

May 2020



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 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.qsl.net/k8lod.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



DIGITAL RADIO

In the most recent issue of the ARRL magazine, On The Air was an article on Digital Radio. It has been mentioned on many of our nets that we have several members that are getting into this method of operating on digital radios.

As the article stated, with a digital transceiver voice is translated to data and sent over the air and then at the receiving end translated back to an analog signal. The data stream can contain not only your voice, your call sign, your location, but much more information.

The three major systems include Dstar, DMR, and System Fusion. All of these systems offer repeaters that can be linked to the internet which create global networks in which repeaters and reflectors connect to each other and provide various talk groups. These radio systems also allow you to store and use regular FM analog repeaters.

The next and most important question is what is the cost to get started on Digital? DMR radios run anywhere from \$90 to \$240. Dstar radios run about \$350. There are four DMR repeaters in the UP and only one Dstar repeater. As we yet to have either close to our area you would have to purchase a hot spot which works with your WiFi home system. You can also use the hot spot with a mobile phone as you are traveling. Hot spots cost anywhere from \$70 for a kit that you put together or one that is already put together sells for around \$100. There are many hot spots on the market and some cost a lot more. I bought the Bridgecom package which included the radio, mega hot spot, and was fully programmed by them (costly).

The other item you need is a MENTOR, which we have several in our club. The learning curve is different than analog usage. As the article said, Hams who are attracted by the ability to access internet reflectors, groups who are involved in public service activities, or special interest groups, will find digital very rewarding.

Lou KG8NK

V.E. TESTING:

See *Marquette: 8:30am eastern time, (arrive by 8:00am)*
Below *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@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. *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

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 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
Thursday, May7, 2020

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

QST QST QST

Here is some important info in regards to the licensing test session for the June 13th date.

We have been okayed by the Health Department to hold a test session on June 13th. We need to limit the number of individuals at the test session (this includes examiners also). So those wishing to take an exam **MUST PREREGISTER WITH ME**. They can contact me either by telephone 225-1594 or email at ki8af@arrrl.net. Once again, if they do not preregister with me and those already in attendance meet the set limit by the Health Department, they will be turned away.

Greg
KI8AF

Cleaning Up


Last month I wrote about a pre-COVID-19 project. Since our illustrious Governor has now extended her Stay Home, Stay Safe mandate until the end of May, I figured it was a great opportunity to tackle another long overdue project!

I have an approximate 10' x 3½' closet adjacent to my shack. In the past, this handy space has been used as storage for my various (excessive is the term used by my son and XYL) hobbies, a work area for my plastic model building and a display area for my collection of shortwave receivers and associated radio devices. Over the years, this space has gotten more and more out of hand as the initial photo will indicate. Additionally, the weight of my increasing collection of “boat anchors” had actually caused the middle of the table to sag. Concerned that the whole thing may soon give way, I decided that the time for decisive action had arrived!

The first task was to find a replacement for the dangerously sagging table. Our church is in the process of replacing old tables in the classrooms. While the existing tables are not new, they are still in perfectly good shape. An added bonus is they are also a foot longer than my existing table which gives me room for more “stuff”. A friend had suggested that placing a sheet of plywood over the table would add strength. Thank goodness our local hardware stores are considered “essential”!

This project entailed removing the current equipment; including my Hammarlund SP-600 receiver that weighs in at about 75 pounds (they don't call them boat anchors for nothing)! As the photos document, our basement resembled a flea market gone very badly!

It took a couple of days and assistance from my very understanding XYL, but you can see the finished product. Thanks to a six-position coax switch, all of my receivers now have access to an outside antenna. I am looking forward to many hours of enjoyable listening!

As you can see, my space for additional acquisitions is extremely limited. I guess this is a sign it is time to halt – or at least take a break – from my radio collecting. 

So what have you been doing with your radio hobby during our extended (enforced) down time? Let us know. In the meantime, stay well!

73 de Jim, N8NAV



Closet **BEFORE** cleaning
(note the equipment leaning toward
the center)



Empty closet with new – longer – table



Yard Sale anyone!



Finished renovation (no leaning)!

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.

No items were available this month, but Lou did offer the following:

Items of Interest

For Sale

I have a very nice Yaesu FT-1000MP that I want to sell. I bought it new from AES and it has been trouble-free its whole life! It is in great condition, and I have the factory manuals, boxes and mic for it.

I am selling it because I just acquired an Icom 7600 and do not need, or have room for, two main station rigs.

I'm asking \$750, and can deliver within 60 miles.

Potential buyers can contact me via e-mail at x51bob@aol.com or by phone 906-869-2975.

73, Bob, N8PKN.

Free to Good Home

I recently upgraded my home printer. Since I have no need for two, I am offering the old one for FREE.

It is an Epson XP-830. It prints in color and B&W using cartridges – and I do have a few of those that go with it. In addition to printing, the unit copies, scans and faxes. It works wirelessly or wired. I do have the software and documentation.

If interested, contact Jim, N8NAV @ n8nav1@charter.net.

Parting Thoughts

For those of you who have joined us on the Friday night 10-meter net in the past, you will recall that Jim, KE8BOQ, had a noise in the background that, to the group, sounded distinctly like there was a fan running – either from his rig or his power supply. Stay tuned for “the rest of the story”. (Ed)

The Mystery of the Shredding Yaesu

Earlier this year I had received a new Yaesu radio that was a replacement for my old one that had given up on a Friday night. After properly connecting the new Yaesu, I joined the 10 meter Friday night group.

Wearing headphones like I usually do, I did not hear the noise being created each time I keyed the mike. But several guys had questioned the noise each time I talked. “What dat noise?”

Great question and apparently you may not know what you miss hearing while wearing headphones. My shredder was tucked underneath the table and each time I transmitted, the shredder would be activated. I found this out when I took the head phones off and keyed up.

Well, I moved the shredder to a different wall outlet and now the Mystery is solved!! But I still don’t understand how this actually happened.



Jim’s “magic” shredder

2020 Field Day notes from the ARRL NEWS:

04/22/2020

This year, ARRL Field Day promises to be a unique iteration of this annual event, with many individuals and groups coming up with new and interesting ways to adjust their approach. As an event, Field Day is structured to be versatile and can be adapted for any situation.

Many groups have asked how they can adjust their Field Day planning to address social-distancing guidelines that may be in effect in many areas of the country, as gathering at their traditional Field Day site may not be feasible or

safe. Instead of participating in a group event this year, consider operating as a Class B, C, D, or E station, utilizing your own call sign.

ARRL will include club names for all participating stations in the published results, so the efforts of your club's members can be acknowledged. While we will not publish an aggregate club score, seeing the name of your club associated with various individual members' results is certainly a way to highlight your club's activity.

Myriad opportunities are possible in this year's Field Day setting. These are just a couple.

Consider having an intra-club competition among members, seeing who can make the most contacts during the event. You can award prizes or distribute certificates at a club meeting. This can be a fun way to bolster the activities of individual club members, even though they cannot all gather together at the same location this year. Set up a Field Day Challenge with rival clubs in neighboring communities. See how many members of each club get on the air from their own stations and participate in the event. In addition to "bragging rights," perhaps certificates to the top-scoring individual entries in each category can be presented as part of this inter-club camaraderie.

One club is planning to conduct its Field Day as a 4A club group, with participants spaced to comply with social distancing guidelines within the required 1,000-foot diameter circle and operating individual stations. This club also plans to set up a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station. The club's plan is to have the GOTA coach at the Field Day site, while GOTA operators participate via remote link.

Another club is planning to set up a remote-controlled station at its usual Field Day site, with club members taking turns controlling the station from their homes. The club is developing a schedule that outlines when each member of the club will be at the helm via the remote link.

Whatever approach you take to this year's Field Day, keep up to date with the current guidelines issued by local and state health agencies that may impact your proposed operation.

ARRL invites your stories about the interesting and creative ways you're planning to use to adapt your Field Day operation. Share these on the ARRL Field Day Facebook page.

For the latest news and updates, visit the Field Day webpage. —

Thanks to ARRL Contest Program Manager Paul Bourq

NEW ARRL Member Benefit



ARRL members will now receive digital access to four ARRL magazines beginning with their latest issues. Joining *QST* and *On the Air* on a digital platform will be the bimonthly editions of *QEX* — The Forum for Communications Experimenters and *NCJ* — National Contest Journal. *QEX* includes articles, columns, and other features ranging from construction projects to more advanced technical information in radio theory and practice. *NCJ* targets radio amateurs active in radiosport, and includes scores, technical articles, contributions from top testers, and advice for radiosport enthusiasts alike.

"All members can enjoy specialized content and a high-quality reading experience whether at their desk or on the go. Offering this suite of digital magazines is an opportunity for us to give members more of what they want while adding value to ARRL membership" said ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY.

ARRL's digital magazine editions provide replicas of the printed editions with added functionality, allowing users to fully search issues, enlarge pages, share articles, and more. All four are easily accessible through any web browser from members-only links. The free ARRL Magazines app also supports downloading complete issues for offline reading. It is available for iOS and Android in the Apple App Store and Google Play.

For more information visit www.arrl.org/arrl-magazines



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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