

"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

June 2009  
Vol. 69 No. 6

## 2009 MAARC Leadership

### President

Tom Nickisch, W8AMZ

### Vice President

Larry Kozal, W8UJ

### Secretary

Bill Fries, NA8M

### Treasurer

Dennis Harriss, N8CTT

### House Manager

Dan Mills, N8PPQ

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Kirk Nygren, W8GXT

Jon Plyler, AB8RD, (Past

President)

### Resident Agent

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### W8ZHO License Trustee

Kirk Nygren, W8GXT

### N8SUB License Trustee

Kirk Nygren, W8GXT

### N8LST License Trustee

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CC Pam Flint

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Karen, KD8DHJ

Doc, AC8AL

### Committee Member

Bob, N9AUJ

Dan, N8PPQ

Chuck, KC8MDL

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

Greetings fellow members. June is now upon us and we are almost half way through the year. The big amateur radio holiday called Field Day is right around the corner. I would like to call on our local Ham community to step up and get involved by:

1. Participating or
2. Bringing a new ham or non ham out to the Field Day site or
3. Joining us for dinner or
4. All of the above.

Now on another note, earlier in the year we made plans for a twelve month calendar of activities to promote our objective of catering to the interests of our members and potential members. We feel this is the way to recruit and retain membership.

We are half way through the year and it seems like the time has gone so fast and I am aware that we have not accomplished all of what was planned. However, due to the individual efforts of some of our members we have been in-

involved in a steady stream of activities including, the Michigan QSO Party, steak fry, Wilderness First Aid with the Venturing Crew, Mayfest, VE testing, CQ World Wide CW contest, Winter Field Day, and weekly 2 meter nets. We have also been involved in activities on the Silversides, LST393, and McClain museum ships. With that being said I would encourage any interested members that would be able to assist in heading up some of these events to contact me.

Here is a list of leadership opportunities that are available for the next several months:

1. Open Shack Nights; June 13th and August 1st
2. Fox Hunts; July 18th, August 22nd, and Sept 19th
3. Picnic w/NOARC; Sept 19th
4. Test Equipment Seminar; July TBD
5. Marine mobile Seminar; Sept TBD
6. Any activity of your choice

I'll ask for your assistance with these matters at the club meeting on the 4th. So for now, I look forward to seeing all of you then and at Field Day later in the month.

## MEMBERSHIP LIST ONLINE

The club's membership list is available on the web site. Go to <http://www.qsl.net/w8zho/> and look to the left for "Membership" and then in the lower right, click on "Take this link for a look at." You can view the roster and you can pay your dues online using this web-based list. You can also show or hide fields like your address, email address, phone numbers, and the like. The secretary maintains the list. Any

## 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

changes are automatically emailed to the secretary for review. All you need to do is register on the site and then login to use this feature. We thank Dan, N8PPQ, for facilitating this application.

## MAARC CALENDAR

### June 2009

Club Meeting 4<sup>th</sup>  
Hudsonville Hamfest 6<sup>th</sup>  
Museum Ships Event 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>  
QCWA 11<sup>th</sup>  
V.E. Testing at Red Cross 13<sup>th</sup>  
Field Day preview 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

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>

### August 2009

Dxpedition 1<sup>st</sup>  
V.E. Testing 1<sup>st</sup>  
Open Shack 1<sup>st</sup>  
Club Meeting 6<sup>th</sup>  
Founders Day Picnic 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Fox Hunt 22<sup>nd</sup>  
Board Meeting 24<sup>th</sup>

## MAARC BOARD MEETING

June 1, 2009  
Draft Report by NA8M

### I. Old Business

1. Dan, N8PPQ, has presented the club with a web application to help keep the club's roster (Editor's note: see page 1 of this issue of *Flashovers*). The club's secretary should maintain this list and should maintain an off line back-up. The list on line should be the current list..
2. Dan, N8PPQ, again offered his EZO an-

tenna to the club. The antenna will set us back around \$300. Kirk, W8GXT, support by Larry, W8UJ, made a motion that we recommend to the club that we purchase one of these antennas. Funding this antenna is still a concern.

3. Dan, N8PPQ, and Jay, N8YKC, are doing tower work at the clubhouse. Larry, W8UJ, recommends that we keep our current tower and that we do not replace the top section if all the parts are healthy. We should replace the mast. We will replace the rotator and triband beam. We will also need to evaluate the HF feed line.

### V. New Business

1. Bill, NA8M, made a proposal for MAARC to purchase the Comcast parcel. The club would purchase this parcel and replace the current club's parcel with this new parcel. The proposal met with lukewarm support. It was suggested we offer Comcast something ridiculous. We are still looking into the opportunity. Tower maintenance is a significant expense to be considered.

2. What should MAARC do if we lose the current two-meter repeater site? Channel 8 might offer us space on one of their towers. This would require we move our antenna and feed line. We should seek alternatives on the off chance we are tossed off the current tower.

3. Another plan would be to construct another tower for the repeater. Kirk, W8GXT, has a lead on another tower. It is 300' tall. Bill, NA8M, will contact the township to see what they might require should we choose to add another tower.

4. Bill, NA8M, made a suggestion that the club cancel telephone service to the two-meter repeater site. The phone service at the site is for an alarm. We will contact Comcast to see if this is feasible.

5. There was some discussion about Matt, K8MLD, sk and his estate.

6. Bill, NA8M, asked if we could or should do a Silent Key ceremony to remember K8MLD, sk. We should do this June 10. We should publicize this in *Flashovers*. Mark, K8MHZ, will facilitate this ceremony.

7. Bill, NA8M, wants the club to purchase spiral bound logbooks for the Silversides, McLane, LST, and clubhouse. The books

## 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.

cost \$8 each together with postage. Kirk, W8GXT, supported. Chuck, W8CCS, says he will pick the log-books up in Hudsonville. Motion carried.

8. Larry, W8UJ, and Kirk, W8GXT, want MAARC to purchase QSL cards for the Silversides at a cost of \$20 for a hundred cards. Carried

9. Tom, W8AMZ, will bring a calendar to the upcoming club meeting. The purpose of this is to find sponsors for upcoming events. We have suffered too many seminars that have died due to lack of assistance.

## FIELD DAY CORNER

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

Here we are, right on the edge of June with Field Day just around the corner. We are looking forward to an event full of new opportunities, camaraderie, and learning. Shack managers are lined up and anxious to hit the air so they can show the ham community, the general public, and public service officials all things Field Day related.

In preparation for the event all shack managers, the LAN guy, and the "power company" are getting together to plan shack locations, antenna placement, and other items at noon on June 13th at the Field Day site. You can bring your computer to insure that you have the necessary capability to log QSOs on the network. And we'll do other housekeeping things that always seem to pop up, too.

As in years past we have an comprehensive meal plan for the week-end:

1. Friday evening at 5:00 o'clock there will be a potluck dinner at the Field Day site. Bring a main course and a side dish (vegetable, salad,

## FIELD DAY '09 POSITION ASSIGNMENTS – As of 6/1/09 (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	KC8JWC/K8JEO
80 Meter CW	N8PPQ
80 Meter Phone	K8BP
160 Meter CW	
160 Meter Phone	
Satellite	KC8PCJ
20 Meter Digital	W8KID
40 Meter Digital	
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

or desert) to share.

2. Saturday's lunch, just prior to the start of

operations, will be prepared by Deb. It will be a simple affair of sandwiches, chips, salad, and the like.

3. Saturday evening's dinner will again be at 5:00 o'clock. It will be a potluck as on Friday except Deb will cook ribs, so you only need to bring a salad, vegetable or desert to share.
4. Sunday morning's breakfast will be hosted by the Sheridan Drive Baptist Church. After which we have been invited to enjoy their worship service.
5. Beverages will be available for the duration of FD. Cold pop (I suspect at fifty cents a can) and coffee will be on the site. The Venture Crew will help Deb with food service and preparation.

So, bring a friend, bring a prospective ham, bring the kids, and bring someone you don't even know. But make it a point to stop in and say, "Hi" at Field Day on June 27 and 28.

### LAST CALL CEREMONY—K8MLD

Matt L. David, K8MLD, succumbed to a deadly blood disorder in early May, '09. He was a member of

**NEXT MAARC MEETING  
THURSDAY  
June 4, 2009 @ 7PM**

**Program by  
Bill Fries, NA8M  
About  
Field Day 2009**

MAARC. He was also a frequent participant in our Wednesday evening two-meter net. Matt was a good friend of MAARC. A memorial service was held in his honor at Muskegon State Park on the shore of Lake Michigan, a site he frequented and enjoyed.

In his honor MAARC will host a "Rite of Last Call" ceremony during the MAARC Wednesday, June 10 2 meter net. You are invited to participate in this tribute to a silent key.

### 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.

### EZO ANTENNA for W8ZHO

The MAARC Board of Directors has endorsed the concept of erecting an EZO antenna on one of our towers at the club. The antenna, designed and offered by Dan, N8PPQ, will enhance the antenna assets at the clubhouse. You may remember that Dan and his antenna were the club's March program. This antenna will cost the club about \$300. The board is encouraging supportive hams to donate funds to cover this purchase.

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### THE ARRL LETTER

Vol. 28, No. 21

May 29, 2009

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==> FCC'S BILL CROSS: "BEHAVE YOURSELVES!"

Bill Cross, W3TN, a staff member in the FCC's Mobility Division, and Laura Smith, FCC Special Counsel for Amateur Enforcement, spoke at the FCC Forum on Saturday, May 16 at the 2009 Dayton Hamvention.

Cross offered some general comments on the Commission and its priorities, then went on to discuss topics that he said "keep coming up in questions we receive in articles that appear on Web sites and in columns in newsletters and the like".

## RACES

Cross said that he has been getting questions concerning RACES, asking what plans the FCC has to rejuvenate the organization. "The questions have been from a couple of FEMA guys who also happen to be hams," he said. "Now, in RACES, stations are certified by a civil defense organization and persons who hold an FCC-issued Amateur Radio operators license are certified by that civil defense organization as enrolled in it. I know that the term 'civil defense organization' is way out-of-date -- 'emergency management agencies' is probably a more current term. But the terminology used in the rules reflects that RACES was created in the Cold War era when there was a concern that everyone would be ordered off the air."

## Amateur Radio and Pecuniary Interests

A topic that keeps popping up, Cross said, is business use of Amateur Radio, specifically transmitting messages on behalf of an employer. "Section 97.113 answers this question straight on: 'No amateur station shall transmit communications for hire or for material compensation, direct or indirect, paid or promised, except as otherwise provided in these rules.' There are two exceptions. There are exceptions for teachers who are using Amateur Radio as the control operator of a station in an educational institution as part of a classroom thing and control operators of club stations in certain cases. A station is also not allowed to transmit communication in which the station licensee or control operator has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. There is an exception to that rule that allows you to transmit communications that are commonly referred to as "swap nets," but eBay seems to have reduced the need for these nets. And you're not allowed to transmit communications on a regular basis which could reasonably be furnished through other radio services."

Cross pointed out the ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, "had an editorial on this on April 1, 2009 [on the ARRL Web site and in the April 2009 edition of QST] ["It Seems to Us: Keeping the 'Amateur' in Amateur Radio," page 9]. That's probably not the best day to date something, but you should read it. And I have plagiarized from that greatly because it is very elegant and spot on".

## Public Service Communications

The last topic Cross addressed concerned public

service communications. "There's no rule about public service communications as such in Part 97, because most of the messages you transmit that you think of as public service communications are allowed by Section 97.111. Paragraph (a) authorizes an amateur station to transmit two-way communications including, among other things, exchanging messages with other stations in the Amateur Service and communications necessary to meet essential communications needs and to facilitate relief actions." Cross noted that most of these transmissions -- the essential communications needs and facilitat-

### **NEW HAMs, UPGRADES, RENEWALS, CALL SIGN CHANGES From FCC Web Site For Muskegon County Area Through June 1, 2009**

**Please congratulate these Hams when you  
hear them**

K3SWB	HOCKENBERRY, RICHARD G
KA4VRP	HOCKENBERRY, ROSEMARY C
KC8MDC	CALKINS, JUSTIN P
KI4VUO	BLAKLEY, JASON C
WA8M	ROSSENTHAL, LINDA L
KD8KZC	HARRIS, TIMOTHY J
KD8KZD	DAVID, DONA J
KD8LGU	LST393 RADIO OPERATORS CLUB
KC8MJT	HAGEN, HEIDI D
KC8MDH	JUNTUNEN, JARED D
W8CCS	STARK, CHARLES C

**"Let No Call Go Unanswered"**

ing relief actions -- are two-way exchanges with messages with other amateur stations. "The rule also authorizes you to transmit one-way communications, such as transmissions necessary to make adjustments to the station -- these are your tests, your tones, tossing the carrier to see what the SWR is, that sort of thing -- and brief transmissions neces-

(Continued from page 5)

sary to establish two-way communications with other stations."

Laura Smith

The Dayton Hamvention was one of the first events Smith has attended in her role as Special Counsel. Cross introduced Smith, explaining that he used to work for her and that she was "one of the best people that we possibly could get for this job, because before she came to the Wireless Bureau, she had worked in mass media. After she had been in the Wireless Bureau, Laura had been the president of a trade association in Washington.

He mentioned that Smith plans to stay in this position for the long haul: "So if you have any ideas about a short-timer or think you're going to get away with it, plan on about 15 years down the road. In the meantime, behave yourselves!"

Smith explained that when she took over the amateur enforcement position earlier this year, the job had changed a bit from when Hollingsworth was in the office. "This job used to be in the Spectrum Enforcement Division down in DC; it was a remote position in a DC office," she explained. "It is no longer in that Division. I am actually a Field Agent. I'm attached to the FCC Field Office, I'm in the Northeast Region and my supervisor is the Regional Director for the Northeast Region." She told the crowd that she has spent a large portion of her time going through all the files that had accumulated, about 430 cases, while the position was vacant.

She explained the different types of complaints her office receives, such as complaints dealing with criminal investigations, technical violations, harassment and language complaints, malicious interference complaints and unlicensed users.

Smith suggested to the amateur community "that we as a collective -- you guys and me -- we can have a great relationship, we can do this the easy way. You guys can, in fact, follow the rules and remember that when you signed up to

become an amateur, you actually committed to adhere to the Commission's rules. I'm going to strongly suggest that you hold to that. If you don't we can do this the difficult way, and I am more than willing to do that if it comes down to it."

## FLASHOVERS HAM OF THE MONTH

Jack Maciejewski, K8CYV

Jack obtained his novice license in October 1956 as KN8CYV. He passed the General exam in October of 1957 and dropped the "N" out of the call which he has had for his entire career.

He says he almost gave up on ham radio during the first year when his home brew transmitter had a second harmonic problem. He called "CQ" many times with no answer. Several times he received "OO" (Official Observer) reports for being on 7465kHz when he thought he was transmitting on 3732kHz. Each time he made changes to the antenna/ground system per the recommendation of the ham who helped him build the transmitter. Finally he received a very "Official" report of his second harmonic signal from Grand Island, Nebraska (the location of one of the FCC monitoring stations). After several months of suspending operation, he ran into another ham (Bob Japenga) who suggested he check the transmitter out with a grid dip meter. Bob found that the coil had about half the turns required



Jack Maciejewski, K8CYV, with Radio Cat examining an issue of *Flashovers*

Photo by N8YJT

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

for use with the surplus variable capacitor that he had installed. Jack rewound the coil with twice the windings and it "dipped" out properly for 80M. He made hundreds of contacts with that 6J5 and 807 transmitter that put out a calculated 22 watts. His son, WD8AHB, recently gave him, as a birthday present, his first receiver, a National SW-54. It is a very sensitive receiver, but, he finds it extremely difficult to believe that he made even one contact let alone hundreds with that receiver (the width of the pointer covered the entire novice band).

He has completed WAS and DXCC both of which occurred in the 1950's. Over the years he enjoyed a lot of CW Dxing along with handling a lot of "phone patches" for missionaries in South America.

Jack says "about 10 years ago I started working digital modes that I found very interesting because high power was not required. I am currently participating in the "WSPR" (Weak Signal Propagation Reporter) program by K1JT. It collects signal reports from stations around the world and deposits them in the WSPR network site. The software reads a signal level up to 20dB above the noise level AND down to 30 dB below the noise level. Sorry, you won't get a 599...please repeat your name & qth...do I have your call correct report. The software reads it as it receives it (even BELOW the noise level)! It is rather interesting to see your signal report come back from stations around the world while you are running vertical antennas and 5 watts of power".

Jack is currently running an Icom 756PROIII and simple dipoles (80/40) and verticals (10,12,15,17,20 and 30 meters). He hopes to replace his 32 year old Hygain TH3 three element beam this summer.

## SPECIAL EVENT STATIONS

**Jun 6, 1400Z-2100Z**, Oswego, NY. Fulton Amateur Radio Club, W2CXV. D-Day/Museum Ships Weekend from the USAT LT-5. 21.365 18.165 14.265 7.265. QSL. Redd Swindells, AI2N, 134 E Seneca St, Oswego, NY 13126. [www.fultonhamradioclub.org](http://www.fultonhamradioclub.org)

**Jun 10, 1300Z-2300Z**, Kearney, NE. Midway Amateur Radio Club, WØKY. Pony Express Reride Commemoration from Ft Kearny State Park. 14.275 7.280. Certificate. Midway Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1231, Kearney, NE 68848. [w0ky.kearney.net](http://w0ky.kearney.net)

**Jun 13-Jun 14, 1400Z-1800Z**, Colo, IA. Story County Amateur Radio Club, W0YL. 96 Years on the Transcontinental Lincoln Highway. 14.275 7.250 3.875. Certificate. Dave Lucas, 4263 Highway 13, Central City, IA 52214.



## EDITOR'S CORNER

Its great to see movement on the planning front as described by MAARC President, W8AMZ, in his comments this month. He has a list of activities and events that need to have leadership in order for them to happen. These are things (or things like them) we need to do to be relevant to area hams, and we need to be relevant to gain membership. He can not succeed without your support, so step up and find something you can do to show your support for the club. Don't leave things in the hands of the usual suspects. There aren't enough of them.

There is also some active discussion going on about the condition of the membership roster. This is a good sign that membership recruitment and retention are on the radar of the current leadership of the club.

Tom, N8YJT



## ASK ELMER (Advice for the Ham)

Dear Ye Fragrance of Stale Cigar,  
How do you explain the fact that no more than a maximum of about 20% of the hams in the area are members of the club at any point in time.

Sincerely, Just Thinking

Dear JT,

This is your second comment and question about membership in as many months. Well, I welcome your questions. The bottom line is that there are three factors that determine whether a ham will become a member. The first is relevance. The second is opportunity (which includes contact or association with current members), and the third is relevance. We are not meeting one or more of these factors.

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**

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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**  
 PO BOX 691  
 MUSKEGON, MI 49443-0691  
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**In This Issue**

- President's Corner
- Membership List
- MAARC Calendar
- MAARC Board Meeting
- Field Day Corner
- Last Call Ceremony
- Cars for Cancer
- EZO Antenna
- The ARRL Letter
- New Hams, Updates
- Flashovers Ham of the Month
- Special Event Stations
- Editor's Corner
- Ask Elmer