

March 2022

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, 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:
Marquette Co. Health Department
Lower Level, Negaunee Township
Date: April 7, 2022
Time: 7:00 PM

CLUB OFFICERS, 2022
Pres. Lou Gembolis KG8NK
VP: Greg Hanson KI8AF
Treas. Mike Beltz KD8JIR
Sec. Scott Machalk WU8H
Board Members:
Fred Mouser KD8JIP (Past Pres.)
Jim Belles, N8NAV (EC)
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.qsl.net/k8lod.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

At last week's HARA meeting, a good discussion was held on how to encourage more attendance. With COVID 19 on the downward trend, we want to make meetings more interesting. The business part of our meetings can be conducted in a relative short time frame, followed by interesting programs or demonstrations.

The members in attendance had many good ideas for programs, such as Fox Hunts, radio programming, antenna building, kit building, mentoring new members, satellite operations, SDR and More code operation.

We also discussed forming a club work group that would help members with problems, such as antenna installations or radio problems.

In other radio-related news, Ukraine has issued a ban on Amateur Radio operations because of the war.

73, Lou, KG8NK

V.E. TESTING:

**March 12,
2022**

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 at ki8af@arrrl.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. **You must have an FRN and provide a valid email address.** *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 arrrl.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 Greg Hanson @ ki8af@arrrl.net.

The Business

HIAWATHA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

March 5, 2022

Attending: President - Lou KG8NK; VP - Greg KI8AF; Treasurer - Mike KD8JIR - /Scott WU8H and 5 additional members.

President Lou KG8NK opened the meeting at 1900 hours with a short discussion about attendance. He commented that there are 115 members in the club and asked for ideas to facilitate increased involvement. At the end of the meeting, there were some ideas discussed (see Presidents Message above - Ed.).

The Meeting Agenda and Secretaries Report were approved.

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed by Mike, KD8JIR. There were no new expenses this past month. Motion to approve by Don, N8HDT and seconded by Greg, KI8AF.

Correspondence: Several pieces of correspondence were received, including the Forsyth Township tower statement, membership renewals, announcement of a 2022 Grant Cycle and the bank statement for the VE account.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters:

Greg, KI8AF, reported that all repeaters are fully functional. If anyone knows of any difficulties, please let him know.

ARES/RACES:

Jim N8NAV, our EC (Emergency Coordinator), is enjoying warmer weather in Texas. Lou, KG8NK, stated that there will be a Winlink exercise coming up in April. Contact Jim (when he returns) for information. If you are interested in becoming an ARES member, contact Jim.

Old Business:

- The UP 200 Dog Sled Race went well. There weren't a lot of entrants. Paul, KB0P, did an outstanding job as the Amateur Radio Coordinator! Paul recently started a new job and is looking for someone to take over next year's race.
- Lou reported the following list of upcoming local Hamfests:
 - Green Bay - the first weekend in June.
 - Newberry/Luce - Green Bay - the second weekend in June.
 - Escanaba - August.
 - HARA - October 22.

New Business:

- **Dayton Hamvention: A group will be heading for this event. They will be leaving May 18 and staying four nights. If anyone is interested in going, let Don, N8HDT, know ASAP as he is holding five (5) hotel rooms that will expire shortly.**
- Field Day: The 2022 event is June 25-26. Locations discussed included Joe's Camp and the West Branch Township Hall. Mike, KD8JIR, will be coordinating this year.
- Scott, WU8H, presented the idea of creating New Ham Kits for Hams that achieve their Technician licenses. The kit would include some general information about Ham Radio such as a band plan, a local repeater list, a welcome letter from the club as well as a membership application and possibly a 1-year free membership. Scott will put together a sample for review at an upcoming meeting.
- Scott, WU8H, asked if there might be any interest in a Groups.io web page for the club. Groups.io is an email list similar to a bulletin board, where ideas can be shared and questions asked online. There is a free version for up to 100 members. The next level of membership costs \$20/month, but the club would get a 50% discount due to its non-profit status. That level would get us more features, as well as allow more members to join. The page would only be open to club members. Scott will create the page and invite members to help develop it. If interested in helping develop the groups.io site, please contact Scott, WU8H.
- As discussed last month, the club will no longer supply License Study Guides to the local libraries.

Motion to adjourn at 1950 hrs by Bill, KC8EWD, seconded by Don, N8HDT.

Minutes submitted by Scott, WU8H

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



Left side: Judi, KE8LRW, John ex-N8RSE, Jim, N8NAV, Dave, KD8DRF (hiding), Greg KI8AF
Right side: Don, N8HDT, Tom, KC8OND, Bill, KD8ZEG, David KE8PND, Fred, KD8JIP

Happenings!

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

- Dayton Hamvention – May 20-22, 2022 at the Greene Co. (Ohio) Fairgrounds. Contact Don, N8HDT, if interested in attending.
- Green Bay Hamfest - June 4, 2022 at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Green Bay, WI (see flyer).
- LARS Swap - June 11, 2022 at Luce Co. Fairgrounds, Newberry, MI.
- HARA Swap & Shop – October 22,, 2022 at the Negaunee Township Hall. Contact Fred, KD8JIP.



HARA 10-meter Net

Some months 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. 28.400 MHz is a calling frequency, so we have decided to move our net to **28.396** 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

ANNOUNCING THE NEW WINTER CHALLENGE FOR 2022!

We are calling this

THE WINTER ALPHABET CHALLENGE!

The official start date is January 1, 2022 (0000 UTC). The end date is March 31, 2022 (2359 UTC).

Rules:

Work one (1) station whose call (prefix) begins with a different letter of the alphabet. Exception: There are NO calls that begin with the letter Q (Quebec). So the Wild Card for Q is any station beginning with a number (#).

There was an EXCEL FILE attached to the January newsletter that you can use to update your records.

There will only be certificates for those who accomplish the complete challenge!

Submit your completed log sheets to Greg, KI8AF at mimqtham@gmail.com by April 15, 2022.

The contest ends at the end of the month!

Have fun!



News

from the desk of N8NAV



As you read this, my family and I (including our dog) are enjoying some time away from the UP winter. Right now where we are it is 72F, but also very humid!

As any good Ham would, I did bring radio equipment on the trip. I will attempt to attach some photos later. Unfortunately, I didn't account for there being high voltage power lines close by our house that make 20 meters totally unusable (S9+ noise). I was able to make a 15 meter SSB contact with a friend in MA and I am hoping to make it on our 10 meter net on a Friday.

This was my first foray into a "portable" HF operation on my own. So from an emergency communications standpoint, here are some lessons that I am learning:

- **Protect your gear.** We traveled 1,800 miles by car. Before leaving, I purchased a pelican-type case from our local Harbor Freight store. I had some difficulty navigating the foam inserts, but finally managed to create protected spaces for the HF rig, power supply and antenna tuner. An added bonus is that the case has a pop-up handle and wheels which aided in transporting the equipment to/from our car.
- **Make sure to bring everything you need.** That includes extension cords, coax, connectors, AND A TOOL KIT. Radio Shack stores are few and far between these days and you can't count on there being a source for missed items, particularly radio-specific ones. Make a checklist. Fortunately, I was in good shape here.
- **Be prepared for Murphy!** As least as much as you can. Obviously you can't foresee every circumstance (like high voltage power lines), but try to think ahead. One thing I didn't do was to check and see if there was a Ham club in the area that might have advised me on issues - such as power line noise.
- **Have FUN!** After all, this is a hobby. As much trouble as it was packing and unpacking, setting up and tearing down, dealing with noise and bugs, I had a good time and learned a lot (hopefully) for next time.

And if you are not currently an ARES member, we are always looking for new ARES members. If interested, you can download an application from the ARRL website, www.arrl.org/ares and email it to me at n8nav1@charter.net, or contact me and I will arrange to get an application to you.

I know that the ARES Assistant ECs - Greg, KI8AF, Dave, KD8DRF, Fred, KD8JIP and of course Lou, KG8NK - who is actually the Assistance District EC - are taking excellent care of things there. Until our return, Stay Safe!

73 de Jim, N8NAV

Buy, Sell, or Trade

Please advise when items have been bought or sold.

Brian, K8BHZ has an extensive collection of QST magazine going back 30 years complete, and assorted issues dating through several decades prior to 30 year portion. He is offering these to anyone who is interested for free. Interested persons can reach Brian at k8bhz@alphacomm.net.

Parting Thoughts

1. Dave, W7DEG, submitted the following:

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So I finally heard that sled teams were getting to the radio checkpoint just before mine, which is much later than anticipated by my estimation. Based on previous races they should take about a half hour to get to me from the previous Highway 13 checkpoint. So I waited and the weather conditions got worse. The wind was driving the snow sideways and I could only see about 10 to 20 feet in front of me.

About an hour after the first three teams had left the Highway 13 checkpoint, some of the volunteers must have spotted the headlamp of the first musher because they all started running around. I jumped out of the vehicle and got ready to catch the bib number and the crossing time. As the musher got close to me, the bib was flapping in his face and I couldn't see the number. So I ran behind and read the number on his back that wasn't flapping as much. This musher got to Timber Products before any of the other mushers got to my crossing. On the radio, Al reported that the first musher said that there was a tree down over the trail between my station and Highway 13 and it took him about 25 minutes to get around it.

So I expected the next two teams to be coming at any time. Another flurry of activity from the other volunteers suggested they were coming.

2. Our own VP, Greg, KI8AF, provided some additional information regarding upcoming local events:

The annual UP 200 and Midnight Run races are scheduled for February 18, 19, and 20th. This event requires lots of help and a good deal of coordination. Paul KB0P has coordinated the Ham Radio operations for several years now and will do likewise again for the 2022 races. Besides all the regular Ham volunteers he gets assistance from, more are always needed. Paul is looking for a younger Ham (at least somewhat younger than him) in learning the coordinating and running HQ communications. Paul's contact info: pwracine@gmail.com



3. Our East Coast correspondent, Pete, K8PT, offered the following information:

Did you know that snowfall causes static to build on your antenna?

When it discharges (hot side to the ground side) it CAN damage your radio. Under normal circumstances, light falling snow is far less hazardous than heavy blowing blizzard snow. Background for me personally.... A DXpedition a number of years ago set up a rig onboard the boat that they were using to sail to the island which happened to be an Antarctic island. They used one of the rigs that was designated for the DXpedition in order to be on the air maritime mobile during the sail. Unfortunately, the rig's receiver went dead so they brought out a second radio. At some point that second radio's receiver also went dead. They were using a deck mounted vertical antenna that was "above ground" and using the boat's ground for the groundplane. They were sailing through blowing snow which was causing snow induced static to build on the antenna and discharge across the coax connector in the radio thus damaging the receiver in both radios. After research, they figured this all out albeit a little late. On future "boat" maritime mobile setups, they added a "vertical antenna matching network" which essentially is a coil across the antenna (at the base of the antenna) which puts the entire antenna at "electrical ground" thus shunting any discharge to ground before it comes inside to the radio. On subsequent DXpeditions, they did not have any more issues with snow static discharge damage.

I found this link that shows you what it could look like.

[December 21, 2008 - Snow Static With Video At W1UJR - Amateur Radio Station W1UJR](#)

The conclusion is that you should always disconnect your antenna from your station during any storms, including heavy snow events.

de Bob Schenck, N2OO

4. From the latest edition of Dale's (WA8EFK) Tales:

HAMVENTION: Hamvention Covid Statement

Hams and vendors hoping to attend Hamvention 2022 are asking questions about plans to deal with COVID. Hamvention management is monitoring the situation closely. General Chairman Rick Allnutt, WS8G, has issued the following statement:

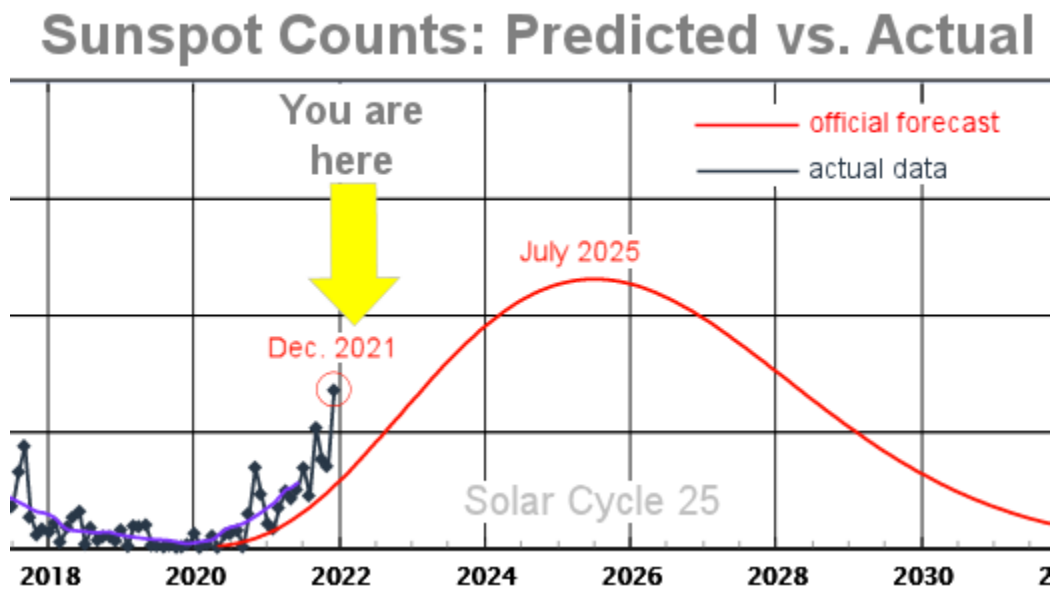
"We strongly anticipate that the Hamvention 2022 is a go. We cannot guarantee what government may decide about unknown changes in the pandemic. It has become obvious that the State of Ohio is very unlikely to call a halt to large gatherings anytime soon. Despite a recent large spike in Omicron COVID cases and hospitalizations, there is no move to restrict large indoor or outdoor events such as sports events."

Allnutt added that he anticipates the official state guidance may be to recommend (but not require) wearing a mask and social distancing. Hamvention will support state guidance. We do not anticipate checking immunization status on site.

Some have asked whether COVID testing will be available at Hamvention. At this time there are no plans to have testing on site. Watch hamvention.org for any updates dealing with the COVID situation.

Hamvention, an official ARRL Sanctioned Event, will be held Friday-Sunday, May 20-22 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center.

5. And finally from Fred, KD8JIP, some information on where we fall in the Solar Cycle:



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. Lucille KD8PTE is usually net control, although she has recently been experiencing some radio problems and Dave, W7DEG, has stepped in to help!

Repeater: 442.200 MHz receive/447.200 transmit

U.P. Michigan Talk Group: 31268



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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