

July 2009

Happy 4th of July and lets truly
remember what this day of
celebration is about.



The Standing Wave

The monthly newsletter of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette, Michigan. Comments and suggestions can be sent to the club at P.O. Box 1183, Marquette, Mi 49855 or to the editor at ki8af@arrl.net. Club info, membership, dues, etc can be found on our website at www.qsl.net/k8lod

MONTHLY MEETING: Marquette County Health Department Bldg., Lower Level, Negaunee Township.
Date: July 2nd, 2009
Time: 7:30 PM

CLUB OFFICERS, 2009

Pres. Lou Gembolis KG8NK
VP: Lane Dawson WD8PAJ
Sec. Sheree Gembolis KD8EDS
Tres. Lee Rowe KD8BJC
Board Members:
Past Pres. Paul Racine KB0P
EC Rich Schwenke N8GBA
Eric Pellinen N8TEV

STANDING WAVE

Editor, Greg KI8AF
Publishing, Lane WD8PAJ
Distribution, Greg KI8AF

REPEATERS

KG8YT, 147.270 / .870 with 100 Hz PL-Tone Marquette
K8LOD, 146.910 / .310 Ishp.
N8RRZ, 146.640 / .040 Gwinn
K8LOD-3.144.390 APRS Digi Mqt

WHAT'S NEXT FOR US

Marquette's 4th of July Parade
Contact: Dave KD8DRF, 249-5488
Ore To Shore Bike Epic
Contact: Rich N8GBA, 249-3837
International Lighthouse Event
Contact: Pete K8PT, 228-8436

Volunteering

We are all only too well aware that summers around this neck of the woods are extremely short and everyone attempts to get as much outside work and fun activities crammed into this short window of time. But what about those few local amateur radio operators that seem time after time to be the ones that volunteer with public service and club events. Do they have personal duties, obligations and activities to accomplish in the summer months? You bet they do! But they also find time to make amateur radio look better in the eyes of the local community and help out some when called upon.

Wouldn't it be great if each club member made the effort to assist in one or two public service or club events each year? Is that asking too much to help promote amateur radio and ~~our~~ your local club. I think not! I know some members have a pet club activity and that is great and their effort is greatly appreciated but what if they could donate three or four hours more from the many hours that exist in a calendar year. We'd be blessed with more than enough help. Boy would that ever be nice.

Think about it. Can you honestly say that giving three or four more hours will create turmoil for your summer plans? Check out the **What's Next For Us** column and give one of those members a call with your support.

Marquette's 4th July parade is scheduled for July 4th. The Ore To Shore will be happening on Saturday August 8th and the International Lighthouse Event weekend will be August 14th, 15th and 16th.

V.E. TESTING:

- 07/16 **Iron River:** 9:00am central time, at the Beef-A-Roo Restaurant in Iron River. NOTE: Pre-registration is required, contact Dan Waters, AA9GJ at 906 265-4240 or e-mail: dmwaters@ironriver.tv
- 09/12 **Marquette:** 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am) Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg, U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post. Contact Rich Schwenke, N8GBA at 906 249-3837 or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net
- 07/11 **Houghton:** 8:30am eastern time, V.E. Exams at Michigan Tech. University in Houghton, MI will be held in the ballroom of DHH (Douglass Houghton Hall at Michigan Tech). Free Parking in Lot #14, front of DHH, across from Wadsworth Residence Hall. Use door #9 on the South-East side of DHH. Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions
- 08/01 **Iron Mountain:** 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802
- 07/11 **Gladstone:** 9:00am arrival time with testing beginning at 9:00am, at the Gladstone Public Library. Contact Howard W8HSJ at (906) 428-9476 or w8hsj@dcars.org

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$15.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. *Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc.*

Birthday Wishes

The "Birthday Wishes" column is now back by request. If you notice an error or your birthday is missed please advise the editor. Birthday Wishes for the month of July go to: Jim WB8IEH, Art K8ET, Ralph N8HXG, Bob W8AXI, Bill N8NRG, Tom KC8OND, Terry N8TES, Norm KD8BPC and Dave KC8QZG.



PR.....Happenings

Our PR committee needs input from each of us if we expect them to do their part in getting the word out about our organization and amateur radio. Please contact a committee member well in advance of a happening. PR committee members are: Lee KD8BJC leerowe@charter.net or 346-9278, Lane WD8PAJ laned@chartermi.net or 486-8697.

GOVERNOR RECOGNIZES CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMATEUR RADIO ENTHUSIASTS

(Lansing, MI, June 11, 2009) -- Governor Jennifer Granholm has issued a proclamation recognizing the public service contributions of Michigan's Amateur Radio Operators, as they prepare for their annual emergency service exercise.

Amateur Radio (or "ham radio") operators from throughout Michigan will be joining Hams across the country and the state in showing off the latest in voice and digital communications, attempting to talk to people around the world and even using amateur satellites in an effort to demonstrate their unique dedication to public service during Amateur Radio Week, June 22 - 28. Michigan's local ham radio clubs will be out in their communities to raise awareness about Amateur Radio and preparing for the week's culminating event, an annual emergency preparedness exercise called "Field Day," which will be held June 27 and 28. Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio.

Field Day is designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the loss of commercial electricity. Most participants will set up their Field Day stations in parks, on town greens or even in shopping mall parking lots. The event is a serious test of skill, and a contest for fun, too. During the weekend, the radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, simulating the fast on-air skills needed to assist state, regional and local officials and served agencies during an emergency. More than 30,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country participated in last year's event, a far cry from the handful of hams that participated in the first Field Day back in 1933.

Today there are more than 650,000 Amateur Radio operators in the United States and more than 2.5 million worldwide. Information on how to become involved in Amateur Radio is available from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 or by calling 1-800-32-NEW HAM. The URL for the ARRL's home page on the World Wide Web is www.arrl.org.



On The Bands

Scientists Predict Solar Cycle 24 to Peak in 2013

At the annual Space Weather Workshop held in Boulder, CO in April, an international panel of experts led by NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center predicted that Solar Cycle 24 will peak in May 2013 with a maximum sunspot number of 90. If the prediction proves true, Solar Cycle 24 will be the weakest cycle since Solar Cycle 16, which peaked in 1928, and ninth weakest since the 1750's when numbered cycles began. The panel predicted that the lowest sunspot number between cycles – the solar minimum – occurred in December 2008, marking the end of Solar Cycle 23 and the start of Solar Cycle 24. If the prediction holds up, at 12 years and seven months Solar Cycle 23 will be the longest since 1823 and the third longest since 1755. Solar cycles span 11 years on average, from minimum to minimum. An unusually long, deep lull in sunspots led the panel to revise its 2007 prediction that the next cycle of solar storms would start in March 2008 and peak in late 2001 or mid-2012. The persistence of a quiet sun also led the panel to a consensus that Solar Cycle 24 will be what they called “moderately weak.”

HIAWATHA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the June 4, 2009, Meeting Negaunee, Michigan

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Lou, KG8NK, who announced the current officers will not be running for re-election in the fall.

Club officers present: President Lou, KG8NK; Vice President Lane, WD8PAJ; Secretary Sheree, KD8EDS; and Treasurer Lee, KD8BJC. Introductions followed with 22 members present.

Additions to the agenda were made as follows: Old Business - Simulated Space Shuttle Wrap Up; New Business - Testing, Repeater Interference, PRB-1 Resolution, Donation, Ore-to-Shore Bike Race; County Simulated Emergency Drill at the Airport, and Tabs for Tots. A motion was made by Rich, N8GBA, seconded by Norm, KD8BPC, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion passed without dissent.

A motion was made by Jim, W8QQE, seconded by Mike, KE8IL, to approve the May 7, 2009, meeting minutes. Motion passed without dissent.

Lee, KD8BJC, presented the treasurer's report and stated the club tower has been sold for \$500, a \$25 donation to the ARRL Scholarship Fund has been made in memory of Silent Key Graham, W8JOM, and the money market account has a balance of \$4,892.69. A motion was made by Norm, KD8BPC, seconded by Ralph, N8HXG, to approve the treasurer's report as printed. Motion passed without dissent.

Correspondence/mail: Sheree, KD8EDS, reported the club received information from the Michigan Amateur Youth Net which can be found on the 2-meter W8HVG Link Repeater System every Thursday night at 7 p.m.

Committee Reports:

APRS/Packet/Repeater - Paul, KB0P, reported APRS has been down since last fall; and there is a tree blocking the road which will need to be removed before access to the repeater can be gained. Rich, N8GBA, stated Fred, N8BTS, has been contacted and will schedule a time when he can replace the antenna on the 27 repeater.

ARES/RACES - Rich, N8GBA, and Lou, KG8NK, stated there is a district meeting on June 5 of emergency managers and coordinators. Grant money is available provided certain conditions are met.

PR - Lee, KD8BJC, stated an announcement of tonight's meeting and the upcoming testing were submitted to *The Mining Journal*, but she did not see them printed. Lane, WD8PAJ, reported radio stations WJPD and 102 have been running the announcements.

Tech - Paul, KB0P, reported he had the computer chips from the repeater controller reprogrammed and will replace them.

Field Day/Picnic - Lane, WD8PAJ, reported the Ishpeming Township Hall is booked for June 27 and 28. A discussion followed concerning other locations and interest in Field Day or a club picnic. There will be no club Field Day activities this year.

Simulated Space Shuttle Wrap Up - Greg, KI8AF, stated the students had a good time, and the project might occur one more year.

Testing - Rich, N8GBA, reported testing will be the second Saturday in June at 8 a.m.

Repeater Interference - A discussion followed regarding the repeater interference at the local level which has occurred sporadically over the last year and a half. Lou, KG8NK, noted two complaints have been filed with ARRL who will, if warranted, turn the matter over to the FCC. There are stiff fines involved for not following FCC regulations.

PRB-1 - Lou, KG8NK, distributed a copy of a proposed resolution from the ARRL supporting the Michigan Emergency Communications Preservation Act along with a request for a financial contribution. PRB-1 would put into Michigan law rules that would not preclude but reasonably accommodate amateur radio service communications in local zoning areas. A motion was made by Wayne, W9VKI, seconded by Norm, KD8BPC, to pass the resolution in support of PRB-1. Motion passed without dissent. A motion was made by Mike, KE8IL, seconded by Bill, KC8EWD, to send a \$50 donation to ARRL to aid in the support of PRB-1.

Donation - Mike, KE8IL, presented a donation of directional finders from Joe, KD8CXN. The club accepted the donation with appreciation.

Ore-to-Shore Bike Race - Rich, N8GBA, distributed a sign-up sheet for volunteers to work the bike race. Contact Rich, N8GBA, if you are able to help.

County Simulated Emergency Drill at the Airport - Rich, N8GBA, reported there will be a simulated emergency drill at the airport on June 27 and operators will be needed. It is expected several hundred people will participate including fire departments, ambulance, and Search and Rescue personnel.

Lou, KG8NK, reported there will be a state emergency drill on June 10. One was run last fall.

Tabs for Tots - Rich, N8GBA, explained the Tabs for Tots program whereby the metal tabs from cans are collected to raise money for the children's ward at Marquette General Hospital. Get the metal tabs to Rich, N8GBA, and he will turn them in. Thousands of dollars have been raised by this program for MGH.

Rich, N8GBA, is asking if anyone has a Tech book to loan; and the family of Silent Key Graham, W8JOM, donated log books to those that could use them.

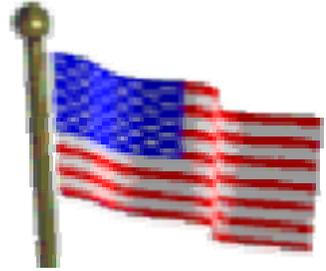
- The 50/50 drawing was won by Lane, WD8PAJ.
- Caps were won by Nicholas Francisco and Bill, KC8EWD.

A presentation on Jersey Island and the Isle of Man will be made by Pete, K8PT, after tonight's meeting. Jim, W8QQE, moved, seconded by Mike, KE8IL, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Motion passed without dissent.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheree, KD8EDS
Secretary

Compact Fluorescent Lights

United States Coast Guard
Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship
Marine Safety Alert 02-09
June 8, 2009
Washington, DC



Compact Fluorescent Lights

This Safety Alert serves to inform the maritime industry that energy saving Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFL) or lighting, sometimes known as radio frequency (RF) lighting devices may interfere with certain communications equipment. CFLs employ a RF lighting device to excite a gas inside a bulb in order to produce light.

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recognized the need for and adopted rules to control the harmful interference to radio communications services from these devices. During the rulemaking process the Coast Guard provided comments and recommended an advisory label for CFLs / RF lighting devices warning users about potential interference to communication services and particularly with respect to devices capable of producing emissions in the 0.45-30 MHz band. As a result, the FCC required manufacturers of CFLs to provide an advisory statement, either on the product packaging or with other user documentation, similar to the following: "This product may cause interference to radio communications and should not be installed near maritime safety communications equipment or other critical navigation or communication equipment operating between 0.45-30 MHz."

The Coast Guard has learned that CFLs have been installed on the navigation bridges of vessels and in other places capable of causing radio communications interference. Marine inspectors, vessel owners and operators ** should be aware of this potential safety hazard ** and take proper action as needed.

Below are examples of some compact fluorescent lights with different shapes and sizes.



This safety alert is provided for informational purposes only and does not relieve any domestic or international safety, operational or material requirement. Developed by the Office of Domestic Vessel Activities (CG-5431), United States Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC. Distributed by the Office of Investigations and Analysis: <http://marineinvestigations.us>

New Race Receive HAM Support

Four of HARA's members provided radio support for the Crossroads Challenge Race on Sat., June 6. A fundraiser for Crossroads Christian Academy, the race was held on the Blueberry Ridge Trails. Adam (KD8IAX) attends fifth grade at the school and his mother, Susan (KB8THA) is one of its teachers, so they were eager to respond when the call for volunteers was issued earlier this spring. With four radio operators needed, Eric (N8RRZ) and Jordan (KC8RSW) joined in to make it a family affair. The race included both 5K and 12K loops, plus a one mile fun run, which was a small enough area that race communications were conducted over simplex using a combination of handhelds and mobile rigs. Jordan had the cushy job at net control, manning the Yaesu mobile in the family van, complete with a roof mount, and he did a flawless job handling the bulk of the traffic. Adam, Eric and Susan were swatting mosquitoes at stations along the trail. For a brand new race, things went pretty smoothly with the exception of being plagued by dead batteries. The four-wheelers ferrying volunteers were out of juice so Eric and Susan had to hoof it the mile or so to their stations, and back out at the end. Good thing they like to walk! Then the battery powering Adam's rig petered out, forcing him to use the cell phone back-up. The lessons learned here were to have a spare battery in the car on standby and lots of insect repellent in the backpacks. Other than those minor annoyances, it was a beautiful day and a lot of fun putting radio skills to use. The race organizers and Susan were rookies to the job, so they benefited greatly from the experience and advice of the Smith trio, who are veterans of most HARA-supported races. Thanks go to Rich (N8GBA) for the loan of an extra battery and the official HARA vests, so we could promote the name and services of the club a little to a new crowd. Submitted by Susan Syria (KB8THA)

Alger Amateur Radio Club.....Needs your support

Our neighboring Alger Amateur Radio Club needs a bit of help, hopefully your help. Help from all of us. With very few dues paying members and the additional costs of supporting the linked repeater system they need some financial support. There is a second attached including with this months sending of the *Standing Wave* newsletter. It is an application for their club. Join as a "Support Member" or at least a Junior Support Member", it would be greatly appreciated.

And that's a wrap for another month. Please if you have an article or something which you may think will be of interest to the club membership get it to me. Also if you have any comments or suggestions please get a hold of me. 73 until next month, Greg KI8AF@arrl.net



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