Amelar - NY8D

Events for February 2026 for the WM Amateur Radio community

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

****WEBMASTERS and FACEBOOK PAGE Administrators, KEEP YOUR WEB / FB PAGES UPDATED!****

This information is disseminated with a STANDARD DISCLAIMER.

Permission is granted to re-distribute these contents in whole or part.

I CANNOT PROMOTE EVENTS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT!

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

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO YET, DO IT NOW:

****Go to this link: <https://send-a-letter.org/hoa/>**

****And turns out GMRS license holders, including EVERYONE in the household**

All the details are at this link <https://send-a-letter.org/gmrs>

****IT'S SO EASY A CAVEMAN CAN DO IT!****

Non-hams just fill out the form leaving the callsign field blank.

How about setting up a computer at your next club meeting?

IT'S EASY, DO IT! FREE THE ANTENNA.

ANOTHER CRAZY IDEA FOR THE ARRL

Article courtesy of <https://www.kb6nu.com/another-crazy-idea-for-the-arrl/> via the SMARS November "Feedback"

What if the ARRL morphed itself into the "national association for personal radio" and included advocacy for services like GRMS, FRS, MURS, and other "personal" radio services? I suppose that I should have done more research before posting this, but off the top, it seems like this might be a good thing for the ARRL to do. I just did a quick internet search for "GMRS national association," but while there were links to repeater directories and associations, I didn't find an actual organization like the ARRL.

There are hundreds of thousands of GMRS licensees in the U.S., and many radio amateurs also have GMRS licenses. I have one myself. And, GMRS licensees face many of the same issues—both technical and regulatory—as radio amateurs. Doesn't it make sense for the two

groups to unite? Together, we could be a stronger advocacy group than going it alone. The fight over the HOA bill might just be the impetus for this.

RADIO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

FCC §97.1(a): Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a VOLUNTARY NONCOMMERCIAL COMMUNICATION SERVICE, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.

DO YOUR PART, volunteer for at LEAST ONE EVENT this year. YOU CAN DO IT!

Saturday, February 21, BARA will be providing radio communications for the Winter Trail Fest, a race being held in the Yankee Springs area.

Contact Ron Yeo KC8SFQ kc8sfq@mei.net

Event website <https://triviumracing.com/event/wtfmi2022>

Plenty of opportunities as spring arrives. Stay tuned.

Interested in West Michigan weather? Are you also interested in radio communications? If so, you are welcome to join Kent County Skywarn to use your passion for weather and radio to serve our community!

Kent County Skywarn accepts both amateur radio and GMRS operators into membership to report ground truth weather data for our served agencies. If you would like more information on becoming a Skywarn team member, please email kentskywarn@gmail.com.

****SKYWARN TRAINING THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19. DETAILS BELOW****

NOARC Breakfast at Pine St Cafe, Saturdays, 7AM

401 Pine St, Ferrysburg, MI 49409

MAP: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Epx8wM67GrPS3gBG6>

<https://pinestreetcafemi.com/>

<https://w8cso.org/calendar/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/401316979888404/>

TI: W8CSO 145.49-(94.8Hz)

ND NOARC Breakfast at RUSS' RESTAURANT, Wednesdays at 7:30AM

1313 S Beacon Blvd, Grand Haven, MI 49417

<https://www.russrestaurants.com/>

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/3ywiPP9iBEgsQy7r9>

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

<https://w8cso.org/calendar/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/401316979888404/>

TI: W8CSO 145.49-(94.8Hz)

YouTube channel, "Ham Radio Perspectives," which addresses amateur radio culture and history as well as technology.

Quin Schultze (K8QS) has posted many new videos to his Ham Radio Perspectives YouTube channel.

Visit Quin's channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@HamRadioPerspectives/videos>

ATTENTION YLs! Yes, that's you, the female members of the ham radio community. You are invited to join our TASYL (The Auto State Young Ladies) group. The purpose of TASYLs is to promote fellowship among women who share the common bond of amateur radio. Membership is open to any YL, with or without a ham license. Our TASYL Net is Thursday mornings at 9:00 am on 3940 kHz. We discuss common interests, technical topics, and upcoming events and activities. You can learn more about our group at our website <http://tasyl.k8ch.net>. Hope to hear from you soon!

33 (The Sign Off for YL Hams Everywhere)

In-person meeting (eyeball QSO) usually takes place during the IRA Hamfest, Saturday, June 6.

GRARA W8DC OPEN RADIO ROOM, Sundays 4-7PM and Wednesday 5-8:30PM at the LIFE-EMS Education Center (former Red Cross) Building at 1050 Fuller Ave NE, GR, between the I-196 Ford Fwy and Leonard St.

There is a stairwell on the north side right next to our antenna tower, that is the entrance we use for the building. <https://w8dc.org/open-radio-room/>

<http://www.w8dc.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GRARA.W8DC/> https://x.com/W8DC_GR W8DC 147.26+ (94.8Hz)

Lowell Amateur Radio and Youth Club K8LOW Open shack Sunday evenings, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM except second Sunday monthly business meetings Click on the 'REPEATER' page at our website <https://larc.club/> NO OPEN RADIO ROOM on the 4th Sunday, monthly NET instead. 147.370+(100.0Hz)

<https://www.facebook.com/w8lrc>

CW PRACTICE. Having settled on a good frequency, (146.480 simplex), 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.

As many of you know, we are doing a Simplex net on Thursday nights at 8PM on 146.480. Many have expressed an interest in establishing a link of relays extending from west to east Michigan. The extremes of those stations extends from Muskegon to Jackson.

If any of you wish to join us as a link station, please let me know. Thanks!

73, Greg Conlon, KE8GC ke8gc.hamradio@gmail.com

We also do a GMRS net following the Simplex Net on Thursdays at 8:00PM using Rick Dykstra's (K8RT) repeater: 462.550+5MHz (141.3Hz) channel RPT15

FYI, GMRS frequency list, simplex and repeater, at <https://www.buytWowayradios.com/blog/2022/11/list-of-gmrs-frequencies-and-channels.html>

Amateur Extra Class licensing course

A free, weekly, live, Amateur Radio Extra Class Licensing course on Zoom will begin on Thursday, January 15, 2026, and will run through Thursday, March 26. There will be 11 sessions. The three-hour sessions will start at 6:30 PM Eastern Time and will also be recorded. These are the classes that we have been holding for years sponsored by the Amateur Radio Club of the National Electronics Museum.

Note: Attendees should hold (or be studying for) the General Class Amateur Radio License.

Please publicize this with anyone that you think would be interested. Those wishing to sign up should email roland.anders@comcast.net. 73, Rol Anders, K3RA

NEWS BROADCASTS on the IRA Link System 147.16

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE Tuesdays and Sundays at Noon

ARRL NEWS Thursdays and Saturdays at Noon

Coverage map with remote frequencies: <http://w8ira.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/largemap.jpg>

NEWS BROADCASTS on the Lowell System 145.27 WX8GRN

ARRL NEWS Saturdays 7AM & Sundays 7PM

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE Saturdays 7PM & Sundays 7AM

NEWS BROADCASTS on the Ottawa County W8CSO System 145.49

ARRL NEWS Fridays 8PM

AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE Saturdays 8PM

Other area repeaters carrying news, send me details to be included.

****MONTHLY EVENTS****

E.A.T. (Education And Training)

Tuesday, January 27, 2026, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

For the event location see the Herrick District Library website –
Events - Understanding Modern Electronics

<https://k8daa.groups.io/g/k8daa/viewevent?eventid=2906843>

Holland HAM IS FOR BREAKFAST!

Last Saturday of the month, January 31, Southside Inn, 192 W 35th St, Holland, 9:00am, Back Room - Reserved

Where the coffee is hot and I'm sure the conversation will be lively!

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/X8wwwZ4Q93pf9aVu7>

<https://southsideinnrestaurant.com/>

<http://www.k8daa.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233793361844/> K8DAA <https://www.facebook.com/HollandAmateurRadioClubK8DAA> K8DAA 147.06+(94.8Hz)

VE TESTING - Riverside Radio Amateurs of Saranac. First Mondays (xSeptember), February 2, 6PM. Lowell City Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell MI 49331 LAST BUILDING. All exam sessions conducted by Laurel VEC are free.

The FCC does charge a \$35 fee, payable to the FCC.

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sZocdoEzVqdu6QPn7>

Preregistration is required.

<https://www.wa8rra.org/upcoming-activities/ionia-county-races-ve-sessions/>

<http://wa8rra.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/Riverside.Radio.Amateurs> n8mrc@yahoo.com 616-272-1341

Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council meeting, normally first Thursday, February 5, 7PM, at the MAARC Clubhouse, 2888 N Scenic Drive, N Muskegon, MI

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/vgdyPEzqsZDewg7>

TI: W8ZHO 146.94-(94.8Hz)

http://www.w8zho.com/main/page_home.html

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/424216613247162>

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association (GRARA-W8DC) monthly meeting, first Friday, February 6, 6:30 PM social, 7PM meeting. GRARA MEETINGS MOVED!

GRARA Meeting Place Update:

The Community Center of the Cedarfield 55+ MHC at 3592 17 Mile Rd NE, Cedar Springs, until further notice.

Take 131 North to exit 104. Turn left at that light, cross over the freeway and pass the entrance to Meijers on your left. On the West side of Meijers, turn left onto Cedarfield Blvd. (There's a sizable, lit, brick entrance marker) and then, take the **first** turn to your right, up the hill and into the parking lot of our Community Center (The Blue Pin). There is plenty of parking on all three sides, and the front door will be open for you.

We have been given free use of this facility, for the first and second Friday of every month for as long as we need it.

MAP: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Lth6sSkmSmRd76mW7>

You can see pictures at www.cedarfieldcommunity.com

Bruce Jenvey, AA8YC

OPEN RADIO ROOM Sunday 4-7PM and Wednesday 5-8:30PM at the LIFE-EMS Education Center (former Red Cross) Building at 1050 Fuller Ave NE, GR, between the I-196 Ford Fwy and Leonard St.

There is a stairwell on the north side right next to our antenna tower, that is the entrance we use for the building. <https://w8dc.org/open-radio-room/>

<http://www.w8dc.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/GRARA.W8DC/> https://x.com/W8DC_GR W8DC 147.26+(94.8Hz)

Lowell Amateur Radio Club K8LOW Second Sunday monthly meeting, February 8, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM. K8LOW 147.37+(100Hz)

Meetings and shack are now at Lowell City Airport, 730 Lincoln Lake Ave, Lowell MI 49331 LAST BUILDING.

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/sZocdoEzVqdu6QPn7>

<https://larc.club/> <https://www.facebook.com/w8lrc>

Lowell Amateur Radio Club K8LOW Open shack Sunday evenings, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM except second Sunday monthly business meetings. Click on the 'REPEATER' page at our website <https://larc.club/> NO OPEN RADIO ROOM on the 4th Sunday, monthly NET instead.

Muskegon County Emergency Communication Services, Inc. M.C.E.C.S. general meeting Second Monday, February 9, 7PM, Muskegon County Complex, 1903 Marquette Avenue, Suite J (SW corner) Muskegon, MI 49442

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/SDkFkScKXYzRK5Rd9>

k8wnj@arrl.net <http://mcecs.net/> <https://www.facebook.com/MCECS> K8WJN 146.82-(94.8Hz)

Holland Amateur Radio Club Meeting ~ Second Tuesday, February 10, 7PM.

Herrick District Library, 300 S River Ave, Holland.

MAP: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/EdwsBo74AZcrVeej8>

You don't have to be a club member or a licensed operator to attend – all hams and everyone interested in amateur radio are welcome to join us!

<http://www.k8daa.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233793361844/>

K8DAA 147.06+(94.8Hz)

Michigan Amateur Radio Alliance (MARA-W8USA) meeting second Tuesday, February 10, 7:30PM. Plainfield Fire Department Training Center, 5 Mile & Plainfield NE, Grand Rapids. ZOOM info contact Corey KED8SZZ@ARRL.NET

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

<https://w8usa.org> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/MARAW8USA/> W8USA/R 145.23-(94.8Hz)

Allegan County Amateur Radio Club (ACARC-AC8RC) meeting second Tuesday, February 10, 7PM, at the PLAINWELL PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, 119 Island Ave, Plainwell, MI 49080

MAP: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/yU8smfys45fokmEy6>

<https://ac8rc.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/ac8rc/> AC8RC/R 147.24+(94.8Hz)

VE EXAM - GRAND RAPIDS, second Friday, February 13, 6PM. Community Center of the Cedarfield 55+ MHC at 3592 - 17 Mile Rd NE, Cedar Springs, Michigan.

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Lth6sSkmSmRd76mW7>

Website: <https://w8dc.org/license-testing/> Contact: Stephen Provost AC8QE.stprovost@provtechs.com

Registration begins at 6:00pm and testing follows at 6:30pm. Laurel VEC, no exam fee, however, the FCC has imposed a \$35 fee. This fee will be paid to the FCC, not us. More info <https://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee>

Before coming to the testing session we need you to complete two items, Obtaining an FRN <https://apps.fcc.gov/coresWeb/publicHome.do> and filling out the exam form

BARA BREAKFAST, Second Saturday of each month, February 14, 8:00 AM at Curley Cone 12850 M-179, Wayland MI 49348. Phone number 269-792-6560. The restaurant is located about 250 yards east of the intersection of M-179 and Patterson Road. Anyone with an interest in amateur radio is invited to join us for breakfast.

We try to provide an accurate number of breakfast attendees to the restaurant management by noon on the day before the breakfast. bara_newsletter@yahoo.com

Map: <https://g.page/CurleyCone?share>

<https://k8bmi.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/244810886954700/>

K8BMI/R 442.725+(94.8Hz)

VE EXAM - MUSKEGON, Second Saturday, February 14, 10AM at the MAARC Clubhouse.

MAARC Provides regular testing the Second Saturday of every month. License exams start at 10AM at the Club House, 2888 Scenic Drive. You also need an ID, FRN #, and \$15 cash necessary for processing your license application. If Upgrading your license, please bring a copy of your current license.

MAP: <http://mapq.st/2Gq86zV>

http://www.w8zho.com/main/page_licensing.html W8ZHO/R 146.94-(94.8Hz)

Contact: ve@w8zho.com

Barry County ARA (BARA-K8BMI) meetings, third Tuesday, February 17, 7:00 PM with a 6:30 PM informal "Gathering Time". At the Barry County Emergency Operations Center (EOC), in the basement of the E911 Central Dispatch building at 2600 Nashville Rd, Hastings (next to Thornapple Manor). Facing the building, go to the door on the left. Press the doorbell button near the door and pull the door open when you hear a click. Use 146.56 MHz simplex for talk-in if you need directions.

ZOOM: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99628272112?pwd=amJhc2ZueHNhYW1EMmJEd3JsY25SZZ09#success>

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/jw8vkLmB7VGVqmr17>

<https://k8bmi.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/244810886954700/> K8BMI/R 442.725+(94.8Hz)

SKYWARN 2026, Thursday, February 19, Alive in Jenison Church

Storms! Storms! Storms! What is on the horizon?

This course covers the basics of being a SKYWARN Spotter. The goal of the course is to provide baseline training for all spotters through multiple modules covering the procedures for spotting (including communication and spotter report criteria) and safety considerations for all hazards.

NOAA's National Weather Service meteorologists across the country could use a hand — or more precisely extra eyes — to help them produce the most accurate weather information possible. If you are fascinated by weather, you have the opportunity to become a trained volunteer SKYWARN® storm spotter for your local weather forecast office.

Storm spotters provide valuable information on all types of weather hazards to meteorologists in their local National Weather Service forecast offices. Meteorologists use this information, especially when it comes to severe storms, to create a complete picture of area weather conditions.

The SKYWARN program helps improve the timeliness and accuracy of weather warnings. When coupled with Doppler radar imagery, satellite, and other data, reports from storm spotters help forecasters know exactly what is happening on the ground with rapidly developing storms.

“The more lead time we can provide with our warnings, the more time people have to take cover from life-threatening storms,” says Christopher Maier, who oversees the national SKYWARN program.

The Ottawa and Kent County SKYWARN groups are proud to once again offer this training to the residents of the counties surrounding the NWS office in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The SKYWARN training will be held at the Alive in Jenison Church, located at 263 Church Street, Jenison, MI 49428 on February 19, 2026, beginning at 6:30 pm. Lobby Doors will open at 6:00 PM. Please feel free to arrive early to take a look around and reserve your seats.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ottawakent-county-skywarn-training-2026-tickets-1981578728319?aff=oddtcreator>

LUNCH BUNCH THIRD FRIDAY February 20, RUSS' RESTAURANT.

Southeast Russ' Restaurant, 2750 28th St SE, GR, just West of Woodland Mall south side of 28th between McDonald's and Budget Car Rental.

MAP: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/RzD5vhQ7FsoZws18A>

11:30AM or whenever you get there, stay until you're ready to leave.

Lunch Bunch is open to all hams, aspiring hams, inquisitive non-hams, GMRS, CB, 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!

November 21 will be at Russ' until spring.

Questions? Jack ny8d@arrl.net 616-438-1464

E.A.T. (Education And Training)

4th Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

For the event location see the Herrick District Library website – Events - Understanding Modern Electronics

<https://k8daa.groups.io/g/k8daa/viewevent?eventid=2906843>

NORTH OTTAWA ARC (NOARC-W8CSO) meeting Last Thursdays, February 26, Ferrysburg City Hall, 17520 Ridge Ave, Spring Lake, MI 49456.

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/FzvFkWhbK8WcHLBB8>

<https://w8cso.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/401316979888404/>

TI: W8CSO 145.49-(94.8Hz)

Holland HAM IS FOR BREAKFAST!

Last Saturday of the month, February 28, Southside Inn, 192 W 35th St, Holland, 9:00am, Back Room - Reserved

Where the coffee is hot and I'm sure the conversation will be lively!

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/X8wwwZ4Q93pf9aVu7>

<https://southsideinnrestaurant.com/>

<http://www.k8daa.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/233793361844/> K8DAA <https://www.facebook.com/HollandAmateurRadioClubK8DAA> K8DAA 147.06+(94.8Hz)

VE Exam Holland - Our next test session is on Saturday, March 14 at 6:00pm at Chick-Owa Sportsmans Club.

<https://www.k8daa.org/your-license/register-for-a-holland-arc-ve-test-session/>

MAP: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/WNN3sU8KggakBoHcA>

Examinations will be held the second Saturday of March, April, June, August, November and December, beginning at 6:00pm.

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO YOUTH CLUB HAMFEST,
Saturday, March 21, 2026

Location: Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes St, Lowell, MI 49331

Website: <http://larc.club>

Sponsor: Lowell Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.370+(100.0Hz)

Public Contact: Al Eckman WW8WW, 725 Bowes Rd. Apt. K6
Lowell, MI 49331

Phone: 616-450-4332 Email: aeckman@lowellschools.com

VE Testing, Allegan County ARC, 4th Saturday odd months,
March 28, 9AM,

Martin Township Community Building on 998 Templeton Street,
Martin 49070

Pre-Registration Link (Recommended, Walk-ins welcome): <https://hamstudy.org/sessions/AC8RC/all>

Map: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/7C9gdu3FZiXmJsSq6>

AC8RC MINI-SWAP, Saturday, April 11, 2026

Location: Salem Township Hall, 3003 142nd Ave, Burnips, MI 49314

Website: <http://ac8rc.org>

Sponsor: AC8RC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.240+(94.8Hz)

Public Contact: John Hanse AC8HZ, 255 Jackson St. Allegan, MI 49010

Phone: 616-836-3737 Email: Johnh.hanse@gmail.com

The ARROW Communications Association and the Toledo Mobile Radio Association (TMRA) are proud to sponsor a motor coach trip to the Hamvention 2026 in Dayton, Ohio. This one-day trip leaves early in the morning on May 16, 2026 and returns the

same day after Hamvention closes for the day at 5:00 p.m. The bus has two pickup spots, in Ann Arbor and in Toledo (Rossford). Please join us!

*Tickets are \$95 per person January 1st 2026 – April 17th 2026

*\$110 per person April 18th 2026 – May 15th 2026

Please note that this does not include the Hamvention ticket, which you need to purchase separately.

To Register and see full Details visit: <https://w8rp.org/daytonbus2026/>

There are two pickup/drop off locations on May 16th, 2026

Ann Arbor – 601 W Stadium Blvd, Ann Arbor, MI – Departing 4:30 am

Toledo – 727 Lime City Rd. Rossford, OH – Departing 5:30 am

On board, you can stretch out, relax, take a nap, chat with other hams, and enjoy a light breakfast with coffee as the coach takes you directly to the country's largest amateur radio event! Thanks ARROW & TMRA.

IRA Hamfest, Saturday, June 6, 2026

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

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

Flier: <https://w8ira.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/IRA-Hamfest-2026-2-sided.pdf>

Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.16+(94.8Hz)

Public Contact: Tom Bosscher K8TB, 3148 Rosewood Hudsonville, MI 49426

Phone: 616-209-9296 Email: hamfest@w8ira.org

JUNE FIRST WEEKEND FORT CUSTER STATE PARK

You're invited to join us for the 2nd Annual Allegan County Amateur Radio Club Camping Trip!

We're excited to announce that our 2026 outing will take place the first weekend of June at Fort Custer State Park, near Battle Creek, Michigan.

This year, we'll be gathering around Campsite #5 — so when you make your reservation, try to select a site nearby if possible. It's a great opportunity to combine camping, radios, and plenty of fun with

meister DMR repeater or hotspot.

9:00PM Michigan VHF Traffic Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) W8IRA/R

Tuesday

11:00AM MARA Daily Net 444.45+(94.8Hz) or C4FM W8USA/R

12:NOON OCEC GMRS Filmore NET 462.625+(88.5Hz) WSKG976

7:00PM (2nd) Kent County Skywarn training net. K8SN/R 442.175+(103.5Hz),

WRVE804/R Moline GMRS 462.600+(94.8Hz).

7:00PM GRARA Net 147.26+(94.8Hz) W8DC/R

7:00PM Calhoun Co ARES Net 147.12+(186.2Hz) No Net on 3rd Tuesday WX8BTL/R

7:00PM NOARC West Michigan Connect digital Fusion Net 443.775+(94.8Hz) & Wires X room 21335 W8CSO/R

7:30PM BARA 6M NET 50.140USB x3rd Tue K8BMI

8:00PM NOARC Analog Net 145.49-(94.8Hz) W8CSO/R

8:30PM WM 6 Meter SSB Net 50.140 USB

Wednesday

3:00AM Insomniac Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) W8IRA/R

11:00AM MARA Daily Net 444.45+(94.8Hz) or C4FM W8USA/R

12:00 IRA MI Noontime Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) W8IRA/R

7:00PM W8ZHO Ham Radio Hour 146.94-(94.8Hz) W8ZHO/R

7:00PM (2nd & 4th) Riverside Radio Amateurs Net 444.725+(94.8Hz) WA8RRA/R

7:30PM BARA C4FM NET 442.725+ (1st round), 146.62-(2nd round) K8BMI/R

8:00PM West MI Emergency Communication Net K8SN Moline 442.175+(103.5Hz), Lakeview 442.075+(103.5Hz), W8CSO Grand Haven 145.49-(94.8Hz), K8DAA Holland 147.06+(94.8Hz), Echolink K8SN-R, AllStar node 29972 K8SN/R

8:00PM Allegan 10 Meter NET 28.380/USB

9:00PM Michigan VHF Traffic Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) W8IRA/R

Thursday

9:00AM Auto State YLs TASLYs Net 3940KHz/LSB

11:00AM MARA Daily Net 444.45+(94.8Hz) or C4FM W8USA/R

6:30PM SATERN Net 442.175+(103.5Hz) K8SN/R

7:30PM MARA Net 145.23-(94.8Hz) x3rd Thursday W8USA/R

7:30PM MARA Net 145.23 simplex 3rd Thursday

7:30PM BARA Multi-Band Analog NET 146.56 (1st round), 146.62-(94.8Hz) (2nd round) K8BMI/R

8:00PM Fun with simplex + CW practice. 146.48 + GMRS repeater checks 462.600+(94.8Hz) WRVE804/R. (Greg KE8GC)

8:00PM 6 Meter AM round table net 50.400/AM

Friday

11:00AM MARA Daily Net 444.45+(94.8Hz) or C4FM W8UAS/R

12:00 IRA MI Noontime Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) W8IRA/R

7:00PM TGIF Net Holland ARC 146.06-(94.8Hz) K8DAA/R FIRST FRIDAY ONLY

8:00PM GMRS Net 462.600+(94.8Hz) Moline WRVE804/R

9:00PM Michigan VHF Traffic Net 147.16+(94.8Hz) W8IRA/R

Saturday

8:00AM MARA 6 Meter AM Net 50.400/AM

Sunday

4:00PM 10 Meter Ragchew Net 28.870/USB

7:00PM Lowell ARC 4th Monday 147.37+(100Hz) K8LOW

7:00PM AUXCOMM Allegan County 147.24+(94.8Hz) AC8RC/R

8:00PM WM Classic Six Meter AM Net 50.400/AM

8:00PM ACARC Informal Net 147.24+(94.8Hz) AC8RC/R

8:30PM Sidewinders Around MI Net 144.155/USB

SATERN DIGITAL NET Wednesday at 8pm on BM 31269 with FSN room 43641 or EchoLink K8SN-L. All Hams are welcome to this national Net.

For more info contact Bob at dennis49544@gmail.com

Regional or national nets carried on the KD8MEY 224.92-(94.8Hz) and/or N8JPR 223.92-(94.8Hz) repeater.

TNX to Greg KE8GC, Tom KB8TYJ, Steven KD8MEY, and Glenn KA8DUX for the 220 list information.

Daily: The Nightcrawlers 220 Net, 1-2am hosted by the WM9W group in IL. (KD8MEY, N8JPR)

Sunday: The 220 at 2:20 Net, 3:20PM- 4:20PM, hosted by the WM9W group in IL. - (KD8MEY, N8JPR)

Monday - Friday The Morning Brew Net 7-9AM (Except Holidays) hosted by East Coast Reflector Group. KD8MEY

Tuesday Night Tech Net 8-10PM hosted by East Coast Reflector Group. (KD8MEY)

Tuesday: Parker City IN 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the K5VOM group in IN. (N8JPR)

Thursday: DFW 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the MJARS group in TX. (KD8MEY, N8JPR)

Friday: Nationwide 220 Net, 7PM - (N8JPR)

Friday: Oklahoma 220 Net, 9-10pm, hosted by the W5CUE group in OK. (KD8MEY, N8JPR)

Saturday: The Original 220 Preservation Net, 9PM, hosted by the W9MW group in IL. (KD8MEY, N8JPR)

Want your NET listed here? Send me the information!

List of WEST MICHIGAN HAM NETS

http://w8lrc.org/net_calendar/

AMATEUR RADIO PUBLIC SERVICE NETS throughout Michigan

<https://mi-arpsec.org/net/>

I CANNOT PROMOTE EVENTS I DON'T KNOW ABOUT!

If I missed something or there is something coming up of interest to the West Michigan Ham community, let me know by the 25th of the month,

email: ny8d@arrl.net 73 Jack NY8D

^v^v^v^v^v

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

THE WINTER VINTAGE ELECTRONICS EXPO, Saturday, January 31, 9:AM

Location: Oakland Expo Center, 2212 Mall Dr E, Waterford Township, MI 48328

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

Sponsor: Michigan Antique Radio Club

Public Contact: Mike Dale

Phone 734-439-0834 Email: mdale8@peoplepc.com

CHERRYLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB 52ND ANNUAL SWAP-N-SHOP, Saturday, February 7

Location: VFW Cherryland Post 2780, 3400 Veterans Dr, Traverse City, MI

Website: https://cherrylandarc.com/?page_id=56

Flier: <https://cherrylandarc.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/SWAP-FLYER-2026.pdf>

Talk-In: 146.86-(114.8Hz)

Public Contact: Joe Erlewein N8CN

Phone: 231.668.4223 Email: swap@cherrylandarc.com

LIVONIA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB ANNUAL SWAP & SHOP, Saturday, February 21

Location: Ward Church, Knox Hall, 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville, MI 48167

Website: <http://livoniaarc.com/larc-annual-swap-and-shop/>

Flier: <https://livoniaarc.com/wp-content/uploads/LARC-Swap-2025-Flier-Draft-Rev-9.pdf>

Sponsor: Livonia Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.350-(100Hz)

Public Contact: Michael Rudzki N8MR, PO Box 51532, Livonia, MI 48151

Phone: 734-648-6453 Email: k8uns@arrl.net swap@livoniaarc.com

LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest, Saturday, February 28

Location: LaPorte County Fairgrounds, 2581 State Road 2, LaPorte, IN

Website: <https://lpcarc.org/hamfest/index2026.html>

Flier: <https://lpcarc.org/hamfest/hamfest-2026-flyer.jpg>

Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.610-(131.8Hz)
Public Contact: Richard Oberle KC9DJP, 1978 E 500 S LaPorte, IN 46350
Phone: 219-448-0090 Email: cabinfeverhamfest@gmail.com

TOLEDO MOBILE RADIO ASSOCIATION HAMFEST AND COMPUTER FAIR, Sunday, March 15
Location: Owens Community College, 7315 Championship Drive, Perrysburg, OH 43551
Website: <https://w8hhf.org/hamfest/>
Sponsor: Toledo Mobile Radio Association
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.27-(103.5Hz)
Public Contact: Brian Harrington WD8MXR, 4463 Holly Hill Drive, Toledo, OH 43614
Phone: 419-385-5624 Email: wd8mxr@gmail.com

LOWELL AMATEUR RADIO YOUTH CLUB HAMFEST, Saturday, March 21
Location: Lowell High School, 11700 Vergennes St, Lowell, MI 49331
Website: <https://larc.club/hamfest/>
Sponsor: Lowell Amateur Radio Club
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.370+(100.0Hz)
Public Contact: Al Eckman WW8WW, 725 Bowes Rd. Apt. K6 Lowell, MI 49331
Phone: 616-450-4332 Email: aeckman@lowellschools.com

AC8RC MINI-SWAP, Saturday, April 11, 2026
Location: Salem Township Hall, 3003 142nd Ave, Burnips, MI 49314
Website: <http://ac8rc.org>
Sponsor: AC8RC

Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 147.240+(94.8Hz)
Public Contact: John Hanse AC8HZ, 255 Jackson St. Allegan, MI 49010
Phone: 616-836-3737 Email: Johnh.hanse@gmail.com

WEXAUKEE ARC SWAP & SHOP, Saturday, May 2
Location: Mackinaw Trail Middle School
8401 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601
Website: <http://wexaukeearc.org>
Sponsor: Wexaukee Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.980
Public Contact: Lyn Cryderman WA8UPB, 10440 South 11 1/4 Road Cadillac, MI 49601
Phone: 616-443-4733 Email: cryderman.lynn@gmail.com

CROSSROADS HAMFEST, Saturday, May 2
Location: Calhoun County Fairground, 720 Fair St, Marshall, MI 49068
Website: <http://www.w8df.com>
Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

Type: ARRL Hamfest
Talk-In: 146.660-(94.8 Hz)
Public Contact: Matt Woodman AD8KA, 26840 B-Drive South, Albion, MI 49224
Phone: 253-948-8794 Email: matthewfwoodman@gmail.com

Hamvention, Xenia/Dayton OH Fri-Sun May 15-17
<https://hamvention.org/>

IRA Hamfest, Saturday, June 6
Location: Hudsonville Fairgrounds, 5235 Park Ave, Hudsonville, MI 49426
Website: <https://w8ira.org/hudsonville-hamfest/>

Flier: <https://w8ira.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/IRA-Hamfest-2026-2-sided.pdf>

Sponsor: Independent Repeater Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.16+(94.8Hz)

Public Contact: Tom Bosscher K8TB, 3148 Rosewood Hudsonville, MI 49426

Phone: 616-209-9296 Email: hamfest@w8ira.org

AUBURN HAMFEST, Saturday, July 18

Location: Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum, 1600 Wayne Street, Auburn, IN 46706

Website: <http://w9ou.org>

Flier: <http://www.w9ou.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Screenshot-2026-01-01-085033-of-flyer.png>

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.015 with 141.3 tone

Public Contact: John Maag , KD9QDL

5501 Bear Creek Pass Auburn, IN 46706

Phone: 260-438-6588

Email: jdmaag6101@gmail.com

ELKHART EAST HAMFEST, Saturday, August 1

Location: Northern Indiana Event Center, 21565 Executive Pkwy, Elkhart, IN 46514

Website: <http://www.elkharthamfest.com>

Flier: <https://www.elkharteasthamfest.com/images/2026-EEHamfestFlier.pdf>

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 147.330+(131.8Hz)

Public Contact: Dewey Thrash K9DEW, 53464 Baywater Place Bristol, IN 46507

Phone: 574-370-2436 Email: elkharthamfest@gmail.com

GRAHAMFEST 2026, Saturday, September 12

More info as becomes available.

KALAMAZOO HAMFEST AND VINTAGE ELECTRONIC EXPO, Saturday, October 3

Location: Kalamazoo County Expo Center, 2900 Lake St, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

Website: <http://www.kalamazoohamfest.org/>

Sponsor: Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club, Southwest Michigan Amateur Radio Team, Vintage Electronics Expo

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: K8KZO 147.04+(94.8Hz)

Public Contact: Bryan Garfoot KC9RED, 6441 Angling Rd. Portage, MI 49024

Phone: 269-267-4429 Email: bryan.garfoot@gmail.com

This information is disseminated with a STANDARD DISCLAIMER.

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If I missed something or there is something coming up of interest to the West Michigan Ham community, let me know by the 25th of the month,

email: ny8d@arrrl.net

73 Jack NY8D

QRM is published quarterly and is the official Newsletter of the Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association. GRARA is an American Radio Relay League affiliated club. You may freely reprint any material in QRM, but please credit 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: Editor@W8DC.ORG

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QRM

The Official Newsletter of

GRARA

The

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