

"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
Email: N8YJT@arrl.net

February 2009
Vol. 69 No. 2

2009 MAARC Leadership

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Tom Nickisch,
W8AMZ

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Crew Advisors

Karen, KD8DHJ
Dan, N8PPQ

Committee Member

Bob, N9AUY
Chuck, KC8MDL

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Nickisch, W8AMZ
w8amz@yahoo.com

Wearing of the MAARC President's hat is a new experience for me and I feel like I have a lot to learn. As I contemplate how I will lead this organization for the coming year I hope to apply the following guiding principle: "Knowledge speaks, wisdom listens". I am looking forward to comments and suggestions from the membership.

The year started with a very cold and snowy January but that didn't stop us from gathering at the clubhouse for [Winter Field Day](#) on the 24th. While there we discovered that the [CQ World Wide 160 Meter CW Contest](#) taking place at the same time. By popular acclimation of those assembled we ended up operating the 160M contest with the new 160M loop that the Venture crew and N8PPQ installed last fall. The operators, mostly N8PPQ and W8GXT, made 153 CW contacts.

Bill, AB8SC, has accepted appointment as our Field Day Chairman for 2009. His experience organizing and running the

2005 Field Day will serve him well for bringing the 2009 operation together. I'm looking forward to participating with our club members during this great operating event.

Finally, I want to recommend the February 14th Hamfest at Traverse City. I try to make this one every year because it is where I got my first Amateur Radio license.

So bundle up, throw another log on the fire, stay warm, and I hope to see all of you very soon.

73' W8AMZ

Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council General Membership Meeting 8 January 2009

Meeting Notes by AB8SC

Welcome by Tom, W8AMZ

Program by Bob, WB8QCY. Amateur Radio on the High Seas. Bob sailed the "Caribbean 1500", a sailboat rally. There were fifty vessels in the "fleet." Bob and his son volunteered to crew and were chosen by the Master of a 38' catamaran. The initial days aboard the vessel were spent in rehabbing the boat's systems. The trip started November 9, 2008.

Bob used Winlink to communicate and report his boat's positions to his Ham radio friends.

The rally ended in Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

AREA COFFEE BREAKS & BREAKFASTS

Pine Street Café
Spring Lake, 7AM Saturday

Whitlow's Restaurant,
8:30AM Saturday

Gary's Restaurant, Montague,
7AM Saturday

Fruitport Village Inn, 9:00AM
Monday

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

Samuel's Restaurant, Fremont. First Saturday of every month at 8AM

Bob's voyage ended in St. Vincent.

- I. Treasurer's Report was presented by Denny, N8CTT.
- II. The calendar for the next month was reviewed.
- III. Old Business
 - A. Tax Exempt Status is still being discussed
 - B. The December Soup Supper was canceled due to weather.
- IV. New Business
 - A. A Leadership and Planning workshop is pending
 - B. Discussed plans for Winter Field Day
 - C. Chuck, KC8MDL, presented an enlarged QSL

card which was framed to commemorate the W8M DXPedition to South Manitou Island.

D. The two meter net drawing presented prizes to W8LGP and K8MLD for the November and December 2008 nets.

CALENDAR

Wednesdays—MAARC 2 Meter Net—7PM
Sundays - MCECS Net—7:30PM

February

5th Club Meeting
7th VE Session
7th Venturing Crew Meeting
12th QCWA
13th-15th Kickback Weekend - Camp Gerber
14th Cherryland Swap - TC
21st Skywarn Training
23rd Board Meeting at Uncle Mark's
28th Ham in a Day at Muskegon Community College

March

5th Club Meeting
7th Leadership and Planning Workshop
14th Marshall Hamfest
23rd Board Meeting

CLUBHOUSE REFLECTIONS

By AB8SC

It is the middle of a harsh winter and I am snuggling under a luxurious blanket of snow. My neighbor, Lake Michigan, is finally settling down and not howling quite so much as usual. Only the occasional

deer wander through my woods. I am napping like those squirrels that only come out on the occasional warm day in this frigid season.

Look at that! The snowplow has arrived to clear my driveway! You cannot see my newly graveled approach provided courtesy of my old friend KD8YL. I am proud of that driveway and my nice sign that proclaims me to be the clubhouse for the Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council.

I reminisce of the past decades when Mr. Schechter, Mr. Wood, Mr. Zawlocki, Mr. Moyer, and other amateur radio operators visited. They were wonderful Hams that took lots of time to lovingly care for my needs. They nurtured my initially small cabin into quite the clubhouse that my friends admire and enjoy. Those old days sure were fun when those girls would ice skate on my new floor or the Hams would grill those huge steaks. They had a large truck that would pull my tree stumps or haul my radios out to a Field Day site. And I remember the times they visited to tend my needs, add my brother the barn, or work on my yard with that huge bulldozer. They came with their wives and friends to enjoy a fish dinner or watch that young man deep fry those turkeys and prepare those other meals. Oh, the fun times we have enjoyed.

Suddenly, there is a car coming in and some firewood is dropped off. Could it be that I will be hosting a visitor again? I sure hope so. And then a man stops by to shovel the doorway clear. Can it be? He is warming my hearth with a most marvelous

**NEXT MAARC MEETING
THURSDAY
February 5, 2009
7PM**

**Program: N8PPQ
"My Circular Quad"**

fire in my new wood stove. My fireplace has never been so good at warming my insides. The man is turning on lights, putting together my radios, and is studying my wall of fame and past accomplishments. I sure enjoy these fellows who stop in on a cold winter's weekend.

Soon the crowd grows to a half dozen. They brew

VHF NETS

Sunday:

MCECS Net:
146.82—7:30PM

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 ARPSC 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 morn-
ings, 8:00AM
3945 +/- QRM.

some fresh coffee in that fancy coffee maker. I prefer the percolator but these Hams do not seem to remember. And they are putting together some radios I have not seen inside before. I remember my old friend the AM rig that was much larger than my refrigerator. Now that was radio! I am hearing that my Collins radio is returning. I do miss the sound of CW and the full body sound of my first radio. Those past days of radio sure were swell.

The boys have put together an entire radio shack in my main room. From the speaker comes the sound of far off call signs and the “dah, dit, dit dit dit, dah” of a contest. What magic in those sounds! The code rolls around lightly inside and invites a contact. I have enjoyed my call sign, W8ZHO, for many years. The Hams have not done a CW contest for a few months. The sounds of CW warm my heart and remind me of decades of earlier Hams who worked CW for so many reasons so long ago. You can have that Donald Duck single side band stuff. I love a CW QSO.

And another Ham, N8YJT is studying my antennas. He is testing my antennas with low power and varying frequency to measure the SWR. He must be an engineer as he methodically documents the readings and reports the results in my old-fashioned paper log. Yes, these Hams have my computer for my contact log, too. I have many paper logbooks to document the decades of Ham radio in my shack. I still prefer the faithful paper logbook.

And, oh, the QSL cards. They are displayed on my walls and stored safely away in my files. I even have a W8UCG card and plaque from a QSO long ago. Mr. Schechter was such a gentleman. He was a wonderful Elmer to so many Hams. And they say he helped give me life so many years ago. What a shame he

is a silent key and that he and others cannot return home to see the new fellows. I would bet that the old timers would enjoy the changes, improvements, and the recollections.

And there is a relatively new Ham wondering if his radio will work with my antenna. He and his Elmer study the manuals and the dials. Those new radios today are rather small. They are nothing like the Drake Twins I have enjoyed for so many years. And these days they are doing RTTY using my computer. Can you imagine? My old Teletype machine went away so long ago. The clattery clack of that old fashioned machine made the whole clubhouse seem so busy and just plain focused. My, how time flies.

Now the boys are sitting around my fireplace and chewing the rag. In the olden days these same guys would have been enjoying an 807 or two. Their conversations seem to all be about the same. They talk about radio or their exploits or their families. These guys do not change much even as they age. They sound like they are having fun. I enjoy hosting these friendly meetings. They are as much of an enjoyment as those monthly meetings. I like it a lot when these Hams visit.

Now the hustle and bustle has settled. My doors and windows are secure. My alarm is watching faithfully. The snow is still deeply covering my yard and parking lot. My neighbor, Lake Michigan, is acting a little restless. I bet there is more snow ahead. I hope these Hams will return. They seem to enjoy my clubhouse. And I sure love hearing their laughter, conversation, and their radios. I am a tired old clubhouse, but I am feeling as shiny as a newly minted green stamp whenever they return.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

14 February 2009

[Cherryland Hamfest](#)

Traverse City, MI

Immaculate Conception Elementary School

[218 Vine Street](#)

Contact:

Joe Novak, W8TVT

201 South Spruce Street

Traverse City, MI 49684

Phone: 231-947-8555

Email: jjnovak@charter.net

14 March 2009

[Michigan Crossroads Hamfest](#)

Southern Michigan ARA & Marshall HS Industrial

Arts Club
Marshall, MI
Marshall High School
[701 North Marshall Avenue](#)

Contact:

Stephanie Halbert, W8AEZ
20960 Capital Avenue NE
Battle Creek, MI 49017
Phone: 269-966-0770
Email: daffne25@yahoo.com

4 April 2009

[ARGYL Hamfest](#)

Lowell, MI
Lowell High School
[11700 Vergennes Street](#)

Contact:

Al Eckman, WW8WW
725 Bowes Road, Apt. K6
Lowell, MI 49331
Phone: 616-450-4332
Email: al.eckman@sbcglobal.net

SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

Feb 7, 1400Z-2000Z, Nacogdoches, TX. Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club, W5NAC. 6th Annual Space Shuttle Columbia Recovery SES. 21.350 14.250 7.250. QSL. Nacogdoches ARC, 167 County Rd 2093, Nacogdoches, TX 75965. www.w5nac.com

Feb 7-Feb 8, 1500Z-2100Z, Milan, OH. The Thomas Edison Memorial Radio Club, NI8G. Celebrating Edison's Birthday, who was born in Milan, OH. 21.370 14.270 7.270 3.770. QSL. Jack Hubbard, NI8N, 13113 River Rd, Milan, OH 44846. *Times are daily.*

Feb 7-Feb 8, 1700Z-2359Z, Carlsbad Caverns National Park, NM. Gary Keck, KE7DX operating as, K5G. Carlsbad Caverns Natl Park Operation, New Mexico QSO Party. 14.280 7.260 14.050 7.045. QSL. Gary Keck, KE7DX, PO Box 18135, Tucson, AZ 85731. pages.swcp.com/~n5zgt/nmqsoparty

Feb 13-Feb 15, 1900Z-2300Z, Kingman, AZ. Hualapai Amateur Radio Club, WB6RER. Memorial Event for Andy V. Devine (1905-1977). 14.260 7.260. QSL. Hualapai Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 4364, Kingman, AZ 86402. wb6rer.n7ffl.us

Feb 14, 1400Z-2200Z, Leavenworth, KS. Kickapoo QRP Amateur Radio Club, W0EBB. 5th Annual 'Freeze Your Keys' Winter Operating Event. 14.280 14.060 7.280 7.030. QSL. Gary Auchard, 34058 167th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048. w0ebb@juno.com

Feb 14, 1700Z-2359Z, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, NI6IW. Commemorating the establishment of Navy Operation Deep Freeze in Antarctica in 1955. SSB 14.320 7.250 CW 14.060 7.055 PSK-31 7.070-7.080 RTTY 14.080 7.080 2m/70cm SOCAL rep WIN. QSL. USS Midway (CV 41) Museum Radio Room, 910 Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. af6ha@yahoo.com

Feb 16-Feb 20, 1400Z-2100Z, Ft Myers, FL. Fort Myers Amateur Radio Club, W4LX. Celebrating Thomas Edison's Birthday and our 17th year. 28.340 21.350 14.240. Certificate. FMARC, PO Box 061183, Ft. Myers, FL 33906. stellagurka@embarqmail.com or fmarc.net

Feb 17-Mar 2, 0100Z-2359Z, Tucson, AZ. Grand Canyon DX & Contest Club, W7R. 84th Annual La Fiesta de Los Vaqueros. 21.340 14.240 7.240 3.840. QSL. Donald Birch, 7725 N Red Wing Cir, Tucson, AZ 85741-1334. k7nn@arrl.net

Feb 20-Feb 23, 0100Z-2359Z, George, WA. Eastern Washington DX Club, W7G. George Washington's Birthday from George, WA. 14.250 18.135 7.225 3.880. QSL. Brian Nielson, 11650 Raod 1 SE, Moses Lake, WA 98837. w7bjn@nwi.net or www.qrz.com/w7g

Feb 21, 1500Z-2300Z, Kent, OH. Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Inc, KD8CKP. 4th Annual Freeze Your Acorns Off (FYAO) QRP Special Event. 21.320 14.320 7.245 3.830 EchoLink KC8RKV node. Certificate. Al Atkins, KB8VJL, 12433 Chamberlain Rd, Aurora, OH 44202. www.portcars.org

Feb 21-Feb 22, 1600Z-2100Z, Alexandria, VA. Mount Vernon Amateur Radio Club, K4US. Commemorating George Washington's 277th Birthday. 14.240 7.240 7.035. Certificate. Mount Vernon ARC, PO Box 7234, Alexandria, VA 22307. k4us@mvarc.com or www.mvarc.com

DID YOU KNOW?

The 2009 edition of the ARRL Handbook is available.



CONTEST CALENDAR

(Source [NCJ](#) and [ARRL](#))

This is a sampling of the contests happening during February.

Name	Dates	Band(s)
Vermont QSO Party	Feb 7 0000Z to Feb 8 2400Z	160 - 6
Ten-Ten Winter Phone QSO Party	Feb 7 0001Z to Feb 8 2359Z	10
Minnesota QSO Party	Feb 7 1600Z to Feb 7 2359Z	160 - 6
FYBO Winter QRP Field Day	Feb 7 1400Z to Feb 7 2400Z	160 - 10
FM Simplex Contest	Feb 8 1PM to Feb 8 3:30PM	50Mhz- 440Mhz
CQ WW RTTY WPX	Feb 14 0000Z to Feb 15 2400Z	80 - 10
Fists CW Winter Sprint	Feb 14 1700Z to Feb 14 2100Z	40 - 10
ARRL DX Contest	Feb 21 0000Z to Feb22 2400Z	160 - 10
CQ WW 160 Meter SSB	Feb 28 2200Z to Mar 1 0359Z	160 - 10

February also is the month for the [Delaware](#), [New Mexico](#), [Mississippi](#), [Louisiana](#), [New Hampshire](#), [OMISS](#), [AM](#), [North American](#), and [Northern New York](#) QSO Parties.

ARRL LETTER

The ARRL Letter
Vol. 28, No. 4
January 30, 2009

==> LAURA L. SMITH NAMED TO AMATEUR RADIO ENFORCEMENT ROLE

Laura L. Smith of Pennsylvania has been named by the FCC to fill the vacancy created when Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, retired in 2008 as Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. Hollingsworth served in that position for more than 10 years as the FCC's enforcement watchdog over the Amateur Radio Service <www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/07/03/10198>.

A 1990 graduate of the Pepperdine University School of Law, Smith began her legal career with the FCC, working in the Mass Media Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. She also served as Deputy Division Chief of the Public Safety and Private Wireless Division. Smith is currently licensed to practice in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

In 1998, Smith left the FCC to become Executive Director of Governmental Affairs for the Industrial Telecommunications Association (ITA) <www.ita-relay.com/default.htm>, now Enterprise Wireless Alliance. In that role, she monitored FCC and legislative proceedings and participated in all regulatory proceedings relevant to the private wireless industry. In 2001, Smith became ITA's President and Chief Executive Officer. While in that position, she was instrumental in the formation of the Consensus Group, a group of public safety and private wireless entities responsible for drafting the "Consensus Plan," a proposed resolution for interference in the 800 MHz band; this was adopted by the FCC in 2004.

Smith returns to the FCC after serving Of Counsel with the Maryland law firm of Shulman Rogers. While there, she dealt with telecommunications matters and provided counsel to numerous entities in the private radio and public safety communities. Smith has served as an industry consultant and written columns for a variety of trade publications including "Mobile Radio Technology Magazine" and "The Private Wireless Magazine."

In an October 2008 letter to then-FCC Chairman Kevin Martin, ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, urged Martin to name a successor to Hollingsworth: "The appointment of a replacement Special Counsel in this position is of critical importance to the Amateur Radio Service, as the delay in finalizing the appointment stands to undermine in very short order an exceptionally successful and low-cost program of enforcement in the Amateur Service."

Calling the FCC's Amateur Radio enforcement program "spectacularly successful," Harrison reminded Martin of the "long period in the late 1980s and 1990s during which the Commission was essentially uninvolved in enforcement in the Amateur Service. The Amateur Service, consisting of some 680,000 licensees of the Commission, is in essence a self-regulating service; however, due to the shared frequency allocations in the Service and the long distance propagation of amateur communications, a very few rule violators can cause severe disruption

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

in the Service. On the other hand, even a minimal Commission presence has a very strong deterrent value."

When Hollingsworth was appointed as Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement, Harrison said that Hollingsworth "established a visible presence in the Service and very quickly, and with very little investment of Commission resources, using little more than the awareness of an enforcement presence, created strong deterrence against rule violations."

Upon learning of Smith's move to the Amateur Radio enforcement role, Harrison remarked that he was "very pleased to see the Commission move forward with the hiring of a new Special Counsel responsible for enforcement of the Amateur Radio Service rules. Ever since Riley Hollingsworth announced his retirement, we have met with the Enforcement Chief numerous times and corresponded with FCC Chairman Martin to ensure this position remains intact at FCC. The Commission acknowledges the self-regulating environment we maintain, but also understands that we need their assistance occasionally to resolve a few situations. They have continually reassured us that this is an important matter for them, and Ms Smith's hiring confirms that."

COMING EVENTS DETAILS

Ham in a Day

What: Ham in a Day
Where: Muskegon Community College
RM 1216
When: Saturday February 28, 2009
9AM to 5PM (VE Tests at 4PM)

Skywarn Training

What: Skywarn Spotter Training
Where: Muskegon Community College
Stevenson Center, RM 1100
When: Saturday February 21, 2009
10AM to Noon and 1PM to 3PM

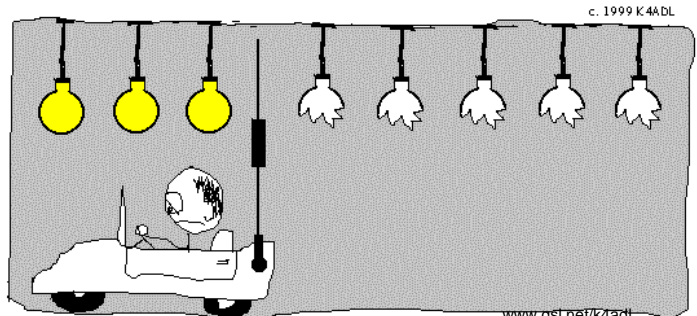
Leadership and Planning

What: MAARC Leadership & Planning Workshop
Where: Pioneer Resources
1145 E. Wesley Ave
Muskegon
When: Saturday March 7, 2009
9AM to 5PM

**NEW HAMS, UPGRADES, RENEWALS,
CALL SIGN CHANGES From FCC Web Site
For Muskegon County Area
Through January 30, 2009
Please congratulate these Hams when you
hear them.**

KB8IXY	EDMONDSON, WALTER P
KB8UNF	VERHOEVEN, MARK A
KC8LPS	LA PREE, RICHARD W
KC8MDB	HOGSTON, LORI A
KC8MDG	JACKSON, WAYNE S
KC8MDM	VANDERKOOI, DONALD L
WD8OHB	BOTBYL, CAROLYN L
KD8DAH	THOMAS, FRANK E
KD8KAO	COLE JR, RAYMOND M

"Let No Call Go Unanswered"



FACED WITH HIGH MAINTENANCE COSTS, ARTHUR'S COMPANY REVOKED HIS INDOOR PARKING PRIVILEGES.

DID YOU KNOW?

In 1917 Nikola Tesla described the process by which radio waves could be used to find the location and velocity of objects in the air, on the land, or on the sea. Later this process would be known as Radar.



DELIGHTED AT HOW WELL HE GETS OUT WITH A KILOWATT AND AN INDOOR DIPOLE, BOB GIVES LITTLE THOUGHT TO THE EFFECTS OF NEAR-FIELD RF.



ASK ELMER (Advice for the Ham)

Dear Old Man,

I see that a "Ham in the Day" class is being planned for later this month. I am dubious about the value of this kind of instruction since students don't learn anything but how to pass the test. If they don't learn how to actually get on the air it could be a disservice to both them and the hobby.

Sincerely, Concerned

Dear Mr. Ed,

I totally agree, that is why it is so important for someone (MAARC, MCECS) to make the best of this OPPORTUNITY to provide a bridge (i.e. continuing education).

Sincerely, Elmer

Elmer would like to hear from you too. Write to him at: *Flashovers*, PO Box 691, Muskegon, MI 49443-0691 or contact him through the editor, n8yjt@arrl.net



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.

The FCC has announced filling the position of Special Counsel for Amateur Radio Enforcement (see article on page 5) that has been vacant due to the retirement of Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, by Laura L. Smith. Ms Smith apparently is a non Ham. This means she may not have the perspective about the Amateur Radio Service K4ZDH had, that was so important to his success. Hopefully, the ARRL will be in a position to communicate the Amateur Radio perspective to the new Special Counsel.

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
 Communication Services, Inc.)
 1611 E. Oak Avenue
 Muskegon



Meeting Second Monday of Each Month at 7:00 PM
Everyone Welcome

K8WNJ 146.82 (94.8 PL)

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6516 Schamber Dr.
 Muskegon, MI 49444

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
 PO BOX 691
 MUSKEGON, MI 49443-0691
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