

"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](http://www.qsl.net/w8zho)  
[w8zho@arrl.net](mailto:w8zho@arrl.net)



Editor: Tom Porritt, N8YJT  
Email: [N8YJT@arrl.net](mailto:N8YJT@arrl.net)

May 2009  
Vol. 69 No. 5

## 2009 MAARC Leadership

### President

Tom Nickisch, W8AMZ

### Vice President

Larry Kozal, W8UJ

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### N8SUB License Trustee

Kirk Nygren, W8GXT

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CC Pam Flint

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Karen, KD8DHJ

Doc, AC8AL

### Committee Member

Bob, N9AUY

Dan, N8PPQ

Chuck, KC8MDL

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Nickisch, W8AMZ  
[w8amz@yahoo.com](mailto:w8amz@yahoo.com)

Well, another month has passed and we've kicked off spring with some great activities at the clubhouse. We had a great MIQP. It was also nice to see all the members who came out for the steak fry. It was quite encouraging to hear the talk from members of their preparation for the club's involvement with the 2009 Field Day in June. With May upon us there will be many opportunities for the local ham community to get involved with the club and the weekly breakfast gatherings and many ham related projects.

As for the management of the business of the club, currently our calendar is not complete and we are somewhat tardy in our planning. The key thing right now is to find leadership for each of the planned activities and to define what needs to be done.

In an effort to get on top of the current list of chores I am developing a list of planned events and activities for the

next 7 months. For each of these planned events I and the Board of Directors will be approaching and selecting individuals to provide the leadership to organize and carry out the required chores. By this time next month I expect to be able to publish an update on the status of this effort.

My goal will be to cover all of the planned seminars, workshops, operating activities, dinners, classes, and management activities related to our goals with leadership so you can count on our published calendar being up-to-date and complete.

I will look forward to seeing all of you at the general membership meeting on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Here's to another great month of Amateur Radio.

## MUSKEGON AREA AMATEUR RADIO COUNCIL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING — April 2, 2009

- I. Introductions: Carl, W4CHX, was our guest this evening.
- II. Program: Larry, W8UJ presented "The NEC and Your Shack." Larry went through the material with the aid of a very nicely produced hand-out. There were some great war stories, too.
- III. May Meeting Program will be centered on County Hunting wallpaper. Mike, K8OOK will present.
- IV. Old Business:
  1. The Call sign for the USS Silversides is N8SUB
  2. Club Membership Cards. They are still in production. A virus got the computer!
  3. Membership List posted on a web site? Dan,

## AREA COFFEE BREAKS & BREAKFASTS

Pine Street Café  
Spring Lake, 7AM Saturday

Whitlow's Restaurant,  
8:30AM Saturday

Gary's Restaurant, White-  
hall, 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

N8PPQ asked the members to endorse the concept of having the MAARC membership list available on the club's web site. There was some discussion about the list on the web. Motion by Rick, W8LGP, supported by Ray, N8GZR to allow Dan, N8PPQ publish our roster on the club's web site. Phone numbers and address will be protected until an individual member releases the fields. Motion carried on a show of hands.

VI. Two Meter Net Draw-

ing was won by Les, W8QAY

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The ARRL Letter  
Vol. 28, No. 17  
May 1, 2009

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## ===HOUSTON REPRESENTATIVE INTRODUCES AMATEUR RADIO BILL IN CONGRESS

On Wednesday, April 29, Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee (D-TX) introduced HR 2160 -- the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009" -- in the US House of Representatives. This bill, if passed, would "promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by licensees of the Federal Communications Commission in the Amateur Radio Service, by undertaking a study of the uses of Amateur Radio for emergency and disaster relief communications, by identifying unnecessary or unreasonable impediments to the deployment of Amateur Radio emergency and disaster relief communications, and by making recommendations for

## MAARC 3 MONTH CALENDAR

May 2009 Theme: Antenna Building

Club Meeting 7<sup>th</sup>

Antenna Building Seminar 9<sup>th</sup>

Dinner Pot Luck 9<sup>th</sup>

QCWA 14<sup>th</sup>

Dayton HamVention 15, 16, 17<sup>th</sup>

Mayfest 16<sup>th</sup>

CQ CW WPX 25<sup>th</sup>

Geocache Treasure Hunt 30<sup>th</sup>

June 2009 Theme: Field Day

Club Meeting 4<sup>th</sup>

Hudsonville Hamfest 6<sup>th</sup>

Museum Ships Event 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

Field Day preview ?

QCWA 11<sup>th</sup>

V.E. Testing at Red Cross 13<sup>th</sup>

Open Shack 13<sup>th</sup>

Board Meeting 22<sup>nd</sup>

FIELD DAY 26-28<sup>th</sup>

July 2009 Theme: Museum Ships

Club Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup>

Field Day Pow-Wow 2<sup>nd</sup>

QCWA 9<sup>th</sup>

Fox Hunt 18<sup>th</sup>

Dinner (Fish Fry) 24<sup>th</sup>

Teenage Picnic 25<sup>th</sup>

Board Meeting 27<sup>th</sup>

## NEXT MAARC MEETING THURSDAY

May 7, 2009 @ 7PM

Program by  
Mike Eilers, K8OOK  
On  
County Hunting

relief of such unreasonable restrictions so as to expand the uses of Amateur Radio communications in Homeland Security planning and response." The bill has been referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

If enacted into law, HR 2160, would instruct the Secretary of Homeland Security to undertake a study and report its findings to Congress within 180 days. The study would spell out uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief. The study shall:

- Include recommendations for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts
- Include recommendations for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in plan-

## 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 ARPSK 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.

ning and in furtherance of the Department of Homeland Security initiatives.

- Identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications -- such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations -- and make recommendations regarding such impediments

- Include an evaluation of Section 207 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-104, 110 Stat 56 [1996]).

- Recommend whether Section 207 should be modified to prevent unreasonable private land use restrictions that impair the ability of amateurs to conduct, or prepare to conduct, emergency communications by means of effective outdoor antennas and support structures at reasonable heights and dimensions for the purpose in residential areas. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall utilize the expertise of the ARRL and shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study.

The bill currently has five co-sponsors: Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), Mary Jo Kilroy (D-OH), Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Blaine Luetkemeyer (R-MO) and Bennie Thompson (D-MS). Representative Thompson currently serves as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security. Representatives Jackson-Lee, Lofgren and Kilroy are members of that committee.

"We understand that Representative Jackson-Lee was very impressed with the radio amateurs she encountered on a visit to an Emergency Operations Center in Houston during Hurricane Ike last September," said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "We are grateful to her and to the five original co-sponsors for their support of Amateur Radio and the encouragement that their bill

offers."

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, concurred: "We are excited to have Representative Sheila Jackson-Lee introduce HR 2160. It is extremely encouraging to have the support of a number of original co-sponsors -- including several members of the House Homeland Security Committee -- who recognize the importance of Amateur Radio's long history of public service."

## MICHIGAN QSO PARTY 2009

By Bill, NA8M (ex AB8SC)

The Michigan QSO Party, MiQP, was Saturday, April 18. It was a great way to get on HF and enjoy the challenges of propagation while chasing QSOs in the 83 Michigan counties.

Here's an edited version of the rules:

1) *Object:* For amateurs outside the state of Michigan to make contact with as many Michigan stations as possible. Non-Michigan stations may work only Michigan stations, while Michigan stations may contact anyone.

2) *Contest Period:* This is a 12 hour contest that occurs on the Saturday of the third full weekend in April.

3) *Frequency Bands and Modes:* CW and SSB on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Stations may be worked once per band and mode.

## NEW HAMS, UPGRADES, RENEWALS, CALL SIGN CHANGES From FCC Web Site For Muskegon County Area Through April 30, 2009

Please congratulate these Hams when you  
hear them

KC8MDC	CALKINS, JUSTIN P
KC8MDJ	KINNUCAN, JOSEPH J
N8LMP	EIGENAUER, CARL D

"Let No Call Go Unanswered"

4) *Scoring:*

(a) *QSO Points* – Each complete non-duplicate SSB contact is worth one point. Each complete non-duplicate CW contact is worth two points. Duplicate contacts are worth zero points.

(b) *Multipliers* – Multipliers are counted once per mode. Working the same multiplier on both CW and SSB counts as two multipliers. (The highest potential final multiplier is 49 x 2 states + 83 x 2 counties + 14 x 2 provinces = 752).

1. For Michigan stations, multipliers are 49 states (excluding Michigan), 83 Michigan counties and 14 Canadian provinces (NF, LB, NB, NS, PEI, QC, ON, MB, SK, AB, BC, NWT, YT, NU). DX stations do not have any multiplier credit, but may be worked for QSO points credit.

2. For all other stations, multipliers are the 83 Michigan counties.

(c) *Final Score* – For non-mobile stations, multiply total QSO points by the total number of multipliers. For mobile stations, multiply the total QSO points from all counties activated by the total number of unique multipliers worked from all counties activated.

Hams outside of Michigan also participated in this event by calling Michigan stations heard. And, to add some interest, the Ontario VE3 hams had their QSO party on this weekend too.

A general invitation was issued to area hams for this event and eventually Kirk, W8GXT, Dan, N8PPQ, and Chuck, KC8MDL, joined Bill, NA8M, for the party from W8ZHO. The team worked as a multiple operator single transmitter shack and enjoyed the event.

The QSO Party kicked off at high noon. At that time your author was up on twenty meters snooping for DX. W8ZHO logged half a dozen QSOs before band hopping looking for stations to contact on forty and seventy-five meters. Linda, AB8QH, was operating mobile from several counties to our east. We managed to log her on ten meters before losing her for the rest of the afternoon. Dan, N8PPQ, graciously offered his cell phone for the chase. We eventually ran his battery into the dirt trying to find AB8QH at the various other stops on her route.

W8ZHO finally settled on forty meters for the majority of the afternoon. There was good propagation to surrounding states east of the Mississippi and north of the Mason-Dixon Line. It is great fun to find friendly hams in the different states that participate in this Michigan centered activity.

At five o'clock we put the contesting aspect into low gear as members and guests enjoyed a marvelous steak dinner. Perhaps forty of our friends joined us for this dinner at the clubhouse. Tom, W8AMZ, and his family sure did a wonderful job putting together

## ANNOUNCING

### Cars for Cancer Special Event Station

When: September 7, 2009

Where: Hackley Care at the Lake on Harvey near Pontaluna Rd

Who: Jim Meyers, KC8PCJ

CallSign: K4C

At this time operation is expected to be on the W8ZHO repeater, 20, & 40 meters. Providing antenna space is available. This will be a day-time event only.

In the four years of this event the "Different Strokes" club has raised over \$40,000 dollars for the Hackley Cancer Center / The Johnson Family Center for Cancer. This year all money raised will be donated to The Johnson Family Center for Cancer.

## ANNOUNCING

### *The Mitt Contesting Club*

This is an announcement for a wonderful ham radio related opportunity. Folks in our club are encouraging and organizing a Contesting Club. This type of organization will encourage and promote contesting both at the clubhouse and in your individual shack. Contesting hams can co-operate collectively by assisting in a multiple operators running a single or multiple transceivers at various venues like the USS Silversides and our clubhouse or in your own shack. And contesting clubs pool their member's scores and compete against other clubs regionally and nationally. It is a great way to learn the craft while supporting the thrill. Give Bill, NA8M or Kirk, W8GXT a call for additional details

the dinner party. Wow! And lots of our snowbirds returned to roost for dinner. Welcome home, friends.

After dinner we rescued Chuck, KC8MDL, from calling and logging duties. The event shifted back up to high gear with two or three hams in the shack.

While we were working phone on seventy-five meters N8M requested a CW QSO. The CW guy, Kirk, W8GXT, was willing and ready. We went down band and picked up the multiplier and were thankful for the opportunity. Kirk stayed on CW until he had a

QSO with everyone on the CW portion of the band. It was fun and challenging helping him get the call sign and exchange for the log. We got thirty QSOs in the log on code. This was tremendous fun!

As the clock approached midnight we had run through all of the bands several times. We had tried calling CQ and used the "search and pounce" method in our quest for counties and new states. We had each tried our hand at the microphone. We had learned the logging program and we learned how to see which counties were logged as well as which counties were elusive. Dan, N8PPQ, had spotting software on his notebook computer that we used to seek new counties. We tried everything. We finally went out with CW on eighty meters. Midnight ended the event.

So, just how did we do? 2008 was a good year as we claimed just shy of twenty thousand points from 250 QSOs and seventy-two multipliers. This year we achieved 260 QSOs and claimed thirty thousand points using a hundred multipliers. The improvement was primarily due to the CW QSO count. We also worked a few more counties in 2009.

The contesting contingent demonstrated their prowess and ability. You, too, are encouraged to see how you can enjoy radio in that little log clubhouse on Scenic Drive in rural Muskegon County. Mark your calendar and make the effort to lend a hand and come out to the next event.

The results will be posted on MiQP.org later in the summer. You will see how we stacked up in our division and you can see all the results for each of the previous years. The MiPQ folks will also send us a report of how accurately we logged the QSOs and how that affected our final score. Stay tuned and surf by their web site occasionally.

### FIELD DAY CORNER

By Bill, NA8M  
 MAARC Field Day Chairman  
 bill\_fries@ncats.net

As reported previously, we have a Field Day site! The Sheridan Drive Baptist Church has offered their parcel on the Northeast corner of Sheridan Drive and Hall Road for our purposes. We will have access to the large field, the surrounding trees, the picnic pavilion, and the indoor plumbing facilities. The church members have invited our contingent for

FIELD DAY '09 POSITION ASSIGNMENTS – As of 5/1/09 (subject to change)	
Position	Organizer
10 Meter Shack Manager	
15 Meter Shack Manager	KC8PCJ
20 Meter CW	
20 Meter Phone	W8AMZ
40 Meter CW	W8GXT
40 Meter Phone	
80 Meter CW	N8PPQ
80 Meter Phone	K8BP
160 Meter CW	
160 Meter Phone	
Satellite	KC8PCJ
PSK 31	W8KID
ATV	
6 Meters	
2 Meters	
UHF	
Packet	N8YJT
GOTA	
Media	
W1AW Bulletin	
Info Booth	
Power Plant	W8AMZ
LAN	KI4VUO
Food Services	KC8WSG w/Venturing Crew 9050
Alternative Energy	
NTS Messages	N8YJT
Photographer	Venturing Crew 9050

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breakfast on Sunday morning. Can you say red carpet treatment?. Thanks!

We will have a local area network (LAN) for keeping our QSOs safe and sound. Jason, KI4VUO, is offering his talents for this feature. He has already gotten the network together and has hooked several computers into the network. It is hoped that we can use this feature to help all our shack managers stay on top of openings on the bands.

Electrical power will be provided by W8AMZ using a silenced and shielded AC generator. It is hoped that this will simplify the shack manager's responsibilities.

Field Day tee shirts will be available. If you want a tee shirt commemorating FD then please contact the chairman. Shirts will cost \$16 each and will be customized with the club's logo on the reverse. The front will be the tee shirt you can get from the ARRL. Orders must be placed before May 12. Your chairman will procure the shirts at Dayton and have them locally screened.

The culinary requirements will be taken care of by Deb, KC8WSG, who will be assisted by our Venturing Crew members. There will be a Friday evening meal as well as three meals on Saturday. The Sunday morning breakfast will be provided by our hosts (the Sheridan Drive Baptist Church). You will not want to miss Deb's wonderful ribs for Saturday evening's dinner.

Shacks will be operating all of the usual modes but this year Dick, W8KID, will have a PSK shack, since PSK31 is a new "band" this year. You just have to drop into his shack and see how he uses simple hardware and a computer to talk all around the US and Canada. There will be, of course, CW and phone shacks where you can operate and where you can assist by logging or offering encouragement.

Mark your calendar for June 26, 27, and 28 for the 2009 edition of the ARRL Field Day at W8ZHO. You should not miss the food, operating, friendship, weather, fun, and just plain enjoyment of this national radio holiday.

### **DID YOU KNOW?**

One of the early broadcast microphones had the element suspended on concentric cone springs from a circular ring and was known as a ribbon microphone.

## **MAARC MEMORIAL DAY HamRadio/GeoCaching Treasure Hunt**

Saturday May 30, 2009 (1PM to 5PM)  
MAARC Clubhouse

### Goals:

1. Collect points for finding GeoCaches. Most points wins. A prize suitable to the GeoCache genre will be awarded.
2. Develop greater understanding of maps, mapping, coordinates, and GPS operation.
3. Incorporate amateur radio communications
4. Eliminate time as a factor to eliminate the hurry-up tendency.
5. Have fun.

### Rules or parameters:

1. Must follow all Geocaching conventions and protocols
2. Four hours will be allotted to find three caches. If every team finds three caches in three hours, one additional hour will be allotted to find one more. Keep the best three.
3. Report each cache by radio as it is found, must match with log when returned to Net Control.
4. Return to NCS with trinket from each cache claimed, must account for all caches claimed
5. May not claim any cache that any team member has previously found or visited. (You are on your honor here)
6. Points: (Difficulty + Terrain + Distance in miles) x 10
7. 1/3 points for reporting missing cache

### Notes:

There are 112 cache's on the GeoCache database as of May 1, 2009, however changes can be expected. They range in point value from 27 to 178. Each has been assigned a difficulty and terrain factor by Geocache.org. In addition, the distance from 2888 Scenic Drive (the clubhouse) has been determined through Google Maps. Difficulty, terrain, and distance are all factors used in determining the point value. The database contains the name of the Geocache, distance and bearing from the clubhouse, difficulty, terrain, Lat/Lon, and point value. The database to be used will be kept confidential and provided only in the packets on hunt day.

In 2007 (the last time this event was run) the event

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(Continued from page 6)

was won by the team seeking the cache with the highest point value. They won even though they did not find the cache because it appeared that the cache was missing and they received 1/2 points. This year the database includes distance and bearing information and only those cache's recently reported to be found. In addition the point value for reporting a missing cache has been reduced to 1/3 to continue to recognize the effort that goes into searching, even if the final goal is not achievable. Hopefully this will result more cache's being found within the allotted time.

This event is open to all amateurs and non-amateurs who form teams (at least one ham is required for each team) and there is no cost to participate. We'll even see if we can scare up some hot dogs and fixings for a picnic.

Timing:

12:30 PM Team Check-in (get your packets)  
1PM Kick off and Net start  
5PM Net end, all stations report in  
5PM Picnic Time  
5:30PM All teams return to clubhouse  
5:35PM Award ceremony  
5:45 PM Done

## NEW ENGLAND QSO PARTY (NEQP)

By Bill, NA8M

Paraphrasing Robert Service from *The Cremation of Sam McGee*: "There are strange things done in Amateur Radio" As I write this (May 3, 2009), I am working the New England QSO Party. The exchange, or information to complete a QSO is a signal report and Michigan in exchange for a county and State from New England

It is lunchtime and my turn to cook. I tell Linda, AB8QH, "Just one more QSO and I'll get to making lunch." I was secretly hoping for a special call sign from the NEQP. I had already had a QSO with W1AW on phone

And right on cue, there, in the clear, and with a great signal was K1ESE calling CQ. Wow! I drop my NA8M call sign and he is right back with the exchange and a warm hello. John, K1ESE was a member of MAARC a few years back before he moved to Maine. You might remember his call sign as NA8M. He is a great Elmer and friend.

Lunch was a little late this afternoon.

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## EDITOR'S CORNER

As previously reported, you can find a link to the MAARC member's page off of the club's website ([qsl.net/w8zho](http://qsl.net/w8zho)). Work has continued on the membership section during the past month, but more needs to be done. However, it is still useful. There you will find a "not-quite-up-to-date" roster and membership forms, including a way to sign-up or renew on line. As of May 1, 2009 only about 1/2 of our 2008 members have renewed for 2009. NA8M is working on getting the online roster updated.

It is hoped that this display of our roster and the increased availability of membership options will encourage earlier renewals and greater accuracy of the roster.

Tom, N8YJT



## ASK ELMER (Advice for the Ham)

Hey Best Buddy ,

I've got a great idea. Let's stop keeping membership records for the club. Let's just say every ham in the county is a member, send them *Flashovers* every month. Then we just solicit contributions once a year in place of memberships. What do you think?

Sincerely, Just Thinking

Dear JT,

I too believe we need to do something different. Your idea, as one of many, has merit. But I would limit the offer to those that would accept *Flashovers* by email unless they make a contribution.

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](mailto:n8yjt@arrl.net)



**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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 General Manager

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 Cell 231 206-0422

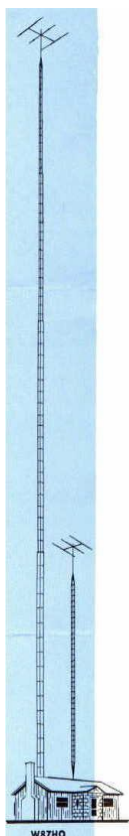
This Space Available

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  
 POSTMASTER: RETURN WITH ADDRESS  
 CORRECTION REQUESTED IF UNDELIVERABLE



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