

April 2026

The Standing Wave



The monthly newsletter of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association of Marquette, Michigan. Comments and suggestions can be sent to the club at P.O. Box 1183 or 381, Marquette, MI 49855 or to the editor at n8nav1@charter.net Club info, membership, dues, etc. can be found on our website at www.qsl.net/k8lod

MONTHLY MEETING:
HARA Monthly Meeting
Marquette Co. EOC
Conference Room
Date: May 7, 2026
Start: 7:00 PM

CLUB OFFICERS for 2026

Pres: Tom Perry KE8TPT
VP/EC: Scott Machalk, WU8H
Treas: Mike Beltz KD8JIR
Sec: Josh Cadotte KF8DNQ
Board Members:
Lou Gembolis KG8NK (Past Pres.)
Jim Belles, N8NAV (Retired EC)
Dave Thomas KD8DRF
Greg Hanson, KI8AF

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.qsl.net/k8lod.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Good morning all. This message is going to be different than my usual monthly missive. Let's discuss the HARA finances and the future. For calendar year 2025 we budgeted \$1958 for expenses and \$830 for income. We finished 2025 with \$3265 in expenses and income of \$1072. We planned for a deficit budget and exceeded the expenses by a LOT! Our two largest increases in expenses were rent for our storage unit and repeater repairs (basically parts only). We are looking into reducing our storage unit costs, but that effort is going slower than expected. The repeater repair costs would have been a whole lot higher if not for the efforts of Paul/KB0P, Brandon/N8PUM and others. They performed the labor for us. Our repeater systems are 20+ years old. We can expect more repair costs in the coming years.

Our 2026 budget is \$2,518 in expenses and \$855 for income. Again, a deficit budget. Now don't panic, we have a fund balance to cover our expenses. (You'll have to come to a meeting to find out about our financial position. We don't need to publish that information for the world to see.)

Currently, we only have two sources of operating funds; dues and donations. If you haven't paid dues for this year or past years, we could sure use the money. The "swap and shop" has gone away for us, and many other clubs, as a source of revenue. We have been successful recently in getting grants for capital improvement projects. We will probably have to depend on those sources for operating funds also in the future. Without additional sources of income, we will be out of money in a few years.

What are your ideas for the financial well-being of the club into the future?

P.S. We are ALWAYS looking for ham radio and electronics related presentations for the meetings.

73 Tom KE8TPT KE8TPT@gmail.com

V.E. TESTING:

**June
13, 2026**

Marquette: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am) Marquette County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) conference room. The EOC is located across the parking lot from the Health Department.
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 at ki8af@arrl.net.

There are new procedures for license testing recently implemented. If you need assistance, please contact Greg, KI8AF.

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

NOTE: The Club is always looking for Ham Radio-related programs of interest to the membership. If you have something in mind, please contact VP Scott Machalk @ smachalk@gmail.com.

The Business

HIAWATHA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

March 5, 2026

The regular monthly meeting of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association was held on Thursday April 9, 2026 at 7:00 pm at the Marquette County EOC, the Vice President being in the chair and the Secretary being present. In attendance were Scott WU8H – Vice President, Josh KF8DNQ – Secretary, and 11 additional members, and 0 guests. A quorum was met.

The meeting minutes of the January meeting, as published in the Standing Wave, were approved.

ARES/RACES Committee:

- Badges have been started but the printer overheated. Brian will complete them as he has everything needed.
- The RAVE system is set up and has been tested and appears to be working well with text and email notifications. Landline notifications are available as well if anyone is interested in being notified that way.
- The Spring Statewide ARES Exercise is schedule for May 2. Stay tuned for details.
- EOC – HF antenna needs work/attention when weather permits.

Repeater Committee:

The repeaters are all up and running. Greg went to the .27 site to get EchoLink and the raspberry Pi's back online about a week ago. When better weather arrives, need to test the new system.

Old/Ongoing Business:

- The membership must be notified 25 days before a vote can be held for a bylaw change to create a HARA organizational membership. It must be confirmed that the change will not affect 501 3c status of the club.
- County capital outlay plans – possible DMR radio and/or new HF antenna for the EOC if the old one cannot be corrected/fixed.
- The membership is encouraged to join Discord.
- Ideas for classes/presentations are welcome for non-business meetings.

New Business:

- If we are to build EFHW antennas/ununs for the June program, a list will be needed as to what parts will be needed and how many of each.

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 pm

Josh K7SDN2, Secretary

Presentation:

Scott, WU8H assisted several members in getting their Hamclocks linked to the new server. There was also good discussion among attendees about the 2m linked system and using/reaching the repeaters. Some members mentioned the tough terrain we have in the UP that can affect their ability to hit the repeaters, even at fairly close distances. Some in attendance offered their help to come to other's sites to see if they could assist in figuring out how make their antenna more effective.

A Special Message from Greg, KI8AF

Bill Burntfinger Langford, KE8KCA. Celebration of life for Bill Burntfinger is April 26th at noon at the Ishpeming Township Hall. If you can, bring a dish to pass.

Special Note from Treasurer Mike

The Marquette Post Office was/is going through a renovation. The HARA club post office box has changed from 1183 to 381. Post office officials have assured Mike that either number will get the mail to him.

Friday Lunch is back!
(meet in the back room at Big Boy at 11:00 am)



Left side: Marge (XYL of Bill, KE8KCA), Fred, KD8JIP, Rich, N8GBA, Bill, KD8ZEG, Joe, AJ8MH, Greg, KI8AF
Right side: Bill, KE8KCA, Lou, KG8NK, Judi, KE8LRW, Sheri, KD8EDS, Mike, KD8JIR, Bill, KD8ZMJ, Dave, KD8DRF

Happenings!

The following is a list of local events that, as of press time, are happening:

- Cadillac Amateur Radio & Computer Swap, May 2, Mackinaw Trail Middle School (see flyer)
- Dayton Hamvention, May 15-17, Greene County (Ohio) fairgrounds



HARA 10-meter Net

Some years ago, the club established a weekly get-together on 10 meters. The original intent was to give those Hams with a Technician-class license a chance to gain experience on HF SSB. Since that time, it has grown into a combination rag-chew, Health & Welfare and generally an old-fashioned good time! We continue to have a good showing of “regulars” and visitors! With the Cycle 25 (hopefully) increase in propagation, 10 meters appears to be hopping. The group meets on **28.396** (+/- QRM) on Friday nights at 7:00 pm local time. Net control is usually Greg, KI8AF. Because it is a local net, you don’t need to run much power or have a big antenna installation to be heard. So finish your Friday fish fry early and join us on 10 meters! We look forward to hearing you!

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!

Challenge

Parks on the Air (POTA)

Ongoing

For details, see their website at:

www.parksontheair.com.

ARRL 250

Ongoing

W1AW portable operation in all 50 states

www.arrl.org/america250-was



ARES News

from the desk of WU8H



Spring is finally in the air and I'm looking forward to getting the antenna issue at the EOC sorted out and getting that station fully on the air.

We recently launched the RAVE system for our notifications. Thanks to everyone for your help with that, it made the process very smooth. We'll be using that system for any notifications in the future. I still encourage all ARES members to join our Discord. We have a special channel just for ARES but I can't really use it if we don't have everyone signed up. If you need the invite link to sign up, let me know.

The Spring statewide AUXCOMM exercise is coming up on May 2. I just got the guidance from the state and we'll be looking through that to determine what we will do locally. The State priorities are:

- Utilizing the Station Status board in MI CIMS.
- Utilizing Winlink forms, including the field situation report.
- Utilizing the message mapping feature in Winlink.

I'll be working with Brian and the AECs to create a plan. I should have that in the next week or two.

I just got back from a 16 day trip to Arizona. I tried to bring some nice weather back with me but instead, drove back to the mother of all storms. I did 8 POTA activations in 8 states on this trip to bring my total activated states to 25. Half way there! It was a lot of fun. Here are a couple pictures from North Dakota and Montana.



If you remember, the ARES group has taken over the Emergency 2m net on Sunday nights. We had pretty good participation for net controllers when starting out but we haven't had many sign-ups lately and the same people have been taking net control Duties. I'm asking everyone who is able, to sign up for a slot every 2-3 months so we can share the load. This is a good opportunity to practice net control skills. I know it has been very helpful for me. Thanks!

As a reminder, please turn in your ARES hours by the 5th of the following month so I can get the report completed and turned in by the 8th. These numbers get reported to the state so they can see how many hours we put it.

Scott
WU8H
Marquette County ARES EC

Buy, Sell, or Trade

Please advise when items have been bought or sold.

Bill, KD8ZMJ has an HF and 2-meter antenna system for sale. The HF side is a wire dipole (on the left) and the 2-meter (on the right) is from Comet. Bill is selling the antennas, masts and coax for \$150. **The equipment has all been taken down.**

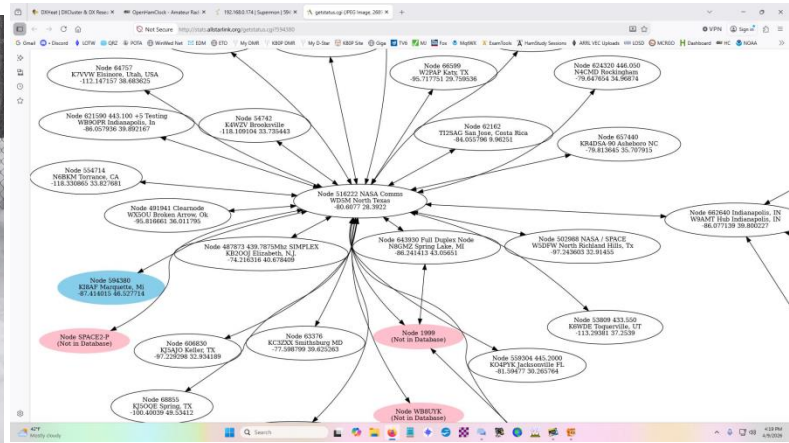
Bill has moved. So if interested, contact Mike, KD8JIR at: mbeltz@tds.net.

My brother had a Hammarlund Super Pro receiver. I've done a little online research, and it looks to me like this could have some value and be of interest to a radio enthusiast. Therefore, I don't want to just toss it if someone would enjoy having it. I am reaching out to HARA to see if one of your members is interested in that sort of thing and would want it. Thank you. Tom Gill tgill201@gmail.com 715-938-2454, leave voicemail if I don't answer.

I received this back on February 12, so I am unsure if it is still available – Ed.

Shack Memories

While not exactly a shack memory, per se, Greg, KI8AF submitted these items. Looking back at President Tom's message, the first shot is just one of the challenges of keeping the repeater system going!



The second picture is of Greg's AllStar node bubble chart while connected so as to listen to Mission Control and Artemis II. I'm the blue colored node connection.

Parting Thoughts

1. From the ARRL Great Lakes Division:

Subject: The Great Lakes Division Tax Day Newsletter is ready for you to enjoy!
Hey Gang,

There's lots of great new information for you to read from the Section Managers as well as a few great articles that you just won't see anywhere else. So, grab a glass of your favorite liquid refreshment, a big bag of potato chips and relax in that overstuffed easy chair of yours and have a great read!!

https://arrrl-greatlakes.org/glnews/2026/04-5-26-radio_waves.pdf

73,

Scott, N8SY

2. The members of HARA wish to express their sincere condolences to Brandon Anderson, N8PUM on the passing of his wife, Cristina on March 25th.

All ads are presented for informational purposes only. Unless otherwise noted, HARA does not endorse any product, service or event – Ed.



3. From our East Coast correspondent Pete, K8PT:

A. HyGain and Cushcraft are reentering the market!

<https://www.lintonnews.com/itu-corporation-re-purposes-linton-armory-facility-to-house-iconic-amateur-radio-manufacturing-free-article/>

73. Bob Schenck, N200

B. Subject: Good News - SteppIR is back in business

STEPPIR CONSUMER PRODUCT

ANNOUNCEMENT

As our amateur radio customers know, we exited the consumer market in June of 2025. At that time, we did not know what our exact future was – our plan was to pursue commercial projects in search of more stable long-term income sources, but we never lost hope on the idea of returning to the amateur radio market in some form.

Thanks to some recent (and continuing) exciting developments on the commercial side of things, SteppIR will now be able to guarantee future sales of our consumer product line via online web sales!

All parts and accessories that are on our website are available for purchase and will continue to be available into the future. Multiple items have been substantially reduced in price.

We will be bringing back select antennas that will be purchased as kits on our website – Urban Beam Yagi 40m-6m (dipole on 40m/30m), 3 element Yagi 20m-6m, 4 element Yagi 20m-6m. The 3E and 4E Yagi will also have the 40/30 loop dipole option available.

We will also be selling the SmallIR vertical 20m-6m, and the BigIR vertical, 40m-6m.

Warranty support and services will be in effect for these antennas as well as any purchased parts and accessories

DUE TO THESE COMMERCIAL PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS, WE BELIEVE WE WILL BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE SOME EXCITING NEW PRODUCTS FOR THE CONSUMER MARKET THAT WILL ENHANCE ALL EXISTING AND FUTURE STEPPIR ANTENNAS, IN THE NOT-TOO-DISTANT FUTURE.

steppIR
COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

4. Fellow ham,

My name is **Thom Baxter, WI4USA** — I'm an Extra class ham and Volunteer Examiner (VE). I built a free study app called **MyHamRadioStudy** and wanted to share it with the ham radio community.

Whether you're studying for your first license, looking to upgrade to General or Extra, or you know someone who is — MyHamRadioStudy has the tools to help. **Already licensed? Please consider sharing this with anyone you're Elmering.**

What's included (100% free):

- Full question pools for Technician, General, and Extra
- Smart study mode with spaced repetition
- Progress tracking to identify weak areas
- Practice exams that simulate the real test
- Flashcard mode for quick review
- Ham radio tools — band plans, calculators, and more
- Daily challenges to keep you sharp

Visit MyHamRadioStudy

myhamradiostudy.nomadicagility.com

This is my way of giving back to the ham radio community. The app is completely free — no strings attached. If you find it helpful and want to support keeping it running, that's appreciated but absolutely not required.

Verify this is real:

- Look me up on QRZ: <https://www.qrz.com/db/WI4USA>
- Email me directly: wi4usa@arrl.net
- Visit the site yourself: myhamradiostudy.nomadicagility.com

We take your inbox seriously. Learn about our [nine-tier responsible email practices](#).

Questions? Just reply to this email or reach us at support@nomadicagility.com.

73 de **Thom Baxter, WI4USA**

Extra Class Amateur / VE

Creator of MyHamRadioStudy

*Free
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in the North*

*Testing
Session for
New or
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K8CAD
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Saturday May 2
Doors Open at 8 AM
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Mackinaw Trail Middle School

8401 South Mackinaw Trail --- Cadillac, Michigan
wexaukeearc.org

Local Weekly DMR Net

The weekly DMR net starts each Sunday evening at 6:30 pm local time and is finished by the start of the HARA Sunday evening net at 7:00 pm.

The DMR net meets on our local KB0P DMR repeater and/or the U.P. Michigan Talk Group.

Repeater: 442.200 MHz receive/447.200 transmit U.P. Michigan Talk Group: 31268

And of course, don't forget the Marquette Co. 2-meter Emergency Net @ 7:00 pm on the K8LOD (147.27, 100 Hz tone) repeater!



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 or 381, 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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