April 2020





The monthly newsletter of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette, Michigan. Comments and suggestions can be sent to the club at P.O. Box1183, Marquette, MI 49855 or to the editor at n8mav1@charter.net Club info, membership, dues, etc. can be found on our website at www.qsl.net/k8lod

MONTHLY MEETING: Marquette County Health Department Bldg., Lower Level, Negaunee Township.

Date: March 5, 2020

Time: 7:00 PM

CLUB OFFICERS, 2020

Pres. Lou Gembolis KG8NK
VP: Greg Hanson KI8AF
Treas. Mike Beltz KD8JIR
Sec. Lee Rowe KD8BJC
Board Members:
Fred Mouser KD8JIP (Past Pres.)
Steve Novotny KE8HEP
Dave Thomas KD8DRF

STANDING WAVE

Editor, Jim Belles N8NAV Distribution, Greg KI8AF

REPEATERS

With the proliferation of local and regional repeaters, it is no longer feasible to list them individually. However there is an extensive list – and map – contained in the HARA website at www.gsl.net/k8lod.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hopefully this Newsletter finds you staying home and healthy. When our state lifts the stay at home order, it will still be a different world for us. We still don't know how we will handle HARA meetings in the near future, perhaps outdoor programs, on air or video conferencing, or regular-type meetings. The next community event that we are involved with is the Ore to Shore bike race unless it is cancelled.

If Spring ever gets here, it would be the time to check your antennas and coax, charge HT's, program radios, and other necessary Ham Radio related items. I have been trying to increase my CW skills which is going slowly (thinking you cannot teach an old dog new tricks!). Several of our members are getting involved with D-Star and DMR radios which is becoming a new and interesting hobby. We will be sending you information in the future on these new digital radios and what they are all about.

Our Wednesday Wellness Net is going very well with many check-ins. This net keeps all of us connected and updated on what each of us are up to. If you have questions on Ham Radio, antennas, HT's, or HF radios, please contact me; and I will try to get the help you may need. We are still doing the Sunday night ARES net at 7:00 pm. This net is open to anyone, so please try to check into this net also.

Stay safe and healthy!

Lou KG8NK

V.E. TESTING:

../.. Marquette: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am)
Marquette County Health Dept. Bldg.,
U.S. 41 just east of the Michigan State Police Post.

You MUST preregister at least by the Tuesday evening preceding the Saturday test date. Contact Rich N8GBA at 249-3837, n8gba@att.net or Greg KI8AF 225-1594, ki8af@arrl.net.

Please arrive one-half hour early for test sessions to give time to process applications. Testing applicants should bring the following items with them: Two pieces of I.D. one being a photo I.D., Original license and one clear copy of their license if applicable, Completed form 605 (one will be provided if you don't have one), pencils, calculator and the test fee of \$15.00. Please have the correct fee as examiners do not carry change. *Please contact the individual(s) listed to confirm date(s), location(s), etc.*

Note: Other clubs in the area may offer license testing. For a listing you can go to the ARRL website at arrl.org. Click on *Licensing, Education, Training*, then *Getting Licensed*, and then *Find An Exam Session*. You can search by zip code or other criteria.

HARA's Monthly Meeting Programs

Future: Greg KI8AF, Antenna Analyzers, Antenna Tuners and Dummy Loads

NOTE: The above is a partial list of upcoming programs. The Club is always looking for Ham Radiorelated programs of interest to the membership. If you have something in mind, please contact VP Greg Hanson @ ki8af@arrl.net.

The Business

Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association Thursday, April 2, 2020

In accordance with Governor Whitmer's Stay Home, Stay Safe mandates, monthly HARA club meetings are suspended until further notice.

My First Radio Restoration

We now have some extra time at home thanks to the various Stay Home, Stay Safe mandates. So, after taking care of the XYLs (or OMs) "honey do's", why not take some time to nose around the shack for some long-delayed projects?

This one actually began before the COVID-19 outbreak. Some time back I responded to an email request to find a home for a Lafayette HE-80 shortwave receiver. The owner was unsure if the radio worked and did not have the time or resources to investigate. He was offering the radio free of charge to a good home.

The radio arrived at my QTH with the chassis sitting inside, but not attached, to the cabinet. Having no idea whether or not the HE-80 actually worked, I immediately consulted with our resident expert on tube-type radios. Who, even though well-known locally, for the purposes of this article I will call John.

Upon first inspection, we found a blown filter capacitor and a broken tube which were immediately replaced. The major damage, possibly caused during shipping, were bent gangs (vanes) on the main tuning capacitor. These making contact with each other caused a serious hum (short) as we tuned across the various bands. Since we didn't have a replacement, John took on the pain staking job of physically separating the vanes. Eventually the hum was reduced to the very low end of the tuning dial.

We then proceeded to spray the various contacts with cleaner. While doing so, we discovered that a "guest" had hitched a ride inside the chassis (see photos). That gives new meaning to the term de-bugging! While John worked on the inside, I spent time sprucing up the radio's faceplate. We replaced a missing knob from John's supply.

The Lafayette HE-80 is a 1960s vintage 14 tube receiver covering the AM broadcast band, 3 shortwave bands (1.5 to 30 megacycles) as well as a fifth band covering 48 to 54 megacycles. It is capable of receiving AM, FM, SSB and CW signals. It does not have an internal speaker, so I was able to locate a Lafayette HE-48C external speaker on eBay.

The receiver still needs to be aligned and a couple of minor cosmetic issues addressed. But it has made a very nice addition to my tube-type (boat anchor) radio collection.

Stay safe and stay well during these challenging times. And spend some time enjoying our great Ham Radio hobby!

73 de Jim, N8NAV



The Lafayette HE-80 arrived at my QTH in rough shape!



Cleaning the contacts.



A guest hitched a ride!





Sprucing up the inside and outside.



The finished product – on the air - with HE-48C speaker.

A Note About Photo Submissions

A couple of things to keep in mind when submitting photos to be published in the Standing Wave:

- 1. We always prefer shots of Hams in action over those just depicting random people or scenery.
- 2. We'd love to include captions to go along with the photo. So please identify the individual Ham(s) as well as the activity. THANKS!



News

HARA H&W Net

Please join us for the HARA Health and Wellness Net on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm on the K8LOD 147.27 (100 Hz tone) repeater.

Let us know how you are handling the COVID-19 issue and what you are doing to stay safe!

We are also planning on sending out items regarding Amateur Radio to keep our great hobby going!

Just check-in with your callsign. When it is your turn we will ask for your name, location, and comments.

A follow-up District 8 emergency exercise was held on Saturday, March 29, 2020. Like the February pre-exercise, this one was held using HF and VHF. Additional VHF modes were added, as was D-Star, DMR and Echolink. The following table graphically presents the results.

3/29/2020		AUXCOM	80 M	40 M	2 M LOCAL	2 M REGIONAL	2 M SIMPLEX	D-STAR	DMR	ECHOLINK	RR
					200/12		0				
Alger	Х	3	14	0	1	12	2	0	0	0	2
Baraga		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chippewa	Χ	9	1	0	31	4	0	0	0	0	13
Delta	Χ	10	10	0	10	14	0	0	0	0	0
Dickinson	Χ	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Gogebic	Χ	1	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Houghton	Χ	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1
Iron	Χ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Keweenaw	Χ	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luce	Χ	11	1	0	10	3	3	0	0	0	0
Mackinac	Χ	1	1	0	0	2	3	2	0	0	0
Marquette	Χ	18	13	6	32	5	9	2	2	2	3
Menominee	Χ	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontonagon	Χ	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Schoolcraft	Χ	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	2	0
Soo Ontario	Χ	2				2					
Marinette	Χ	1	6	3	2	4	2	0	0	0	0
CCE	Χ	2									
Midland Co.		1									
Calhoun Co.		2									
Totals		72	48	9	89	50	19	6	2	4	19

Items of Interest

With time on my hands, I have started listening to podcasts on my cellular device. You can search on Amateur or Ham Radio. A couple that I find interesting – and within my limited attention span – are:

- Amateur Radio Newsline
- ARRL Audio News

Parting Thoughts

1. Pictured is a photo of a NVIS antenna that I have on my back fence. I have 80 meter coils on each side which shorten the length of the antenna. The range of this antenna is up to about 500 + miles.

Lou, KG8NK



Lou also included the below link:

https://youtu.be/KQJw9j-moEg

2. While the following video and others to follow talk about using it for Narrow Band Emergency Messaging Software (NBEMS), the Fldigi software is also great for operating PSK31 and RTTY as well as other digital modes for rag chewing/chatting. Currently the digital mode FT8 is not available using the Fldigi software but down the road, who knows. A couple of big benefits in using digital modes for emergency type messaging is that digital signals can be quite weak, yet be copied at the receiving station and also you have a print outs and/or digital files for passing on if necessary.

My best advise if you'd like to learn more about Fldigi and the many modes that it operates in is to go the YouTube link I've listed here. If you do get interested in using Fldigi I'd suggest you continue on with the next six or seven videos in this series.

73, Greg KI8AF

https://youtu.be/DNBJnDHCw_M



That's a wrap for this month!

HARA membership New member or need to renew your membership? Dues can be mailed to the: Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 1183, Marquette, MI 49855. Dues annual rate structure: Single \$15.00, Family \$20.00, Associate \$10.00, Family associate \$15.00, Student \$7.50. More information and an application form is available at http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/membership.html

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