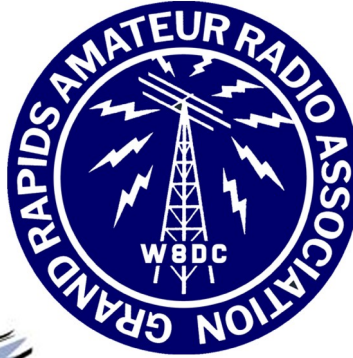


QRM

The Official Newsletter of GRARA



The Grand Rapids
Amateur Radio
Association
WWW.W8DC.ORG
*Vol 2 - 2026
Spring-ish*



Breaking News!



GRARA Returns Home To GR!

Contracts are still to be finalized and signed, but it appears all GRARA meetings will be returning to the city of Grand Rapids, possibly as soon as our April 3rd General Membership Meeting. Please keep an eye on our Club Web Page: WWW.W8DC.ORG as well as our Facebook Page as details develop.

While the entire GRARA Organization would like to thank the Cedarfield MHC out in Cedar Springs for the use of their beautiful facility these past few months, it will be good to be back home in the city again.



Editor's Note:



Well, this is it! The first FULL issue of the New QRM Newsletter! I hope you are enjoying it so far, lots more to come on the following pages, but if you have any comments or suggestions, you can always reach me through editor@W8DC.org and share your thoughts.

It's a new look and I can also promise you it's an evolving format. For instance, while we will publish no less than 4 issues per-year, they may not be exactly "on the quarter," as there may be need for an additional issue as news and events dictate. The important thing is that we get the information to you while you still have time to make plans, alter plans, reschedule vacations, cancel audiences with the Pope, or whatever else you have to do to attend these all-important Ham Radio Events.

That being said, we are going back to the old numbering system of "Vol#1, Vol#2, etc" for consecutive issues. This leaves us more flexible on the publishing timeline. You'll note this issue is labeled: "Vol#2 - 2026 Spring-ish." I plan on you hearing from us again well

before Field Day as those plans take shape... perhaps, "Summer-ish," but I don't know. Until then, enjoy!

Let me also remind you that there is NO Newsletter without you! If you go to a Radio Event, if you attend a swap, a breakfast, a Fox Hunt, whatever, pull out your phone and take some pictures. I said, TAKE PICTURES! Attach them to an email to us and just type up a paragraph or two about where you went, or what you did so we may share it right here in QRM. Whenever you do something the rest of us don't know about... it's NEWS! And we all do that every day. So, hope you enjoy QRM, and let's hear from you!



Bruce Jenvey - AA8YC



I Did It Myself!



K8JH Tower Trailer (aka Harbor Freight Trailer)

By Jim Hessler – K8JH

Since I enjoy chasing Maidenhead grids and doing grid activations on 6 meters, I have been dreaming of ways to put together a formidable portable grid rig. My idea was to have something I could camp in as well, as some of the Maidenhead grids out there are remote and rough. The attached pictures show what I came up with.

First, there is the Tacoma 4x4 truck camper. This is a wedge camper that is a variation on a rooftop tent. The truck houses all of the radio equipment, computers and batteries. Six-meter beams are stored on the camper roof. The tent doubles as a place to sleep. We can discuss the truck set up at another time, as I am focusing on the trailer in this article.

As the title suggests, this is a Harbor Freight 5'x10' trailer, assembled from a kit. It took me a week or so to put together. There were a million bolts and nuts, but things were designed well. I added the

railing kit and the wooden floor for a total trailer cost of about \$1,500. I added three large storage containers and bolted them to the trailer floor. The trailer allowed for additional storage of the antenna rotor, chairs, tables, additional gasoline and a canopy. The boxes house food, water, coax, generators, tarps, test equipment and other spare gear.

Central to the trailer tower is naturally the tower itself. Thanks to eBay, I acquired a used 32 ft. US Tower brand telescoping mast (\$700). It was in good condition, and I was able to adapt my Yaesu G800 rotor to slip into the top mast tube. This gave me another couple of feet of elevation, bringing my antenna height to a full 35 feet. I found a way to hinge the mast to the trailer base, enabling it to tilt over for travel. In the front of the trailer, I added a small boat winch to lift and lower the set up. When setting up, I install the rotor and





antenna while in the lowered, travel position, and then raise everything to vertical. Once vertical, I extend the mast and antenna to full height.

The included pictures are from grid EN67 on Brockway Mountain near Copper Harbor, MI, in August of 2025. With these you get a better idea of how it all goes together. The mast is not fully extended in these pictures due to high wind conditions at the time.

In June 2026 I am planning on grid activations in northern MN, ND, MT and WY. I will be taking this rig and be on 6m FT8 and other modes as needed. I hope I am able to work many of you grid chasers.

Best regards,
Jim Hessler - K8JH



GRARA

Membership Meeting

1st Friday Of Every Month

Gather at 6:30pm • Meeting starts at 7:00pm

Moving Back To Grand Rapids...SOON!
Watch W8DC.ORG and Facebook for the Details!





A Little More, I Did It Myself...

I came across this YouTube video on how to wire your car for ham radio operations:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjUqgOYqGAQ>

Should go great for your antenna article

Stephen Provost—AC8QE



The First ARRL America 250 W1AW/8 "Michigan" Event

From Fred Schebor (K8NGW), the "Michigan" ARRL America 250 Coordinator (fschebor@charter.net):



SUMMARY:

Duration: Feb 18-24, 2026

Number of Michigan Amateur participants submitting logs for coordi-



Have A Happy GRARRA Easter!

nated submission: 24 (Technician 1, General Class 3, and Amateur Extra 20).

Total On-the-Air time: 380 hours, Total QSO's: 8,390!
QSO's/band: 6m - 6, 10m - 420, 12m - 96, 15m - 703, 17m - 11, 20m - 3,009, 30m - 376, 40m - 2,479, 80m - 704, 160m - 86

QSO's/mode: CW - 1,978, Digital - 3,830, Phone - 2,582

The W1AW/8 "Michigan" Section's Event was very well organized by Fred and the ARRL, a lot of fun to participate in, and I'm hopeful that our Club Members find the results interesting.

I would strongly encourage our Club Members to participate in the second - and last - Michigan activation this fall, and help put W1AW/8 "Michigan" on the Air. If interested, please contact Fred - K8NGW.

73 es Good DX!

Submitted by Dennis Faist—K8YE



ARRL
The national association for
AMATEUR RADIO™



Happenings



Winter Field Day!

The ARRL Annual Winter Field Day event was held on the last full weekend in January, this year, on the 24/25, 2026.

While many intrepid radio enthusiasts ventured into the cold, cruel outdoors and operated from tents and trailers, our own GRARA Ops preferred the relatively cozy confines of the Club's Radio Room... But they had fun!



GRARA Goes To "Hamcation"

At Hamcation in Florida, I recorded an interesting video with "Salty" Walt, K4OGO, who authored the new ARRL book on building portable HF vertical antennas:

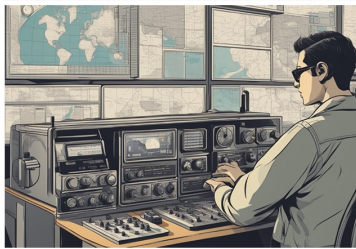
"Meet the King of Portable HF Vertical Antennas"

<https://youtu.be/P6aITPCZuoM>

On my YouTube channel, "Ham Radio Perspectives."

Quin Schultze - K8QS

GRARA Radio Room



Hours:
Wednesdays: 5-8pm
Sundays: 1-4pm

In the basement of the LIFE-EMS building,
1050 Fuller NE, just South of Leonard
Walk to the tower, descend the stairs, press the doorbell...

Ham Radio Perspectives



Kent/Ottawa Annual Skywarn Training

On the evening of February 19th, the combined Kent and Ottawa Counties held their annual Skywarn Training Session at the Alive Church in Jenison. A large crowd filled the main hall of the church and enjoyed an informative presentation by the National Weather Service/Grand Rapids on storm spotting and reporting procedures. Attendees had the opportunity to visit the booths and gain more

specific information on various groups and support organizations.

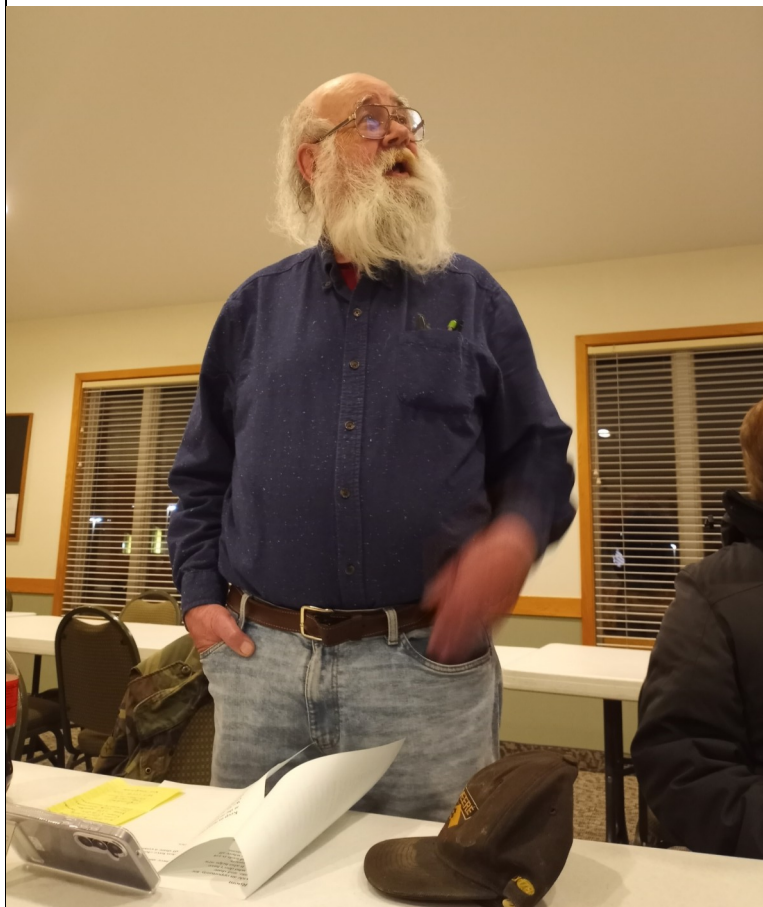
They also got the chance to mingle and meet such weather celebrities as Channel 8's Bill Steffen, Ellen Bacca and Matt Kirkwood, and Channel 13's Blake Hanson!

The entire evening was free unless you decided to purchase Bill Steffen's new book on Weather.



Monthly GRARA Meeting

Held the first Friday of every month, the GRARA General Membership Meeting is a time to chat with old friends, meet some new ones, and catch up on how our club is doing *and* what's happening in the world of Ham Radio. Every month we (try) to feature an informative guest speaker who starts the meeting with a presentation we hope is of interest to us all.



At our January meeting, we had a potluck Holiday Dinner with the main course, HAM, provided by GRARA. But for February, our own Chris Longcore took us on a virtual tour of the Club Ham Shack located in the Life EMS Building on Fuller just south of Leonard. It was



interesting to see exactly what equipment and capabilities we have there, and all at the disposal of our members. No room for a Shack at home? GRARA has got you covered!

For March, we had scheduled Collin McConkey, the head of Kent County Skywarn, and a leader at KCEST, the Kent County Emergency Services Team to give us the latest changes and capabilities in time for this year's Severe Weather Season. But wouldn't you know it, the night of the meeting we had an early season Tornado/Severe Thunderstorm outbreak and Collin was needed elsewhere until the All Clear was sounded. HOWEVER, we have been fortunate enough to reschedule this all important presentation for our April Meeting, on April 3rd. We gather at 6:30pm, presentations start at 7pm and the meeting itself starts by 7:20pm... or so. (And you can always attend by ZOOM!)



GRARA Repeaters

146.76-	94.8	Analog/Fusion
147.26+	94.8	Analog
444.40+	94.8	Analog





VE Testing



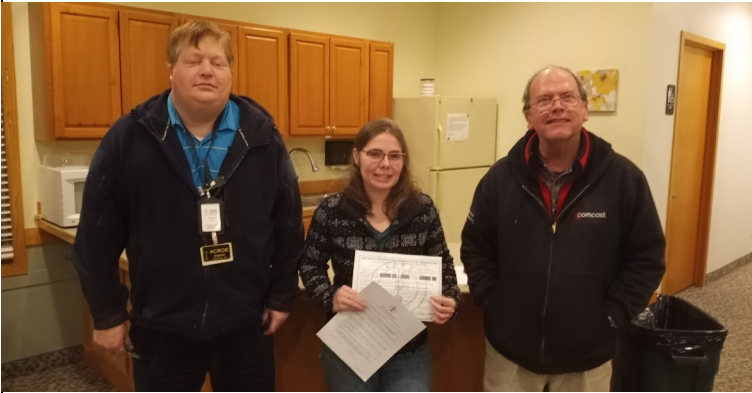
On Friday Feb 13th, GRARA provided a VE session. We had one test taker present who took all three VE exams. This person answered 120 exam questions filling out a bubble sheet for a total time of 1.5 hours. For this effort, the test taker left with all rights and privileges of the General license class.

On Friday March 13, GRARA hosted the monthly VE session in Cedar Springs. We had two test takers who took the Technician test and passed. Today the FCC email was sent to the test takers to pay the fee to get their call signs.

We congratulated and encouraged these people to use the GRARA resources to successfully enjoy this hobby

Our next VE session is scheduled for April 10th. We may be doing the testing at a new location. Go to <https://w8dc.org/license-testing/> for the latest information.

Stephen - AC8QE
VE Session Manager



VE Testing Sessions

2nd Friday Of Every Month



Moving Back To
Grand Rapids...SOON!
Watch W8DC.ORG and
Facebook for the
Details!

Doors Open At:

5:30pm



Next Month...



Looking ahead to our next issue, we'll take a look at Field Day, past and present! Yes, we know it is also known as the "World's Biggest BBQ," but it is so much more than just Burgers, Hot Dogs, and dicey Potato Salad. It really is, and was always meant to be, Amateur Radio's National Emergency Preparedness Drill.

In Case of Emergency, could you: collect radios, antennas, life-sustaining gear and shelter for several operators, and then transport it all to a place of relative safety, assembling it all and getting life-saving communications on the air... all with limited warning or maybe even... no power? Well, COULD YOU? Field Day is your chance to find out, and then work out the glitches if you fail.

It's a challenge, it's skill, it's public service at its finest, and the eats are pretty good, too! So next month, we'll look at Field Day, why we do it and *why not!*





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 March 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 MONTH'S RANT, some webpages and Facebook pages don't get updated because the administrator has gone AWOL and nobody else has access. The fix to this is to have more multiple administrators! 'Nuff said.

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.

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!

Radio Operators needed for the Dirty 30 Gravel Grinder bike race being held in Saranac, Michigan. Need ops stationed through out the race course, must have at least a dual band HT and/or dual band mobile preferred. Event is Saturday, April 11th 2026 Time TBO. If interested contact Michael Carigon, N8MRC 616-272-1341 or n8mrc@gmail.com

BARRY-ROUBAIX, Saturday, April 18. 18-mile EverSource "Chiller", 36-mile Autocam Medical "Thriller", 62-mile WAHOO

"Killer", and the 100-mile Panaracer "Psycho Killer". <https://barry-roubaix.com/>
Barry ARC K8BMI [k8bmi.org https://www.facebook.com/groups/244810886954700](https://www.facebook.com/groups/244810886954700) typically organizes the amateur radio support. No contact details as of press time.

AMWAY RIVER BANK RUN, Saturday, May 9

<https://amwayriverbankrun.com/>

Kent County EST typically organizes the amateur radio support. No contact information as of press time.

<https://www.kcest.org/> <https://www.facebook.com/>

KentCountySAR <https://www.facebook.com/41KCEST>

Plenty of volunteer 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.

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

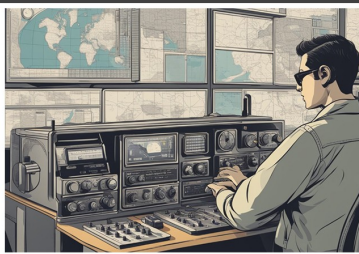


GRARA Repeaters

146.76- 94.8 Analog/Fusion
147.26+ 94.8 Analog
444.40+ 94.8 Analog



GRARA Radio Room



Hours:
Wednesdays: 5-8pm
Sundays: 1-4pm

In the basement of the LIFE-EMS building,
1050 Fuller NE, just South of Leonard

Walk to the tower, descend the stairs, press the doorbell...

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)

AND 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> Most recent "10 Ham Radio Absurdities - Humor for Hams" <https://youtu.be/tG0euI3qTCA?si=64EsnzGfj-UVLTK3>

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://tasy1.k8ch.net>. Hope to hear from you soon! 33 (The Sign Off for YL Hams Everywhere) In-person meeting (eyeball QSO) takes place during the IRA Hamfest, Saturday, June 6.

YL WWA is a contest on 7.188 starting 9:AM, March 9-15 if you

know any YL that would like to activate please share link with them to sign up.

<https://hamaward.cloud/wwayl>

Carolyn KC3VQP

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.

****NEW ADDITION**** Tuesdays beginning March 24, 4:PM to whenever +

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.buytwo-way-radios.com/blog/2022/11/list-of-gmrs-frequencies-and-channels.html>

NEWS BROADCASTS on the IRA Link System 147.16 AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE Thursdays and Sundays at Noon ARRL NEWS Tuesdays 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****

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

Map: <https://goo.gl/maps/vgdyPEzqsbszZDewg7>

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, March 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, March 8, 7:00 PM. K8LOW 147.37+(100Hz), GMRS repeater WSIJ327 462.625+(156.7Hz)

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.

****NEW ADDITION**** Tuesdays beginning March 24, 4:PM to whenever.

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, March 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> K8WJ 146.82-(94.8Hz)

Holland Amateur Radio Club Meeting ~ Second Tuesday, March 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, March 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> W8USA/R 145.23-(94.8Hz)

Allegan County Amateur Radio Club (ACARC-AC8RC) meeting second Tuesday, March 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 of every month, 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, March 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, March 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

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.

Barry County ARA (BARA-K8BMI) meetings, third Tuesday, March 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?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/99628272112?pwd=amJhc2ZueHNhYW1EMmJEd3JsY25SZz09#success)

[pwd=amJhc2ZueHNhYW1EMmJEd3JsY25SZz09#success](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)

LUNCH BUNCH THIRD FRIDAY, March 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.

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

SEE ATTACHED FLIER

E.A.T. (Education And Training)

4th Tuesday, March 26, 6:30pm to 8:30pm

For the event location see the Herrick District Library website <https://herrickdl.bibliocommons.com/v2/events>

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

NORTH OTTAWA ARC (NOARC-W8CSO) meeting Last Thursdays, March 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, March 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 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>

<https://www.ac8rc.org/license-testing/>

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

VE TESTING - Riverside Radio Amateurs of Saranac. First Mondays (xSeptember), April 6, 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

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,

Tuesday

11:00AM MARA Daily Net 444.45+(94.8Hz) or C4FM W8USA/R
12:00NOON 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), WX8GRN
145.27-(94.8Hz), W8MW 927.4875+(131.8Hz), W8CSO Grand Ha-
ven 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), 443.725+(94.8Hz) (3rd 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
7:00PM W8CSO SSTV Net 145.49-(94.8Hz)

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



Have A Happy GRARA Easter!

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-arpssc.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

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

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

SEE ATTACHED FLIER

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

SJCARC HAMFEST, Saturday, April 18

Location: St. Joseph County Fairgrounds, 316 E. Charlotte, Centreville, MI 49032

Sponsor: SJCMIARC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.310-(123.0Hz)

Public Contact: John Felcyn KC8AAF, 65793 Burr Oak Rd. Burr Oak, MI 49030

Phone: 269-353-7673 Email: fuseboxr@hotmail.com

WEXAUKEE ARC SWAP & SHOP, Saturday, May 2

Location: Mackinaw Trail Middle School

8401 Mackinaw Trail, Cadillac, MI 49601

Website: <http://wexaukeearc.org>

Flier: <https://wexaukeearc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/2026CadillacSwap.pdf>

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.lyn@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-(94.8Hz)

Public Contact: Matt Woodman AD8KA, 26840 B-Drive South, Albion, MI 49224one: 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->

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

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+(141.3Hz)

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-EEHamfestFlyer.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.

ADRIAN HAMFEST, Sunday, September 20

Location: Lenawee County Airport, 2651 W. Cadmus Rd, Adrian, MI 49221

Website: <https://w8tqe.com/hamfest.htm>

Flier: <https://w8tqe.com/pdfs/2026%20Hamfest%20Flier.pdf>

Sponsor: Adrian Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 145.37-(85.4Hz)

Public Contact: Mark Hinkleman NU8Z, 108 E. Kilbuck St, Tecumseh, MI 49286

Phone: 517-423-5906 Email: cqnu8z@gmail.com

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.

**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



QRM

The Official Newsletter of

GRARA

The

Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

Visit Us At:

WWW.W8DC.ORG

Or just search us on

Facebook!



President: Greg Stoike (N8HR)

Vice President: Ryan Deaton (N5RAD)

Secretary: Cathy Gillett (KF8BTN)

Treasurer: Dave De Vos (KF8QL)

Liaison Director: Tom Hansen (N8DGD)

Technical Director: Stephen Provost (AC8QE)

On Air Director: Chris Longcore (KE8LQH)

Off Air Director: Vacant

Director at Large: Bruce Jenvey (AA8YC)

Trustee: Tom Hansen (N8DGD)

Newsletter Editor: editor@w8dc.org

All Officers can be emailed via officers@w8dc.org

