

"LET NO CALL GO UNANSWERED"

CLUB REPEATERS
146.940 (-) (94.8PL)
(Patch w/*key and end w/#)

444.55 (+) (94.8PL)

ARES/RACES
146.82 (-) (94.8PL)

Flashovers

Newsletter of the Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council
Since 1941

PO Box 691 Muskegon, MI 49443
Club Station, W8ZHO
2888 Scenic Drive

www.qsl.net/w8zho
w8zho@arrl.net



Editor: Tom Porritt, N8YJT
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January 2009
Vol. 69 No. 1

2009 MAARC Leadership

President

Tom Nickisch,
W8AMZ

Vice President

Larry Kozal, W8UJ

Secretary

Bill Fries, AB8SC

Treasurer

Dennis Harriss,
N8CTT

House Manager

Dan Mills, N8PPQ

Directors

Tom Porritt, N8YJT
Kirk Nygren, W8GXT
Jon Plyler, AB8RD,
(Past President)

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W8ZHO License Trustee

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Repeater Trustee

Jim Duram, K8COP

Web Manager

Jon Plyler, AB8RD

Flashovers Editor

Tom Porritt, N8YJT

Venture Crew CC/ CR

Doc, AC8AL

Crew Advisors

Karen, KD8DHJ

Dan, N8PPQ

Committee Member

Bob, N9AUY

Chuck, KC8MDL

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Nickisch, W8AMZ
w8amz@yahoo.com

Looking to the Future:

As the New Year begins, we look forward to new things, such as New Year's resolutions. Typical resolutions include a commitment to lose weight or make more money or, more importantly, to find more time to spend with children and grandchildren. We also may be looking forward to finding out what our country's new president will do with the economy or were our 401k stocks may go.

Of concern to me right now is the quality of leadership the new Board of Directors will bring to the club. And my leadership of the same.

This club is made up of many dedicated hams who hold memories of a lot of inspirational, talented, and knowledgeable members who have preceded us. I personally am reminded of the ones we have lost in just the four years since I became a member and I am reminded of the history of our club and past Boards of Directors. I am impressed that there are some really big shoes

to fill, and I wear a size 12.

In 2004 when I joined the club, I had no thought of ever being elected to the President's position, let alone this soon. It reminds me of a conversation I had with Elmer, K8ROH, in 2006 where he told me he figured I would be President of the club in three years. Well, so much for my early expectations. I do wish I could call on him now for some of his great advice. Thankfully we have number of people in the club who I can call on for their wisdom and experience.

Remembering all of the fun and satisfaction I've experienced with amateur radio, I realize we need to work to make sure the club will thrive for many years to come. Our primary purpose needs to be the raising up and nurturing of new hams.

I want to thank club members who inspired me. And a special thanks has to go to my Elmer, Jack, K8CYV, for all his great advice and inspiration. I especially remember the time we attended the hamfest at Muskegon Community College in the spring of 1977 (my first). It was an experience I will never forget, being 12 years old and in the sixth grade. Hopefully we will get the chance to inspire some young person in the way he did for me. Thank you Jack.

Well here's to the future of MAARC and all it's members. Best wishes to all of you for a happy, healthy, and successful 2009

73'
Tom

**AREA COFFEE
BREAKS &
BREAKFASTS**

Pine Street Café
Spring Lake, 7AM Saturday

Whitlow's Restaurant,
8:30AM Saturday

Gary's Restaurant, Monta-
gue, 7AM Saturday

Fruitport Village Inn, 9:00AM
Monday

Russ' Restaurant, Grand
Haven, 8:30PM Tuesday

Samuel's Restaurant, Fre-
mont. First Saturday of
every month at 8AM

**Muskegon Area Amateur
Radio Council
General Membership
Meeting
04 December 2008**

7:00pm Meeting Called to Or-
der by Past President Bill,
AB8SC. The Pledge of Alle-
giance was recited. Introduc-
tion of guests and members
followed.

7:08pm. The Venturing Crew
made a request for help by
club members for the Ventur-
ing Kickback Weekend of
February 13 – 15, 2009 at
Camp Gerber. Someone to

setup and operate a station is needed.

7:18pm. Program on MARS was presented by Rich
"Doc" Strait, AC8AL. Doc is a member of the Navy-
Marine Corps Military Affiliate Radio System. His
MARS call sign is NNN0ZZD. Karen, KD8DHJ, is
also a member of the Navy-Marine Corps MARS
and her call sign is NNN0YQO. Bob Carter,
WB8OQT, is also a Navy-Marine Corps MARS
member and his call sign is NNN0ANW. Jim Duram,
K8COP, is an Air Force MARS member. The pres-
entation included the history of Mars, and its pur-
pose and mission. The operational protocols were
described which included the hierarchy of service.
MARS will serve the Department of Defense first,
then the Navy and Marine Corps, other military units,
federal agencies and finally state and local agen-
cies.

The program was presented as a game with the XYL
vs the OMs (you will notice the XYL is singular since
Karen was the only XYL present. Not a problem
though because she is a Navy-Marine Corps MARS
member!).

After a fun evening of learning about MARS and the
differences between the Air Force, Army and Navy-
Marine Corps MARS, Karen, NNN0YQO, handed
out candy canes to all those present.

Program ended at 7:56 pm and we went right into
the meeting due to weather conditions

Treasurer's Report: Denny N8CTT, presented the
report. It was accepted as presented.

Next month's program: Bob Voyt, WB8QCY, will
present next month's program on amateur radio
aboard pleasure boats.

Old Business

Venturing Crew 9050 - The Venturing Crew is in
need of a few adult leaders in order to re-new the
charter. The need is for three additional dedicated
adults that have the time to participate.

November Sweeps – Thank-you to all who partici-
pated in the activity. Thank you to Bill, AB8SC, for
an excellent article in the December *Flashovers*.

New Business

The following slate of candidates was presented by
the nominating committee.

President – Tom Nickisch, W8AMZ
Vice President – Larry Kozal, W8UJ
Secretary – Bill Fries, AB8SC
Treasurer – Denny Harriss, N8CTT
Shack/House Manager – Dan Mills, N8PPQ
Director – Tom Porritt, N8YJT
Director – Kirk Nygren, W8GXT
Director – Jon Plyler, AB8RD, Past President

Dick Marsh, KC8JWC, made a motion to close the
nominations and Rick, W8LGP, seconded. The
motion carried and the above slate was elected.

2M Net Drawing: The drawing materials were not
delivered to the clubhouse so there will be two
drawings next month.

January meeting: The January meeting would fall
on New Years day so Rick, W8LGP, made a mo-

**NEXT MAARC MEETING
THURSDAY
January 8, 2008
7PM**

**Program: WB8QCY:
"Amateur Radio Aboard"**

tion to delay the January meeting by one week. It
was seconded by Ray, N8GZR. The motion car-
ried.

Leo Bachelor, WB8HAM, was in room 207 at Mer-

VHF NETS

Sunday:

MCECS Training Net: Temporarily suspended

West MI Traffic
145.33 – 9 PM

Monday:

IRA
145.33 – 8 PM

West MI Traffic
145.33 – 9 PM

Tuesday:

NOARC
145.49 – 8 PM

Wednesday:

MAARC 2 Meter Net
146.94—7PM

West MI Traffic
145.33 – 9 PM

Friday:

West MI Traffic
145.33 – 9 PM

STATEWIDE ARPS NET

Sunday 5 PM
3932 MHZ Isb

TEENAGE NET

M – F 6:00 PM
3.945 MHZ Isb

BATHROBE NET

Daily 9AM
14.235.5 MHZ usb

MITN

Daily 7PM
3.952 MHZ Isb

HAIRNET

Sunday mornings, 8:00AM
3945 +/- QRM.

cyGeneralHealthPartners at the time of the meeting. (Update from Larry, W8UJ, on 12/26 - "as of a couple of days ago, Leo was on the mend at home. He is frustrated with not being able to get back out and get with it - he's 85 and it's a slow mending process after the major operation he had. I'm sure that he would like to hear from people").

CALENDAR

Mondays—Continuing Education at Waypoint Academy—7PM

Wednesdays—MAARC 2 Meter Net—7PM

Sundays (beginning January 4th) - MCECS Net—7:30PM

January

1st Sgt Preston Yukon Run

3rd Venturing Crew Meeting

8th Club Meeting

15th QCWA

17th Leadership and Planning Seminar

24th Spaghetti Dinner

24th-25th Winter Field Day

26th Board Meeting at Uncle Mark's Restaurant

February

5th Club Meeting

7th VE Session

7th Venturing Crew Meeting

12th QCWA

13th-15th Kickback Weekend - Gerber Scout Camp

14th Cherryland Swap - TC

21st Skywarn Training

23rd Board Meeting at Uncle Mark's Restaurant

28th Ham in a Day (location TBD)

VENTURING CREW

By Venture Crew 9050

This is a yearend report from the MAARC Venturing Crew #9050.

2008 had several successes and some disappointments as can be expected. We count as successes the 2008 JOTA that entertained 75 scouts and their parents at the clubhouse. 2008 also saw the South Manitou expedition and the

installation of the 160 meter loop antenna at the clubhouse.

The Charter Representative and Committee Chair for 2008 was "Doc" AC8AL. Committee members included; Chuck Stark, KCMDL, and Bob Duplissis, N9AUJ (there are two vacancies). The Primary Advisor was Karen, KD8DHJ, and the position of Associate Advisor of Program was Dan Mills, N8PPQ. The position of Associate Advisor of Administration was vacant.

Unfortunately, at this point, the crew will not be able to re-charter in February due to a lack of adult volunteers. Doc is stepping down for health reasons and Dan's work situation is such that he needs help with the Associate Advisor of Program position. Coupled with the still vacant Associate Advisor of Administration and the vacant Committee Member positions we will not meet the BSA's minimum requirements to be a unit and will not be allowed to re-charter. In addition, some of the adult leadership has not completed the required leadership training.

On the financial front we have not been able to finance some of the crew activities. As a result the adult leadership has borne the expenses. This could be one factor that is making it very difficult to find new adult leadership.

Up to this point only one crew member has actually completed their license requirements (Kayla, KD8IVJ) while a member of the Crew, but several are continuing their interest. (editor's note: should the club be supplying more leadership in this part of their endeavor?).

The crew has committed to the Gerald R. Ford Council to coordinate the 2009 JOTA, but that event is in jeopardy.

It looks like 2009 will be a pivotal year for Venturing Crew 9050.

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Jan 10-Jan 11, 1600Z-0100Z, Clovis, NM. Eastern New Mexico Amateur Radio Club, KA5B. 100 years of railroading in Clovis, New Mexico. 14.265 7.185. Certificate. Roy Creiglow, 208 Merrill Dr, Clovis, NM 88101. *From the Clovis Depot Train Museum.* www.ka5b.org

Jan 17-Jan 24, 0000Z-2359Z, Washington, DC. District of Columbia Amateur Radio Society, W4A. Celebration of the Inauguration of Barack Obama. All Bands. QSL. Eric Rosenberg, W3DQ, 3511 Patterson St NW, Washington, DC 20015-2557.

FLASHOVERS HAM OF THE MONTH

Meet Kirk Nygren, W8GXT, the newest member of the MAARC Board of Directors. First licensed while living in Connecticut in 1975 at the age of 12, his call was WB1AFW. Kirk's family moved back to Michigan in 1977 and he became WD8PGK. He says, "I've been a CW junkie the whole time but let my license expire in 1998 due to other interests (flying, family, etc.)". Kirk rekindled his interest while visiting his father's (W8UD) shack in 2007 and re-licensed as KD8HSE. He soon wanted to change that call because it just didn't "flow" with CW. He was fortunate to get his father's original call, W8GXT, which was familiar to him as he was growing up. Kirk said, "this brought back some great memories"!

Kirk also says, "CW is still what I like best and try to



Kirk, W8GXT

do almost every night? "Old School HF" - the way it was Intended!"

Kirk achieved WAS and WAS QRP (Worked All States) by the time he was 14 and Worked All Counties in 1979 or 1980 all with CW. He says he probably has enough cards for DXCC but hasn't put them together yet.

Kirk's shack contains an Icom 765 and a Heath HW-9 QRP rig feeding an inverted Zepp at about 65 feet. He also uses a four band Hustler vertical.

Kirk's operating interests include contesting, and while a member of the MAARC Board he would like to see if he can raise the awareness of club members to this aspect of our shared avocation. He said he thinks he also would like to try his hand at RTTY or some of the digital modes.

Kirk also continues to maintain his interests in flying (he owns a Ryan Navion and a Cessna 170) and competitive shooting that he does on many weekends. With his many accomplishments and interests Kirk will be a valuable asset to the MAARC Board.

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 27, No. 50
December 19, 2008

RESTRICTIVE LOCAL ZONING ORDINANCE PROPOSED AS COURT DATE IN CALIFORNIA ANTENNA CASE NEARS

As his February 2009 court date approaches, Alec Zubarau, WB6X, of Palmdale, California, gets ready to battle his town after being ordered to dismantle his previously approved antenna system. The City of Palmdale has widened its opposition to Amateur Radio antennas by proposing an ordinance written to thwart the installation of antenna support structures throughout the city <http://www.arrl.org/news/files/Palmdale_Antenna_Ordinance_DRAFT.pdf>.

In 2005, Zubarau applied for a building permit to erect an antenna support structure on his property. The City approved his request, and building permit in hand, Zubarau installed a 22 foot tall crank-up tower (with an ultimate height of 55 feet), but did not place an antenna atop the structure. He also installed a 23 foot tall mast on his house, for a total mast height of 43 feet; he installed an inverted-V on the mast. In January 2007, he placed a 4 element 20 meter SteppIR antenna on the crank-up tower, and the neighbors started complaining to the City.

ARRL Southwestern Division Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI, said that the neighbors' assertions consisted of what he called "the typical complaints: Aesthetic impact, diminution of property values and RF interference. The RFI complaints were general in nature; no direct evidence was shown of actual RFI, but the City's Planning Commission staff took the position that based on anecdotal evidence presented by the homeowners, the transmissions occurring from the antenna are causing interference with electrical equipment in the surrounding neighborhood."

Woll said that after Zubarau installed the StepIR in 2007, the City of Palmdale, acting on a petition signed by almost 70 of Zubarau's neighbors, voted to revoke Zubarau's original building permit after he

had relied on it in putting up his tower. "In order to gain a continuance, Zubarau told the Planning Commission he would remove the SteppIR, in essence, reverting his antenna configuration back to the way to it was before he installed the antenna" said Len Shaffer, WA6QHD, Zubarau's attorney. "At the next hearing, he was ordered to remove not only the antenna, but the support structure, as well."

The City's planning staff also pointed out that Zubarau's recently erected horizontal array extends three feet into the required 10 foot sideyard setback, and that the active array exceeds thirty feet in height beyond the limit in the ordinance.

"Because Zubarau's permit referred to the support structure as 'an antenna with cage (the base)' and the Planning Commission called it a tower antenna, everyone assumed it was indeed an antenna," Shaffer recalled. "When I pointed out to the Planning Commission that it was nothing more than a support structure and did not radiate, they were surprised. They asked if the support structure functioned as an antenna without the horizontal element. I told them it did not. Judy Skousen, Palmdale's Assistant City Attorney, told the Commission did not matter -- the permit and application was for a tower antenna and that is what it was. It did not matter if the nomenclature was added by city employees rather than Zubarau."

"After exhausting his administrative remedies, Zubarau challenged the action in the courts, aided by Shaffer," Woll said "The court date has been set for early February 2009." Woll continued, saying that the planning staff is placing the burden on Zubarau, saying that he has not submitted a site-specific engineering study showing that the operation or transmission from his house is not interfering with residential uses. The staff also notes that the FCC has failed to resolve RFI complaints in this matter, inferring that the City must act to solve them.

Palmdale Proposes Rewrite of Amateur Radio Antenna Ordinance

Shortly after issuing the permit revocation order, ARRL Southwestern Director Dick Norton, N6AA, said that the City of Palmdale began drafting an amended antenna ordinance that placed severe restrictions on all Amateur Radio antennas. "The draft was released just before Thanksgiving, and a hearing was scheduled for December 4," Norton said. "Prior to that hearing and at the request of Vice Director Marty Woll, N6VI -- who attended the Palmdale Planning Commission meeting along with

about a dozen local hams and supporters -- ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, wrote a lengthy letter to the City Attorney pointing out numerous flaws in the proposed ordinance and explaining why many of its provisions are void or unenforceable, being pre-empted by federal or state law."

In his letter, Imlay explained to the City that it is without authority to resolve RFI complaints; the jurisdiction is solely that of the FCC, as stated in the Communications Act of 1934, as amended. "The Federal Communications Commission has exclusive jurisdiction over radio frequency interference (RFI) matters, and technical matters specifically," he said.

Imlay pointed out that the "first specific concern in the draft ordinance is the statement that 'an Amateur Radio antenna, the operation of which causes unreasonable interference with electrical equipment in the surrounding neighborhood, is not compatible with that neighborhood.'"

This is "patently false," Imlay said, stating "there is no correlation between the presence of an outdoor Amateur Radio antenna, its height, configuration or placement and radio frequency interference (RFI) to home electronic equipment. As a matter of technical fact, the higher an antenna, the lower the electrical field in the horizontal plane of the home electronic equipment, and the less the likelihood of RFI in that equipment. Furthermore, the 'cause' of RFI is not the power of an Amateur Radio station, or the presence of an antenna, but rather the inability of home electronic equipment to reject unwanted signals. FCC regulations clearly obligate most home electronic equipment to accept any interference from licensed radio services as a condition of the permitted marketing and operation of that equipment."

Furthermore, in a Conference Report from the 97th Congress in 1982, Imlay explained that Congressional report "...is further intended to clarify the reservation of exclusive jurisdiction to the Federal Communications Commission over matters involving RFI. Such matters shall not be regulated by local or state law, nor shall radio transmitting apparatus be subject to local or state regulation as part of any effort to resolve an RFI complaint. The Conferees believe that radio transmitter operators should not be subject to fines, forfeitures or other liability imposed by any local or state authority as a result of interference appearing in home electronic equipment or systems. Rather, the Conferees intend that regulation of RFI phenomena shall be imposed only by the Commission."

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Saying that the Conference Report went on to clarify "that the exclusive jurisdiction over RFI incidents (including preemption of state and local regulation of such phenomena) lies with the FCC," Imlay told the City of Palmdale that "Obviously, state or local regulations based on interference from one radio service to another would directly frustrate the intention and goals of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended."

Imlay said that in 1985, the FCC said that the "federal power in the area of radio frequency interference is exclusive; to the extent that any state or local government attempts to regulate in this area, [its] regulations are preempted." Imlay explained that the FCC concluded that the Federal regulatory scheme is so pervasive that it is reasonable to assume that Congress did not intend to permit states to supplement it.

According to Shaffer, the City of Palmdale does not think antenna support structures are "compatible" with the town's image: "The Mayor told the Council that while, if a house was built that was not compatible with the neighborhood, they would not bulldoze it to the ground, this is 'just an antenna,' and they can get rid of it if they want to," Shaffer said.

Going to Court

Norton said that the ARRL's Amateur Radio Legal Defense and Assistance Committee has voted to contribute \$5000 toward the cost of Zubarau's lawsuit against the City of Palmdale. "More than \$1500 has already been contributed by clubs and their members from throughout the Southwestern Division, and this contribution from the League-managed Antenna Defense Fund will further help defray the expenses of preparing for the February 2009 court date," Norton said. "Len Shaffer is performing the legal work pro bono, but even just compiling the record to present in court can be costly."

ARRL Defense Committee Chair Jay Bellows, K0QB, said that although the case has not yet reached the appellate level, "The egregious nature of Palmdale's actions -- including ordering removal of a previously approved antenna tower -- the potential impact on a large number of amateurs and the existence of substantial local financial support from the ham community were significant factors in the Committee's decision to provide support for this case."

**NEW HAMS, UPGRADES, RENEWALS,
CALL SIGN CHANGES From FCC Web Site
For Muskegon County Area
Through December 26, 2008
Please congratulate these hams when you
hear them.**

ND8Q

Martin, Clifton

"Let No Call Go Unanswered"

Bellows said he has participated in nearly 100 tower and antenna matters, from working with local hams and municipalities on tower ordinances to individual tower issues including litigation at the local and appellate level over the past 20 years. "If I've learned anything," he said, "I learned that a simple, clear explanation of who we are, what we do and why the antenna is needed are essential. Even if those steps are perfectly executed, the local authority (in this case, the City of Palmdale) has to be convinced that: 1. Federal law trumps the local zoning interests either generally or in the particular case; 2. The amateur is going to be politely persistent despite opposition from the locality; 3. The cost to the locality in time and treasure will exceed any political benefit in 'protecting its citizens from the scourge and despoliation of ugly Amateur Radio antennas.' Still, the single most important factor is that the amateur should always be the guy in the 'white hat,' no matter how reprehensible or offensive the actions of the locality or the opposing neighbors."

Norton went on to say that Woll has met with Palmdale hams and the management of the Palmdale Public Safety Department, who he described as "supportive of hams." Woll and Keith Hoyt, K6GXO, will meet with Palmdale's Planning Department and Assistant City Attorney in early January. "The proposed ordinance has been the subject of considerable discussion in Amateur Radio circles," Norton said. "Local hams, [as well as] Division and National League representatives are devoting considerable time and effort toward resolving the issue."

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Jan 20, 1400Z-2200Z, Washington, DC. OMIK Amateur Radio Association, K0MIK. To commemorate the inauguration of Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States. 14.295 7.265. QSL. Arthur Moody, W8UTC, 206 Hemlock Dr, Elyria, OH 44035. *Operation will be from 9-11 AM EST and 1-5 PM EST; no operation during the ceremony.* **cwashington@charter.net** or www.omikradio.org



ASK ELMER (Advice for the Ham)

Dear Old Man,
Knowledge of International Morse Code is no longer required for an Amateur Radio license, but I was wondering, what do you think is the single best reason for continuing "the code"?
Sincerely, Ima Fist

Dear Ima,
When all else fails CW is the mode of last resort. Sending Morse Code via CW is what separates Amateur Radio from all other services (except perhaps couriers and carrier pigeons) and makes Amateur Radio a necessary component of any emergency planning.
Sincerely, Elmer

Elmer would like to hear from you too. Write to him at: *Flashovers*, PO Box 691, Muskegon, MI 49443-0691



EDITOR'S CORNER

Once again its time to renew your club membership. You can use the form below or just mail your check to the PO Box. The form is handy if you need to record any changes in your information. It is not necessary for you to wait for a club meeting to re-up.

Check out the yearend update by the Venturing Crew on page 3. It's a nice report but we are close to losing their charter. The Crew has had some great times and some noteworthy accomplishments but more adult leadership is needed. It has been difficult for the Crew to raise funds and to qualify the adult leaders.

Finally, I wish our new leadership the best of luck and wisdom as they embark on 2009.

Tom, N8YJT

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2009
MUSKEGON AREA AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL
PO BOX 691
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN**

PLEASE PRINT CAREFULLY:

NAME: _____ **CALL** _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

ADDRESS: _____
STREET CITY STATE ZIP

TELEPHONE: _____ **EMAIL** _____

PLEASE CIRCLE THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE BELOW

ARRL MEMBER?: YES NO WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE FLASHOVERS BY EMAIL? YES NO

ANNUAL DUES: REGULAR MEMBER (\$25.00) ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBER IN THE HOME (\$10.00)
ASSOCIATE MEMBER (\$10.00)

THIS IS A: RENEWAL NEW MEMBER APPLICATION

DONATIONS

GENERAL FUND \$ _____ REPEATER \$ _____ OTHER (DESIGNATE) \$ _____



M.C.E.C.S. Inc
 (Muskegon County Emergency
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 1611 E. Oak Avenue
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**Meeting Second Monday of Each Month at 7:00 PM
 Everyone Welcome**

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Tom VanderMel, KB8VEE
 General Manager

Ph 231 798-7898
 Fax 231 798-7770
 Cell 231 206-0422

This Space Available

This Space Available

This Space Available

Help Needed - The club house could use your do-
 nations of time and money towards maintenance
 and improvements. Please consider what you may
 be able to do to help
 Contact N8PPQ

MUSKEGON AREA AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL
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