

May 2024

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: **June 6, 2024**
Time: **7:00 PM**

CLUB OFFICERS for 2024

Pres. Tom Perry KE8TPT
VP: Brad Mattson KE8TPS
Treas. Mike Beltz KD8JIR
Sec. Scott Machalk WU8H
Board Members:
Lou Gembolis KG8NK (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

“We approved the new constitution and bylaws at the May meeting. They are posted to the website. We also developed a document entitled “HARA Events Planning, which is also posted to the website. Go and read them.

At the May meeting we had a good discussion/program about various HT’s. A lot of information was exchanged about a variety of different HT’s. At the June meeting we will discuss the cellphone apps, DVSwitch and RepeaterPhone. Reference the President’s message in the April newsletter for the homework you have to do before the meeting to set up your phone for accessing Allstarlink nodes. We are always looking for ideas for educational programs. Step up!

Last item: I am involved in the communications planning for the Lake Superior Performance Rally (formerly the POR). In the next month or so I need to set up temporary repeaters to test our 2M radio coverage of the race rally stages in the L’Anse and Kenton areas. The testing will probably require one day in each area. If you are interested in helping me and have an open day or two, let me know. I can’t do it by myself. Ideally, I/we also need radio operator help for the rally on 11-12 Oct 24, so this testing could be your introduction to helping out on race weekend. Helping on race weekend is NOT a requirement to helping with testing and vice versa. *73 Tom KE8TPT* KE8TPT@gmail.com

V.E. TESTING:

**June 15,
2024**

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@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. **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 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 Brad Mattson @ barbarajaquestavez@braxmail.net

The Business

HIAWATHA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

May 2, 2024

Note: Per Secretary Scott, WU8H starting with this issue of the Standing Wave, the meeting minutes will look a bit different – Ed.

The regular monthly meeting of the Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association was held on Thursday May 2, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Marquette County Health Department, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present. A request for any corrections to the May meeting minutes as posted in the Standing Wave was called for. No corrections were presented.

In attendance were Tom KE8TPT - President, Mike KD8JIR - Treasurer, Scott WU8H - Secretary, 10 additional members and one non-member. A quorum was met.

Repeater committee:

Tom, KE8TPT, reported that all repeaters are working with the exception of the .64 in Gwinn which still needs the new duplexers installed.

ARES committee:

- ARES member activity reports are due to Jim by the 5th of each month – email or Winlink.
- Jim, N8NAV advised that the State of Michigan’s spring AUXCOMM exercise will be held on Saturday, May 11, 2024. Dave, KD8DRF will be Net Control on the K8LOD repeater. He will assign others to assist him with additional modes and frequencies. The exercise will begin at 9:00 am and last until termination. Everyone is encouraged to check-in.
- There will be an airport drill in June. Stay tuned for details.

A motion was made by Scott, WU8H to approve the bylaws as presented at the prior meeting on March 7. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Scott Machalk, WU8H, Secretary



ARRL Field Day

This year’s HARA Field Day operation will be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at the West Branch Township Hall. Set up will begin at noon with operation starting at 2:00 pm (1800Z) until TBD. The club is providing brats and hot dogs. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to pass. Dave, KD8DRF and Pat, W8PTZ are in charge of this year’s operation. Dave would like a head count of those planning to attend to ensure that we have sufficient eats. So please contact Dave at dlthomas@chartermi.net. This is always a fun and educational event with demonstrations of a variety of equipment and operating modes, so come on out and bring a friend or two!

HARA dues are due!

In order to renew your membership, you can attend one of the club meetings or send your renewal to the club mailbox. The address is listed at the beginning and end of each newsletter.

HARA Swap & Shop

The HARA Swap & Shop is in need of a coordinator. There is guidance and assistance available to whomever takes on the job. Currently, the Swap is scheduled to be held in September. However if no one steps forward, the Swap will be canceled. Contact President Tom if interested.

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, KD8ZMU, Dave, KD8DRF

Happenings!

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

- Dayton Hamvention. May 17-19, 2024. Greene Co. Fairgrounds, Xenia, OH.
- Green Bay Hamfest, June 1, 2024. Our Savior Lutheran Church. See flyer for details
- Newberry Swap, June 8, 2024. Luce Co. Fairgrounds.
- Monroe Hamfest, June 16, 2024. Monroe Co. Fairgrounds. See flyer for details.

Technician License Class

Rich, N8GBA, would like to put together a class to help prospective Hams pass the Technician Class license exam. He is looking at holding the class on Monday evenings over the course of 4 – 6 weeks. The class will be free, but attendees must purchase their own copy of the Technician Class license manual – available from the ARRL at a cost of \$30. If interested, please contact Rich at n8gba@att.net.

The Saga of the Wandering Beam

If you've heard me on-the-air, particularly HF, you have probably heard my tale of woe regarding my "wandering beam". In other words, my 7-element beam "wanders" in whichever direction the wind happens to be blowing. As you can imagine this is pretty frustrating when trying to carry on a QSO, particularly if chasing a DX station! On Saturday, May 11, 2024, a group of hearty Hams went to work to finally take the wander out of my beam. My THANKS to KE8FAX, KI8AF, KG8NK, WA8DOF & KE8MMF.



My wandering beam pointing north. The rotor controller says it should be pointing west!



Brandon, KE8FAX inspecting the beam with his fancy spider lift.



Brandon lifting the beam from the tower.



Brandon & Greg, KI8AF installing a thrust bearing on the tower.



Ground crew Dave, WA8DOF & Troy, KE8MMF guide the beam to the ground.



Work completed, the beam is heading back to the top of the tower.

Spring Break Parks On The Air (POTA)

Scott, WU8H and his family recently took a trip west. Fortunately, for us, he brought along a radio. He was kind enough to chronicle his adventure. His article is a bit too long to include in a single edition of the Standing Wave, so it will be serialized over the next several issues – Ed.

Spring Break POTA

By Scott Machalk WU8H
Photos by Nancy Machalk

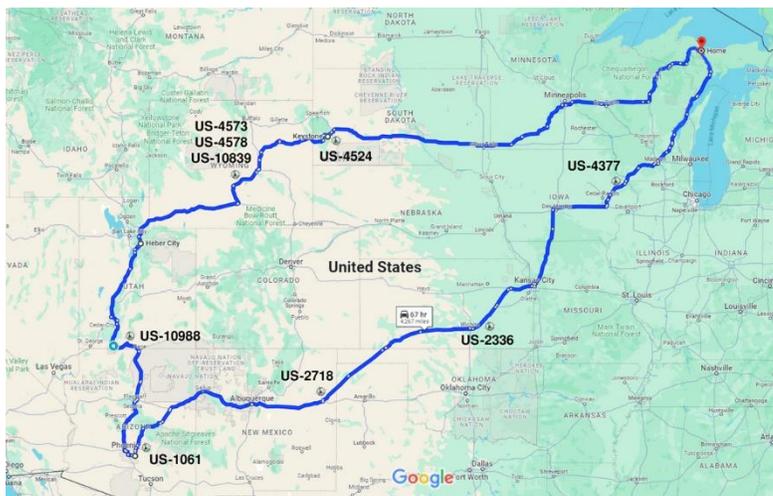
I've been hunting POTA for a while now. It's a fun way to make contacts and I especially like it as a low-pressure way to practice my CW. The contacts are simple and usually pretty consistent.

When the POTA organization decided to add some new parks to the list, I thought it would be cool to be the first activator for one of those parks. So, I set out to activate US-10716, McCormick Wilderness Area. One weekend, Nancy and I loaded up the truck and headed up there. My thought was that I would make the attempt from the parking lot and use the IC-7100 that's in the truck in conjunction with the antenna on the truck at first. I had my Buddipole as a second option.

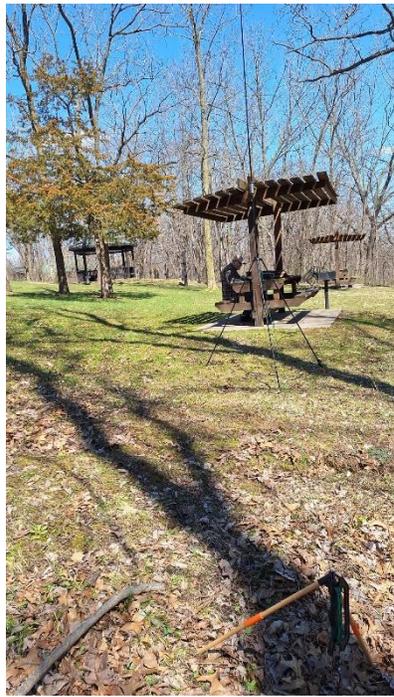
We headed up to the park and were happy to see that the roads were clear. We got set up in the parking lot and started to make some attempts hunting other activators to get some Park-to-parks. Things didn't go very well. It didn't help things that I didn't bring an antenna analyzer. Long story short, I was only able to make 6 contacts that day and didn't get the activation.

After doing some research later, I discovered that the parking lot isn't actually in the park so the activation wouldn't have counted anyway. Oh, well.

It was a good learning experience and I resolved to try again by hiking a short way into the park with my IC-7300 and a battery box. Unfortunately, before I got the chance, someone else was successful in activating the park. Ok, so I resolved to attempt US-10718, Sturgeon River Gorge Wilderness Area which had not yet been activated. This would take a little planning but I was willing to give it a try. Unfortunately, that one also got activated before I could find time. < sigh >



Well, time for another plan. Nancy and I were getting ready to drive to Arizona to visit family out there so I thought it would be fun to stop along the way and activate some parks. I created a driving route out and back and started to pick parks along the route. I really had no idea how long each activation would take but I figured we could adjust as we went. I also decided not to activate in Michigan or Wisconsin since I can get those states pretty easily.



The first park on our list was US-4377, Mines of Spain State Recreation Area just over the Iowa border. This would be a bonus stop as we would be stopping during the eclipse. We pulled into the park and there were some nice covered picnic benches and the park was not too busy. We got set up and I got on the air. Because of the eclipse, there was quite a bit of activity. I worked for about an hour and a half and was able to get 15 contacts by just hunting. 12 of the contacts were park-to-parks. After a brief viewing of the eclipse with some eclipse glasses, we got back on the road.

All these activations were done on 20m. In the interest of saving time, I chose 20m for this trip since it was the most active in my experience. With only one band to worry about, it also eliminated the time needed to retune the antenna for another band.

Our second park was supposed to be in Missouri, but that was at the end of the driving day and we got there too late. We'll have to save Missouri for another trip. Note to self: keep the POTA contacts in the beginning or middle of the day.



Next on the list was Kansas. We hit park US-2336, El Dorado State Park. I started out hunting but it was pretty slow going so I set up on a frequency and started calling. I was able to make 13 contacts in about 25 minutes at this park. That was pretty good considering the bands were really noisy due to geomagnetic activity. I called it an activation and we packed up and got back on the road.

We cut across Oklahoma and Texas the next day but there weren't any parks close to our route. While we didn't mind spending a little time to get some parks activated, we were still on a little bit of a schedule. We'll just have to catch those states next year.

End of Part 1



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. 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.



News

from the desk of N8NAV



As previously advertised, the State of Michigan held its AUXCOMM statewide spring Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on Saturday, May 11, 2024. As some of us were occupied elsewhere (see photos above), Dave, KD8DRF assumed Net Control duties for our Marquette Co. portion of the exercise. The state’s exercise scenario involved an earthquake in Indiana. The area of damage did not extend to us, so counties in the UP were permitted to run their own scenarios. Marquette County Emergency Manager Brian Hummel (and others) came up with a wildfire danger based on the “real world” lack of winter and spring precipitation. The exercise commenced at 9:00 am with Dave accepting check-ins on the K8LOD repeater. Dave, W7DEG simulated a repeater outage by accepting simplex check-ins on our county 2-meter simplex frequency of 147.44 MHz. Lucille, KD8PTE handled the DMR side and Fred, KD8JIP kept Lansing informed via Winlink. Unfortunately a misbehaving sun adversely affected HF SSB propagation across the region. The exercise was terminated shortly after 10 am. My thanks to the following participants: KD8DRF, W7DEG, KD8JIP, KD8PTE, KG8NK, KE8LRX, N8HDT, KE8KCA, WA8DOF, KI8AF, KE8FAX, & KE8MMF (any anyone who I inadvertently missed).

On May 8, 2024, I attended a meeting at Sawyer International Airport regarding their upcoming exercise which will be held on Sunday, June 2, 2024. This will be a “full scale” exercise with multiple agencies responding and participating. Our ARES group has participated in past exercises and has been asked to again participate. Just as I did prior to the State AUXCOMM exercise, I will be holding a meeting with the Assistant ECs. In the meantime, if any has thoughts or ideas that will enhance the exercise experience, PLEASE let me know. Stay tuned as more information will be forthcoming.

As you can see, there are opportunities to serve our community and exercise our Ham Radio skills. 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.

73, Jim, N8NAV

Buy, Sell, or Trade

Please advise when items have been bought or sold.

Nothing in the cart this month!

Parting Thoughts

1. Comments from ARRL Director Scott, N8SY:

The Great Lakes Division Newsletter is now on-line!

There's lots of great information for you to read. So, grab your favorite beverage, a sweet snack to munch on and sit back in your easy chair and have a great read!! >> <https://arrl-greatlakes.org/glnews/2024/05-gldnews.pdf> <<
>> <https://arrl-greatlakes.org/glnews/2024/05-gldnews.docx><<

73, Scott, N8SY

2. From Greg KI8AF:

I have two (2) tickets for the Green Bay Hamfest on June 1, 2024. If interested, contact me @ ki8af@arrl.net.



4. From our East Coast Correspondent Pete K8PT:

It was brought to my attention by a former employee of MFJ who confirmed it with current employees. He is a trusted source. MFJ and subsidiaries will be shuttering shortly after the end of May.

Thanks,
Charles - K3NOP/M



Green Bay Hamfest!!

Saturday June 1, 2024
from 8 'til Noon

At the Our Saviour Lutheran Church
120 South Henry St

On Green Bay's East Side, just off Deckner Ave and Main Street



Entrance tickets \$5 per person

Great Commercial Vendors Featuring Tower Electronics

The Ham's dime store & wholesaler to the world since 1978!
Specializing in Meters, Insulators, Coax Switches, Duplexers,
Comet, MFJ Products & Coaxial Jumpers & Cables.

-and-

Wolf River Coils offering a great variety of products for mobile,
portable, and base station needs. *Additional vendors pending*

Huge parking lot for trunk sales/tailgating, PLUS
plenty of space indoors with tables available for
only \$10 a piece! (Parking lot and facility open for set up
at 6:00 AM)

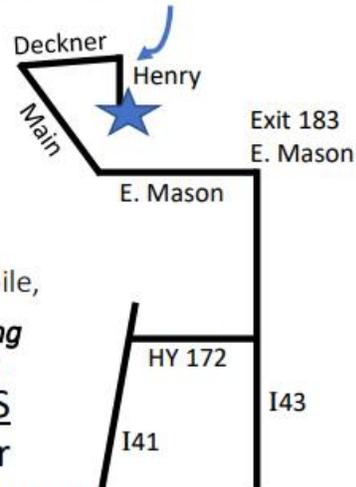
Be part of the fun!

- ✓ Food available on site
- ✓ 50/50 Raffle
- ✓ "Bucket Drawings"
- ✓ Meet our ARRL Section Manager
- ✓ Great Door Prizes
- ✓ Commercial Vendors
- ✓ Lots of Vintage Electronics
- ✓ Trunk Sales/Tailgating
- ✓ FCC License Testing (Contact ks9wi@new.rr.com to schedule NLT May 30)

TALK-IN: 147.120 PL 107.2

Don't miss out!

For more information and to reserve a table or parking lot sales space,
contact Todd Clausen, W9GRB, toddw9grb@gmail.com or 414-455-6374



Sponsored by the Green Bay Mike & Key Club



MONROE HAMFEST

and Computer Show

Father's Day - June 16, 2024

7:30am to 1:00pm - Set-up 6:30am Presented by:
The Monroe County Radio Communications Association

Monroe County Fairgrounds

M-50 at Raisinville Rd. (2 Miles west of Monroe)

FREE PARKING

Indoor Facilities / Trunk Sales

Computers and Equipment

Distributors / Hot Food

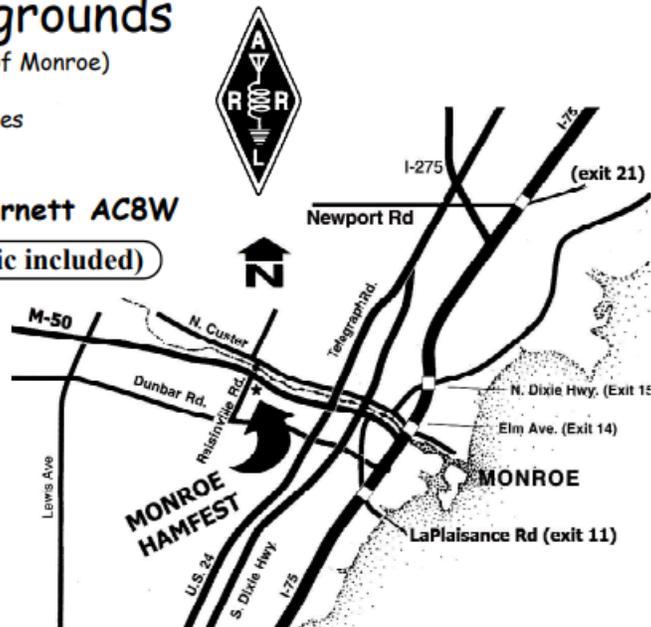
QSL Card checking by Stan Arnett AC8W

Over Night Camping \$40 (electric included)

Tables indoor 8': \$15 each, does not include admission ticket. Electric available in all buildings, bring cords.

Trunk 10' Spaces: \$10 each, does not include admission ticket.

Tickets Advance \$7 each.



Ticket, Trunk Sales, & Table Reservations online at: <http://www.mcrca.org>

Mail to: Fred VanDaele K8EBI, 4 Carl Drive, Monroe, MI 48162, ka8ebi@yahoo.com

Name _____ Call _____ e-mail _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tickets _____ Trunk Spaces _____ Tables _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Advance Tickets \$7 ea. / 10 ft Trunk Spaces \$10 ea. / 8 ft Tables \$15 ea.

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, and her assistants do a bang-up job as net control!

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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