

September 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. 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: September 1, 2011
Time: 7:30 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, 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 with 100 Hz PL-tone
K8LOD-3.144.390 APRS Digi Mqt

WHAT'S NEXT FOR US

Thank You KD8CCP

By Greg, KI8AF

I've returned and have taken over the duties of newsletter editor again. But first off a special and big thanks has to go to Steve KD8CCP who took over the editor duties while I was enjoying a very long hiatus. Most of you might not know that Steve is the newsletter editor for the Iron Mountain ham club so he had double duties in my absence. He did a great job and it is good to know, at least for me, that hopefully someone is in the wings and ready to take over, hi hi. Thanks also must go to Lane WD8PAJ that handled the mailing for those members that still us USPS.

For me, well I brought back a few extra pounds, less but grayer hair and a pretty good tan. I had a great time in Taiwan and will try to include a few photos occasionally as well as a story or two from my trip and adventures. The Taiwanese ham group (CTARL) is a great bunch of guys and would give you the shirt off their backs if you needed it. They really enjoy amateur radio and look at it as a privilege to have an amateur radio license.

Dues (\$) are due

September starts another calendar year for HARA. Please get your club dues payment into our treasurer as soon as possible. If you forget there will be additional reminders, maybe even a personal mailing to you but why not help us out saving the postage on HARA's end. Better yet show up for the September meeting and pay in person saving the postage on your end and have a good time as well. See you at the September meeting.

V.E. TESTING:

09/10 **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

10/08 **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

11/05 **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

10/08 **Gladstone:** Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren - N8DP, n8dp@dcars.org, (906) 428-2271 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.*

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 September go to: Eric N8RRZ, Chuck W8GEV, Steve KD8CCP, Ted KB8HLZ, Pat KB8PEN, Rod KB8DNS, Jim N8NAV, Dwight W8ABX, Mike KE8IL, Dennis WD8OKJ, Fred N8BTS, Mary KB8CKR, Stuart KD8DRD, Fred KD8JIP and Brandon N8PUM.

On The Bands

If you tuned across most any HF bands recently you probably heard more signals than normal. Why? No doubt it had to do with the new DX entity South Sudan. When a new DX entity is on the air the bands are almost too crowded but it is nice to hear all the activity even if one gets frustrated at not making the contacted wanted or a bit difficult to carry on another QSO. My main beef was when individual CW operators didn't listen to ST0R instruction "up", which means he was listening up but, some insisted on tuning up right on top of the DX station's frequency and then call him there continually. I did make a couple of CW contacts and one RTTY contact nonetheless. I know K8PT and AJ8MH also make several contacts with ST0R. DX station ST0R operated July 22-August 10, 2011 making **121,286** contacts. For more info check out: www.dxfriends.com/SouthernSudan2011/index.php

Off and on we've discussed about having a technical column in the newsletter. I can't guarantee there will be one each month but here is a good start. This was sent to me by a good QRP friend BV2BJ from Taiwan. In the DIY category:

August Picnic and Amateur Radio Satellite Demo

The picnic and demo was a great event and well attended. With members and family members there must have been close to forty individuals on site. The weather cooperated with a nice temperature and low humidity. Lou had grilling duties and kept everyone well supplied with hotdogs. Many brought a dish to pass and it was all delicious. Fred KD8JIP and Lou KG8NK did their part in explaining about amateur radio satellites, tracking them, and listening for satellite beacons and in some cases using them as a repeater to make long distance contacts. Here are a few photos from the event.



Working the VHF/UHF Amateur Satellites

You can work the various Amateur Radio satellites with a minimal investment. Most of us have the basic equipment that is needed. Following is a list of equipment that is needed:

1. An HT that you can program to work split frequencies (VHF/UHF).
You could also use 2 radios – 2 meter and 440.
 2. The antenna that came with your radio, but you would have better results by up-grading your antenna. Also, you can make your own satellite antenna.
 3. A computer program that will tell you when and where the satellites are passing over your location. Some of the programs are free such as Heavens-Above.com, AMSAT.org, and Orbitron at www.stoff.pl. With any of these programs you will have to enter your Longitude and latitude or grid square.
 4. Heavens-Above gives the frequencies that you will need for the uplink and downlink.
- I would suggest that you go to <http://www.work-sat.com> which is an excellent resource for new satellite operators. This site gives you the basics, such as opening your squelch and how to tune your radio for the Doppler effect. Have fun! Lou KG8NK

Hi friends of HARA;

I want to thank all families and friends who attended the HARA picnic at our last meeting. It was a wonderful outing and I think very successful. We had a very nice turnout of operators and their family friends. Lou (KG8NK) and Sherry (KD8EDS) did a fabulous job of setting up the site for all of the wonderful food and snacks. Lou even did the cooking of the dogs and chicken. Thanks again Lou. I would also like to thank Richard Schwenke (N8GBA) for suggesting the picnic in the first place.

Lou and myself brought our portable satellite antennas for a demo of "How to Monitor Orbiting Amateur Satellites". The kids and some adults were enthusiastic about the setups. We actually made contact with a satellite. I think this was our first summer picnic of this type. I've heard very positive feedback and think it might be a good event to make annually.

I've had some requests of interested operators about the satellite part of our hobby. Myself and Lou are just starting to dabble with these satellites. It is relatively inexpensive to get started. Most operators have the basic required equipment to monitor the satellites. The software is free (Orbitron) is what we use. AMSAT.org will give [frequencies](#) and status of the satellites. It also has a tutorial for those wanting to get started. I've listed below my basic equipment for tracking a satellite.

Preferably a dual band antenna. 2 meter and 70cm This is for Uplink and Downlink

Tripod to hold antenna

I use an Elk antenna, Lou uses an Arrow (Both of these on Internet) Also can build the Arrow from plans on Internet

A compass. I use my Iphone utilities app but also have cheap lensatic available

I have a small portable hand held tape recorder to record passes.

Downloaded software (Orbitron). This is free off Internet

Optional I have a dual band high gain antenna Pryme al-800. Bought specifically for my radio with SMA adaptor.

Inclimeter. I use a roofers angle guide bought at Menards.

One of the most difficult aspects of contacts seems to me and Lou has been determining times of passes. This is a must since these satellites have a very small duration 2 to 10 minutes avg. Make sure to calculate and coordinate either Local or UTC time zones. This can become confusing. Now the most important part of the adventure. Make sure you have all of your information before hand and prepare, prepare, prepare yourself for the event. Have it all written down. Radio frequencies entered in radio, know compass heading and elevations. TIMES and duration.

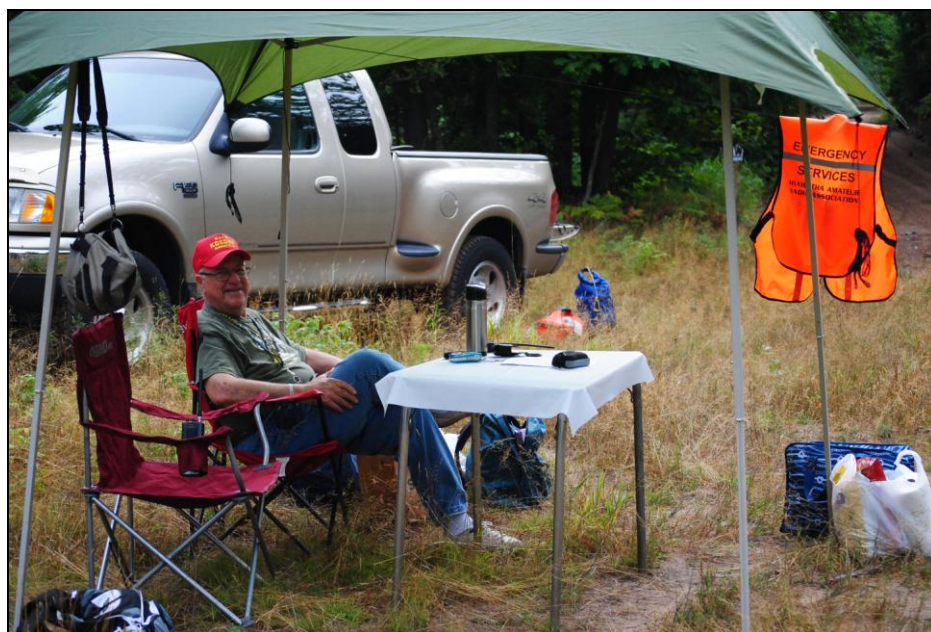
Last thing is to not get frustrated. It is initially challenging. Have patients and enjoy. If have questions contact Me Fred KD8JIP (906-249-9074) or Lou KG8NK. (906-485-5442)

Thanks Freddie 73s KD8JIP

2011 Ore To Shore



Ah, the good life!



What's Your Favorite Ham Website?

I wanted to pass along that the KCRA with the help of local amateur radio operators and Pasty.Net have an AIS receiver installed and feeding ship data into the web site of - <http://www.marinetraffic.com/ais/>. This site also allows users to view ships world-wide... Howard(KD8ABP)

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

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>

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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