

May 2012



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 ki8af@arrl.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: **3rd, 2012**

Time: **7:00 PM**

CLUB OFFICERS, 2011

Pres. Lou Gembolis KG8NK
VP: Paul Racine KB0P
Sec. Mike Beltz KD8JIR
Tres. Peter Kotila KC8YTX
Board Members:
Past Pres.
EC Rich Schwenke N8GBA
Eric Pellinen N8TEV

STANDING WAVE

Editor, Greg KI8AF
Publishing, LaneWD8PAJ
Distribution, Greg KI8AF

REPEATERS

KG8YT, 147.270 / .870 with 100 Hz PL-Tone Marquette
K8LOD, 146.910 / .310 Ishp.
N8RRZ, 146.640 / .040 Gwinn with 100 Hz PL-tone
K8LOD-3.144.390 APRS Digi Mqt

WHAT'S NEXT FOR US

May's meeting program will be our annual Skywarn training.

Distracted Driving in Ontario

On April 16 the MTO posted a regulatory notice proposing a change to Ontario Regulation # 366/09 (Display Screens and Hand-Held Devices) that would **extend** the current exemption for licensed amateur radio operators for an additional five years.

As you know, the exemption was due to expire at the end of this calendar year, and Radio Amateurs of Canada has been lobbying for a permanent exemption since this regulation was introduced back in 2009.

We will be providing comments to the Road User Safety Branch of MTO on this issue and will continue to press for a permanent exemption. That said, a 5-year extension is certainly welcome at this point but is not the ultimate resolution that we have been seeking.

The only other group to obtain an extension are commercial, public transit, and public function drivers.

You can view the notice in the provincial registry at:
<http://www.ontariocanada.com/registr...43&language=en>

RAC and the Distracted Driving Committee wishes to thank all organizations that supplied letters of support to assist us in obtaining this extension. This shows the support we have from many Ontario organizations.

Bill Unger VE3XT

North/East Ontario Regional Director
Chair - RAC Distracted Driving Committee
Radio Amateurs of Canada

V.E. TESTING:

- 06/09 **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.
- 10/13 **Hancock:** 9:00am eastern time, ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 400 INGOT STREET, HANCOCK,MI
Ingot street is located across from the Quincy hill lookout, just north of Hancock...
Contact: Glenn Ekdahl, WA8QNF at (906) 482-7743 if you have questions
- 05/05 **Iron Mountain:** 9:00am central time, (arrive by 8:30am) Dickinson County Library
(conference room), contact Mark J. Lewis N8UKD (906) 776-1553, 412 Fairmount St. Kingsford, Mi 49802
- 07/14 **Gladstone:** Delta County Amateur Radio Society Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins welcome) Contact: Dave Palmgren - N8DP, n8dp@dcars.org, (906) 428-2271 VEC: ARRL/VEC Location: Gladstone City Hall Main Meeting Room 1100 Delta Ave. Gladstone, MI 49837

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.*

Birthday Wishes

The "Birthday Wishes" column is now back by request. If you notice an error or your birthday is missed please advise the editor. Birthday Wishes for the month of May go to: John N8RSE, LeRoy N8WQG, Rick W8LHT, Bob N8XAE, Paul KB0P, Peter KC8YTX, Jeremy KD8FPH, Delan KD8FPO and Mark KF8RV.

What's Your Favorite Ham Website?

Subject: [QTH.com Classifieds] Scam warning

Dear [QTH.com](http://qth.com) Ham Radio Classifieds user:

We've seen an alarming increase in the number of scammers utilizing our website (and it seems most other ham radio classified sites, too, based on reports coming in). I wanted to take this opportunity to explain what some of these scammers are doing, in hopes it will better protect you from them, when you are selling equipment on the [QTH.com](http://qth.com) Classifieds at <http://swap.qth.com>.

Common scammer traits:

- 1) They will use some else's callsign, and they will create an email address that contains that callsign, usually with a free email provider like gmail, yahoo, hotmail, etc. They sometimes pose as foreign callsigns (especially UK and Spain) but recently have been using USA callsigns.
- 2) They will sometimes post "For Sale" ads, but also will sometimes answer "Wanted" ads. Usually the prices are a little too good to be true.
- 3) They will use pictures of equipment they have found on the Internet (they don't really own the equipment).
- 4) They seem to like payments via Western Union (no protection for the buyer), but will also use PayPal (hoping to drain their account before the buyer realizes they have been scammed).
- 5) They seem to know ham radio jargon. For all we know, these scammers are hams, but we can't be sure.
- 6) They are sophisticated enough to use "proxy servers" so their IP address cannot be easily detected. This makes it difficult for us to block the scammers. We are constantly tweaking our filters to block these guys when possible, but it is a constant cat and mouse game.

What can you do to protect yourself?

- * Ask for a phone number and call the person before agreeing on any deal. This is probably the #1 way to expose the rats.
- * Check to see if the email address they used matches what is listed for that person on their [QRZ.com](http://qrz.com) profile. It could be a red flag if there is a mismatch.
- * Be especially cautious of dealing with foreign hams. Not all foreign hams are scammers, of course! Just be extra careful!!
- * Never use Western Union. Be very cautious of using Money Orders and Cashier's Checks. PayPal and Credit Cards seem to be the best option, as far as having any buyer protection. Money Orders & Cashier's Checks are perfectly acceptable if you are absolutely sure who you are dealing with.
- * Read all of my "Safe Trading Tips" at <http://chat.qth.com/viewtopic.php?t=12>

About 100,000 ads are placed each year in the [QTH.com](http://qth.com) Classifieds, and only a tiny, tiny fraction wind up being fraudulent. I do not want to scare you into thinking that it is unsafe to trade online. Rather, I simply want to arm you with knowledge, so that you will be able to sniff out the bad guys, and stay safe.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me directly at ka9fox@qth.com.

73 - Scott KA9FOX

[QTH.com](http://qth.com) Ham Radio Classifieds

<http://swap.qth.com>

PR.....Happenings

Our PR committee needs input from each of us if we expect them to do their part in getting the word out about our organization and amateur radio. Please contact a committee member well in advance of a happening. PR committee member is: Lane WD8PAJ laned@chartermi.net or 486-8697.



Please take note of the empty spot to the right of Joe's FT-950. Whatever for? Um? Nice spot for a QRP rig!

Volunteering your time Counts!

Each month many members volunteer their time for club activities some of which might include repeater maintenance, ARES, EOC operations, Life Tracker, newsletter, PR, club business, etc. All these volunteered hours and mileage can be credited to HARA and amateur radio but only if you report them. AEC Dave Thomas KD8DRF reports these numbers monthly. So at the end of each month please contact Dave with services rendered, hours and mileage. Contact Dave at dlthomas@chartermi.net

On The Bands

The 67 (146.670) repeater was installed at the HCRC Donken Tower site. It is operating at about 23 watts without any amplification. We have 1 watt reflected and are at the near top of the 300 foot tower. Special thanks to Jack Swift for assistance in getting analysis data for the antennas and Chuck Savolainen for the installation today. The repeater is operating in a testing mode and we are gathering data on the propagation and quality of the signal. The amplifier for the 67 died some time ago. A decision will be forthcoming on replacement of the amplifier, or the entire 67 repeater. Please use this repeater and let me know your results. Vance B. Nelson

EMCOMM and You!

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>

And that's a wrap for another month. Please if you have an article or something which you may think will be of interest to the club membership get it to me. Also if you have any comments or suggestions please get a hold of me. 73 until next month, Greg KI8AF@arrl.net



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