Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette County
"ARRL Affiliated Since June 7, 1933"

MAY 2011

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. Box1183, 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: **May 5, 2011**
Time: **7:00 PM**

CLUB OFFICERS, 2011
Pres. Lou Gembolis KG8NK
VP: Lane Dawson WD8PAJ
Sec. Mike Beltz KD8JIR
Tres. Fred Mouser KD8JIP
Board Members:
Past Pres. Paul Racine KB0P
EC Rich Schwenke N8GBA
Eric Pellinen N8TEV

STANDING WAVE
Editor, Greg KI8AF
Publishing, LaneWD8PAJ
Distribution, Greg KI8AF

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

WHAT'S NEXT FOR US
Spotter Trainer May 5th at meeting
Field Day: June 25 – 26
July 4th Parade in Marquette

SKYWARN: What is it?

From:
Skywarn web page: http//skywarn.org/about

Editors Note: The following is a brief explanation of SKYWARN. On May 5th Our club will have the annual Skywarn spotter training. Our Meeting will be starting at 7:00 pm and the program will start at 7:30 pm.

The effects of severe weather are felt every year by many Americans. To obtain critical weather information, NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS), part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, established SKYWARN® with partner organizations. SKYWARN® is a volunteer program with nearly 290,000 trained severe weather spotters. These volunteers help keep their local communities safe by providing timely and accurate reports of severe weather to the National Weather Service.

Although SKYWARN® spotters provide essential information for all types of weather hazards, the main responsibility of a SKYWARN® spotter is to identify and describe severe local storms. In the average year, 10,000 severe thunderstorms, 5,000 floods and more than 1,000 tornadoes occur across the United States. These events threatened lives and property.

Since the program started in the 1970s, the information provided by SKYWARN® spotters, coupled with Doppler radar technology, improved satellite and other data, has enabled NWS to issue more timely and accurate warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms and flash floods.

SKYWARN® storm spotters are part of the ranks of citizens who form the Nation's first line of defense against severe weather. There can be no finer reward than to know that their efforts have given communities the precious gift of time–seconds and minutes that can help save lives.

Who is Eligible?

NWS encourages anyone with an interest in public service and access to communication, such HAM radio, to join the SKYWARN® program. Volunteers include police and fire personnel, dispatchers, EMS workers, public utility workers and other concerned private citizens. Individuals affiliated with hospitals, schools, churches, nursing homes or who have a responsibility for protecting others are also encouraged to become a spotter.

How Can I Get Involved?

NWS has 122 local Weather Forecast Offices, each with a Warning Coordination Meteorologist, who is responsible for administering the SKYWARN® program in their local area. Training is conducted at these local offices and covers:

- Basics of thunderstorm development
- Fundamentals of storm structure
- Identifying potential severe weather features
- Information to report
- How to report information
- Basic severe weather safety

Classes are free and typically are about two hours long. To find out when a SKYWARN® class will be conducted in local your area, contact your local Warning Coordination Meteorologist at: http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/contact.htm

SKYWARN is a concept developed in the late 1960s that was intended to promote a cooperative effort between the National Weather Service and communities. The emphasis of the effort is often focused on the storm spotter, an individual who takes a position near their community and reports wind gusts, hail size, rainfall, and cloud formations that could signal a developing tornado. Another part of SKYWARN is the receipt and effective distribution of National Weather Service information.

The organization of spotters and the distribution of warning information may lies with the National Weather Service or with an emergency management agency within the community. This agency could be a police or fire department, or often is an emergency management/service group (what people might still think of as civil defense groups). This varies across the country however, with local national weather service offices taking the lead in some locations, while emergency management takes the lead in other areas.

SKYWARN is not a club or organization, however, in some areas where Emergency Management programs do not perform the function, people have organized SKYWARN groups that work independent of a parent government agency and feed valuable information to the National Weather Service. While this provides the radar meteorologist with much needed input, the circuit is not complete if the information does not reach those who can activate sirens or local broadcast systems.

SKYWARN spotters are not by definition "Storm Chasers". While their functions and methods are similar, the spotter stays close to home and usually has ties to a local agency. Storm chasers often cover hundreds of miles a day. The term Storm Chaser covers a wide variety of people. Some are meteorologists doing specific research or are gathering basic information (like video) for training and comparison to radar data. Others chase storms to provide live information for the media, and others simply do it for the thrill.

Storm Spotting and Storm Chasing is dangerous and should not be done without proper training, experience and equipment.

The National Weather Service conducts spotter training classes across the United States, and your local National Weather Service office should be consulted as to when the next class will be held.

V.E. TESTING:

06/11 ***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 906 249-3837or e-mail: n8gba@chartermi.net**

07/09 ***Houghton***: 8:30am eastern time, V.E. Exams at Zion Lutheran Church in Hancock. 400 Ingot St. North on Hwy US 41 (Quincy Hill) near the Lookout turn left on Ingot. Go up about a block. The church is on the left hand side of the street. This is a barrier free entrance for the handicapped. Contact Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 or email to: wa8qnf@arrl.net if you have questions.

05/07 ***Iron Mountain***: 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library (conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD (906) 776-1553, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802

07/09 ***Gladstone***: Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Howard St. John (906) 428-9476Email: hsj99@charter.net VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave. Gladstone, MI 49837

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.*

HARA membership? New member or need to renew your membership? Dues can be mailed to the: Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 1183, Marquette, MI 49855. Dues annual rate structure: Single $15.00, Family $20.00, Associate $10.00, Family associate $15.00, Student $7.50. More information and an application form is available at http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/membership.html

Vacation Pictures

Greg, KI8AF is on vacation in Taiwan. He sent the pictures shown on the next page and added he is eating well! He noted they had to fly through Russian air space to fly into Japan and from there down to Taiwan.

The group picture is with his xyl and a group of hams from CTARL Taiwan. This particular evening Greg noted he was treated to a great meal and comradery with some of his friends from over there. He noted he will be working a bit on HF CW in the near future. Conditions are not the best for USA contacts but will get in a little air time anyway. Also doing a bit of Echolink but no particular schedule with it either and he is 12 hours different!

Illustration 1: Greg, KI8AF and the xyl along with a group of hams from CTARL Taiwan

Illustration 2: Greg, KI8AF : "Eating Well here in Taiwan!"

HIAWATHA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION
APRIL 2011 MINUTES

All Officers were present – President, Lou Gembolis KG8NK, Vice-Pres. Lane Dawson WD8PAJ, Secretary Mike Beltz KD8JIR, and Treasurer Fred Mouser KD8JIP

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Lou Gembolis KG8NK. A motion to approve the agenda by Norm Duman W8NWD and seconded by Bill Dowe KC8EWD. All approved the motion.

Introductions and Attendance: The Club had 19 members and 2 guests in attendance.

Secretary's Report – Mike KD8JIR submitted the March's meeting minutes and it was published in the Standing Wave. Members were asked if any changes were needed – Rich. Schwenke N8GBA noted that the Munising repeater was Alger County's amateur radio's not ours as indicated in the minutes. A motion to accept the Secretary's Report as published with the noted change made by Rich Schwenke N8GBA and seconded by Bill Dowe KC8EWD. The motion passed.

Treasurer's Report – Fred KD8JIP handed out the accounting for H.A.R.A. for March. Our Checking stood at $848.78 while our money market account was at $5339.02. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Bill Dowe KC8EWD and seconded by Norm Duman W8NWD. The motion passed.

Correspondence – We received a acknowledgement from the ARRL of our $25 contribution to the ARRL Foundation General Scholarship Fund in memory of Claire Easley.

Committee Reports –

Repeaters/Tech. – Rich N8GBA and Paul KB0P both stated everything is going well.

Ares/Races - Rich N8GBA stated nothing going yet. Maybe the 2nd week of May, we may be able to start training. Other counties are in various stages of progress.

PR – Again Lee Rowe KD8BJC has sent PR information to the Mining Journal, but no one has seen anything in print. Lane WD8PAJ stated the radio stations have announced information he gave them.

Old Business –

Dayton – Lane WD8PAJ has collected the money for the tickets.

New Business –

Field Day – Lou KG8NK asked about doing a field day – No interest this year.

Picnic – Rich N8GBA stated that maybe we should have a picnic somewhere, maybe AlQual.

Westwood H.S. – Rich N8GBA noted that last year the HARA was at the Westwood H.S. open house / Career day. There was interest last year, we should try to be there again this year.

Negaunee H.S. - Lane WD8PAJ mentioned that we should talk with students at Negaunee H.S. about Amateur Radio.

50/50 drawing – Congratulations to Pat Anderson AB8RE.

End of Meeting – A motion to conclude the meeting was made by Rich.Schwenke N8GBA and seconded by Bill Dowe KC8EWD. The motion was approved.

Post Meeting Program – Lou Gembolis KG8NK and Paul Racine KB0P presented a power point presentation on Operating HF and on HF Radio Wave Propagation. He also brought in a small HF radio and tuner.

Future Meeting Programs – May. Sky Warn training. The May business meeting will start at 7pm with the program immediately after (around 7:30). The program takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour.

Software Defined Radio – It's a whole new ballgame.

By: Ron Herring, W7HD

From :
SKP WAVE newsletter
Volume Sixteen, Number 2, May 2011

As the proud owner of a brand new Flex-1500 software-defined radio, I just had to pass on my initial experiences. First, this is a very small radio (4x6x2"). Light weight and low power consumption (less than 2A) combine to make it a great for field use with a net book. Only one USB connection is required to the computer, a microphone or key and an antenna plus a 12 v supply are all that is needed to get it on the air. At less than $700 it is certainly an affordable radio. (Thank goodness for tax refunds.)

This radio has so many features that it would be impossible just to list them all here. So we will concentrate on the outstanding features. That list is continually growing with each new release of PowerSDR software, free to download and use.

With 5 watts of output on all modes for 160M-6M this makes the perfect QRP rig. My very first contact with it was running 2 watts on 20M SSB to a station in Oklahoma from my home QTH in Tucson, AZ on an 80M full-sized loop up 35 feet. His comment - "your 2 watts is doing a great job."

I also purchased an amplifier to boost the 5W output up to as much as 150W. I suspect it won't a lot of use right away but wanted to be prepared for Field Day just in case.

One of my favorite features is the panoramic display. A 44KHz width means you can see any signals nearby. Point and Click tuning means rapid QSY to the desired signal. Another nice feature is the red line on the display showing the band edges as you approach them. No more excuses for operating out of band!

There are six frequency domain display types. Spectrum, Panadapter, Waterfall, Histogram, Panafall and Panascope, and three time domain display types, Scope, Phase and Phase II.

The waterfall display provides a scrolling view of activity within the receiver's passband. This makes tracking narrow band signals much easier and can even allow visualization of CW signals at slower speeds. Longer line is a dash, short line is a dot, no line is a pause.

Another nice feature is support for the virtual serial ports, virtual audio cables and more. These allow you to simulate interconnected sound cards for digital modes and CW operation. Just about everything concerning the radio is configurable, which is logical – after all it is software defined! Your digital mode software can even control the Flex-1500 as if it were a regular hardware radio with CAT control capabilities.

Built in test equipment, BNC antenna connectors, 3.5 mm phone jack (stereo with I/Q output), 3.5 mm keyer input for your favorite paddle, outputs for transverter operation, and a 9 pin DB9 connector with audio line in plus PTT round out the connections and features.

Flex Radio Users Net Schedule: Sundays @ 2 PM Eastern, 1 PM Central on 14.329 MHZ QRM.

Yes there are quiet a number of other software-defined radios out there and the pricing is all over the spectrum. Don't need a full-blown transceiver? You can pick up software defined receivers that are amazingly small. One even plugs into the USB port with an SMA antenna connector on the other end and is about the size of a USB WiFi adapter. This little jewel covers 0.5MHz to 1.2 GHz!

How hard is it to setup and operate? Simply pop the CD in and let it install the program. Connect the radio the the USB port, turn it on and let it install all needed drivers. Okay, now you've completed the setup! Start the PowerSDR software program, click on Start and you are on the air!

If you want an automatic antenna tuner to maximize the match to the antenna, any of the QRP tuners will be perfectly adequate and keep the costs down. I use the LDG auto tuners and also use a manual antenna tuner for the open wire feed line antennas.

I'm currently working on setting up the interface to provide a complete interface with my PropNet software for my automatically controlled digital station. Yes, I also operate CW with an external paddle.

It WILL take a while to get used to all the fantastic features in this program. You will be learning new things continually as you operate the radio. Future software updates will also add new features and modes at no additional cost. That's what software-defined means!!!

EMCOMM and You!

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.

Volunteering your time Counts!

Each month many members volunteer their time for club activities some of which might include repeater maintenance, ARES, EOC operations, Life Tracker, newsletter, PR, club business, etc. All these volunteered hours and mileage can be credited to HARA and amateur radio but only if you report them. AEC Dave Thomas KD8DRF reports these numbers monthly. So at the end of each month please contact Dave with services rendered, hours and mileage. Contact Dave at dlthomas@chartermi.net

Remember: The Meeting has an early start time this month: 7:00 PM so the Spotter Program can begin right after the business meeting!

ITU Phonetic Alphabet:

Word List adopted by the International Telecommunication Union:

A = Alpha	G=Golf	M=Mike	S=Sierra	Y=Yankee
B= Bravo	H=Hotel	N=November	T=Tango	Z=Zulu
C=Charlie	I=India	O=Oscar	U=Uniform	
D=Delta	J=Juliet	P=Papa	V=Victor	
E=Echo	K=Kilo	Q=Quebec	W=Whiskey	
F=Foxtrot	L=Lima	R=Romeo	X=X-Ray	

Note: Greg, KI8AF is on vacation for a few months. During his absence I will be doing the newsletter with the help of LaneWD8PAJ. Please send me any feedback, comments or suggestions on the newsletter for April, May and June of 2011.

Steve

KD8CCP@yahoo.com

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

The monthly newsletter of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette, Michigan. Comments and suggestions can www.qsl.net/k8lodbe sent to the club at P.O. Box1183, Marquette, Mi 49855 or to the editor at ki8af@arrl.net *Club info, membership, dues, etc can be found on our website at . Annual membership dues can be sent to the above address directly.*