

June 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: July 11, 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

Many of you already know that we applied for grants to build a backup repeater for the .27 site. We were successful in getting generous grants from the Community Foundation of Marquette County and the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community 2% casino fund. The funds will cover almost all of the costs of the project. We are grateful for their support of our efforts, which in turn support many Marquette County community events with radio communications. I've been told on a few occasions that "ham radio is just a hobby." While that may be true to some extent, our repeater system is a critical piece of many events that we support in the county. The UP200, Lake Superior Performance Rally and others would be in a world of hurt if we couldn't support those events with our system and skills. We have an ad hoc repeater committee evaluating equipment for purchase to get the new repeater operational. If you would like to assist, contact me.

Remember Field Day, 22 June at the West Branch Township Hall. The general theme for the day is a "show and tell" of different aspects of ham radio. Come out and show off your equipment/systems or come and see what others are into as far as ham radio goes. There will be many and varied setups and opportunities to ask questions.

At the June monthly meeting the decision was made to cancel the Swap & Shop scheduled for September because no one stepped up to be the coordinator. If you would like to take the lead in planning the event at a later date, let me know. Enjoy your summer!

73 Tom KE8TPT KE8TPT@gmail.com

V.E. TESTING:

Stay tuned *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 @ barbarajquesestavez@braxmail.net

The Business

HIAWATHA AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION

June 6, 2024

Note: Per Secretary Scott, WU8H starting with the May 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 June 6, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Marquette County Health Department, the President being in the chair and the Secretary being present.

In attendance were Tom KE8TPT - President, Mike KD8JIR - Treasurer, Scott WU8H - Secretary, and 12 additional members. A quorum was met.

The meeting minutes of the last meeting, as posted in the Standing Wave, were approved.

Repeater Committee:

Tom KE8TPT reported that all repeaters are working with the exception of the .64 in Gwinn. The following notes were presented concerning the .64:

1. Replacement duplexers are in the possession of John Imeson. He is ordering parts to get them operational. The original duplexers appear to be working properly.
2. Tom, KE8TPT, John, N8JI, Ryan, N8RY and Brandon, N8PUM spent about 3 ¼ hours on-site on 2 June, 2024 troubleshooting the issues.
3. A couple of bad jumper cables were found and replaced.
4. The diplexer has a bad cable/connector and was removed.
5. The repeater was moved to an abandoned paging system antenna that was on the tower. John tested the antenna and cable to insure it was in good shape and tuned for the required frequencies. Good to go.
6. The UHF linking radio was reconnected directly to the existing HARA dual band antenna.
7. The repeater works intermittently. John discovered through testing that there is a random spurious noise across the entire VHF band being picked up by the repeater causing the repeater to misbehave.
8. Plans are being made to investigate the source of the external noise signals.

ARES Committee:

- The State of Michigan spring AUXCOMM exercise was held on May 11, 2024. As some of the group was occupied on antenna duty at my QTH, Dave, KD8DRF did an outstanding job conducting the exercise. As reported, there were a total of 12 check-ins on the various VHF and DMR modes. Unfortunately, poor propagation precluded HF contacts. The exercise lasted approximately 1 hour. Good Job!
- The Marquette Sawyer Regional Airport Full Scale exercise was held on June 2, 2024. The scenario was a simulated plane crash at the airport. Our ARES group was specifically requested to participate and the following folks responded to the call-out: N8NAV, KG8NK, KI8AF, KD8DRF, KD8JIP and KE8KCA. See my article elsewhere for additional information.

Repeater Committee:

The repeater committee will be meeting following the general meeting to begin discussion on how best to use the grant money to set up the backup repeater for the .27 repeater.

A motion was made by Mike KD8JIR, to cancel the Swap and Shop in September. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 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.

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:

- Field Day. June 22, 2024. West Branch Township Hall. Contact Dave, KD8DRF or Pat, W8PTZ.
- HARA Summer Picnic. August 1, 2024. Sands Township Hall. Bring a dish to pass.

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.

Newberry Hamfest - June 8, 2024

A sizable crowd, many of them from the Marquette area, made the trek to Newberry for their annual Hamfest. The tables were a bit sparse, but the donuts were excellent and a good time was had by all!



Hamvention 2024 breaks attendance record – 35,877!



What trip to Hamvention would be complete without a stop at Fair Radio in Lima. Unfortunately, they are going out of business.



The interior has not changed much over the years!



The Three Musketeers – John V., Pete, K8PT and Jim, N8NAV are back in action!



The folks in Greene Co. are very welcoming!



What would Hamvention be without at least a little bit of rain.



All of the major equipment vendors – less MFJ and R&L Electronics – were there.



The ARRL booth contained QSL cards from the Great Lakes Division.



The Flea Market was as impressive as ever!

Spring Break Parks On The Air (POTA)- Continued

Part Two

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 was serialized. Below is the final part of Scott's (and family) fascinating adventure. – Ed.

Spring Break POTA

By Scott Machalk WU8H
Photos by Nancy Machalk



New Mexico was our next stop. We stopped at park US-2718, Ute Lake State Park. The weather decided to get mean on us and it was really windy and cold when we got there. We decided to give it a try anyway and set up to operate from the car. I got the antenna set up and started to operate from the warmth of the car and we were able to get 15 contacts in 11 minutes! The conditions were starting to clear up, which was nice. I had my first mishap while tearing down. I was too rough with my power cable and pulled two of the wires out. Fortunately, I had enough foresight to bring a spare! I was beginning to wish I had brought a third! I tried to repair the cable while in Arizona but I just didn't have the tools I needed. I'd just have to limp home with just the spare and be really gentle with it.

We got to Arizona and had a nice visit with the grandkids. While there, I activated park US-1061, Lost Dutchman State Park. It was a nice park with covered picnic tables, which is essential in Arizona. The sun can be pretty brutal out there. I started activating around 9am local time. It was pretty slow going. I wasn't really able to reach the East coast and the ham activity on the West coast isn't nearly as dense. It took me 3 hours of switching between hunting and activating to finally get my 18 contacts.

For our return trip, we took a more northern route through Utah, up to Wyoming and across. This route also gave us the opportunity to visit some friends in South Dakota.

First stop was US-10988, Peek-A-Boo Staging Area BLM Recreation Management Area, not too far over the Utah border. I had another park selected in Utah but we would be getting there late in the day and I already learned my lesson on that one.

We were able to activate this park in about a half an hour mostly by activating. We had our second mishap of the trip here, when the wind blew my antenna over and it hit a fence which put a nice bend in the whip. We were able to finish the activation with the bent antenna and I was fortunate to have a backup whip.





In Wyoming, I found a park that had never been activated close to our route. Here was my chance to be the first to activate a park. As a bonus, the park was really close to another park so, if there were any issues here, we could always relocate.

Well, the only issue was the bitter cold and wind but we were able to activate (again from the warmth of the car). It took us almost an hour but we got 12 contacts in the log. This park also ended up being a three-fer as it has 2 trails running through it: US-4573, Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail and US-4578, Pony Express National Historic Trail.

Devil's Gate BLM Interpretive Site	
Reference:	US-10839
Entity:	United States of America
Location(s):	US-WY
Latitude / Longitude:	42.441, -107.22 (DN62jk)
Early Shift Award Times:	9:00 UTC to 15:00 UTC
Late Shift Award Times:	1:00 UTC to 9:00 UTC
Website:	https://www.blm.gov/visit/devils-gate-interpretive-site
Access Methods:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Automobile <input type="radio"/> Foot
Activation Methods:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Automobile <input type="radio"/> Other <input type="radio"/> Pedestrian
Is Active?	ACTIVE
First Activation:	WU8H on 2024-04-17
Stats:	1 activations / 1 attempts (12 QSOs)

We stopped in South Dakota and spent about half the day with friends. My intent was to activate Custer State Park but I found out the park entry fee was \$20, so I decided to activate US-4524, Black Hills National Forest. There were multiple locations in the forest to set up and I found a nice little park that was pretty vacant. Again, it was pretty cold out so I set up in the car. I really had a good activation here and was able to get 34 contacts in about an hour and a half.

Overall, it was a good experience. I was able to activate 9 parks in 7 states. I learned a lot and can't wait to get out and do it again.

Equipment List:

Radio: IC-7300

Antenna: Buddipole Pro with extended whip (which got damaged so I went back to the standard whip)

Power: Home built battery box with a Bioenno 15Ah LiPo battery

Analyzer: Rig Expert Stick 500

Computer: Evolve III Maestro E Book

Logging Software: HAMRS (also used paper logs when there wasn't internet)

The End



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



I don’t do this very often, but I feel compelled to jump up on my soap box this month. As mentioned above in the meeting minutes, there was a MAJOR airport disaster drill earlier this month. Due primarily to the good works of the group on prior occasion(s), we were specifically asked to participate. So instead of just a routine 2-meter check-in exercise, this was an opportunity for us to “show our stuff” to several of our served agencies; not only the airport, but the Marquette Co. Emergency Manager and most of the area first responders. The exercise was well publicized, including here in the Standing Wave and in emails to the ARES group. Of the 17 individuals on my ARES roster, exactly seven (7) people responded when I asked who would be available. Two of those seven indicated that they were unable to participate. In my mind, that is a pretty poor showing! YES, ARES is a volunteer organization. And YES, the exercise occurred on a Sunday. But as I’ve mentioned numerous times before, we don’t get to pick the date and time when an emergent situation occurs. And, the days of just grabbing a handheld and showing up just doesn’t cut it anymore. The package for this exercise ran 13 pages and required multiple meetings, including ones specifically to check out equipment!

We are done with scheduled exercises until the fall. However, we are coming into the spring/summer storm season. So this is a message to the Marquette Co. ARES group. If you are on the list, prepared to be called – and called again. If you no longer wish to participate, you must contact me **directly** to be removed from the roster.

And while I am still on my soapbox, I receive multiple “spam” calls each day on both my home and cell numbers. For that reason, my family and I usually screen our calls. If you call, PLEASE leave a name, number and brief message and I will get back with you. I am now officially off of my soapbox!

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



Greg, KI8AF & Dave, KD8DRF prepare to deploy for the airport exercise.



Fire crews practice extinguishing the mock aircraft fire while bystanders and victims look on.

Buy, Sell, or Trade

Please advise when items have been bought or sold.



Received from Rich, W8YV:

“I have a few items for the Standing Wave that belong to a friend’s father, Roger Pietro N8ZIG from Ishpeming. As you can see from the pix, these items appear to be in excellent condition. I believe these were gifted to Mr. Pietro but not used or used very little.

Pictured are: Drake TR-7 transceiver and matching power supply; MFJ-941B 300 watt Versa Tuner.”

No information on price. His phone number is: (906) 486-9074.

Parting Thoughts

1. From the ARRL:

MEMBER BULLETIN

June 6, 2024

Dear ARRL member,

We are writing to inform you of a serious incident that has impacted ARRL's operations. On or around May 12, 2024, ARRL was the victim of a sophisticated network attack by a malicious international cyber group. We immediately involved the FBI and engaged with third party experts to investigate.

On May 16, on the eve of the ARRL National Convention in Ohio, we posted a notice on our website to inform members about the incident. Since then, we have made substantial progress to mitigate the impact of this attack on our organization. We have been posting regular updates, including the status of restored services. Please refer to our dedicated news post at <https://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-systems-service-disruption>.

We are aware that certain members believe we should be openly communicating everything associated with this incident. We are working with industry experts, including cyber crime attorneys and the authorities, who have directed us to be conservative and cautious with our communications while restoring the ARRL network.

Many of our services and programs have been impacted by this attack. We have been diligently assessing each system to ascertain the extent of compromise. For example, while the Logbook of The World® server and related user data were unaffected, we have taken the precautionary measure of keeping the service offline until we can ensure the security and integrity of our networks. Similarly, access to Online DXCC is unavailable, although individual award data remains secure.

Fortunately, some of our key systems, such as the ARRL website and our association membership system, were unaffected. Despite the severity of the attack, no personal information was compromised. Additionally, ARRL does not store credit card information anywhere on our systems, and we do not collect social security numbers.

Our Directors have heard from some members who are concerned about managing their membership renewals. **Members can renew online at www.arrl.org/join or by phoning ARRL.**

We understand the frustration and inconvenience this incident has caused, and we sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding as our dedicated staff and partners continue to work tirelessly to restore affected systems and services.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

2. A couple of items from the ARRL Contest Update:

A. During Hamvention, members of the upcoming Jarvis Island DXpedition were [talking about using a new variation of FT8](#), initially called “Superfox Mode.” The new mode has the DX station, or the fox, transmitting an approximately 1.5 kHz wide waveform in the same 15-second interval as today. This new waveform conveys a message that can flexibly acknowledge up to nine different hounds at a time, and has provisions for additional future functionality. The new constant-envelope waveform with multiple streams has approximately the same receivability as today’s single-slot waveform. More “hounds” will be able to hear the fox when multiple streams are being used.

Also at Hamvention, the new Airspy HF+ Ranger SDR receiver was being shown, in advance of its release. An [RTL-SDR website article](#) lists the frequency range to be 0.5 kHz to 1750 MHz.

B. The [MorseRunner community edition project](#) had a [new release](#) in March. There is now support for the IARU HF World Championship, and ARRL Field Day and CQ WPX contests have been improved. MorseRunner is a fun tool that can help improve your CW contesting skills by simulating real contests with your contest logging software such as N1MM Logger+ and DxLog.

A lot of PC enthusiasts and gamers build their own mechanical keyboards by combining a printed circuit board with keyswitches and keycaps of their choice. Some people prefer silent keys, while some want the definitive clack of vintage CHERRY keyswitches. There’s a [wide variety of choices](#), and if you’re designing your own gear you’ll find KiCAD libraries for easy printed circuit board layout.

73, Paul, N1SFE and Brian, N9ADG

3. For the Winlink folks:

As many of you know Skip Sharp has decided to extend his well-deserved retirement and step down from hosting our Winlink exercise.

As such, I decided to give it a try. So as a matter of introduction, My name is Dan Lenz Call sign is KB9IME. I am not a person who believes in titles, however, since this is my first email to you I will list some of my relevant radio experiences, I was a communication section chief in the US Army from 1989-1994 (including Desert Storm) Army Mars Operator from 1993-1997 (including Wisconsin Director of Army Mars). I remain active in Wisconsin’s Local, District, and Section level ARES. I am currently the ASEC for Section Coordination and Training. OK, that is the last time you will see that!

Our drill will not change, we will open the check-in period from Thursday before the drill at Noon Central time. Close it at Midnight Central time on the fourth Sunday of each month except on holidays.

I may shorten the Winlink explanations on how to get to the forms.

If you have someone who wants to be added, please have them add in the subject line ADD TO R5 WINLINK.

Ok. I think that is it.

Have a good weekend.

Dan

4. And finally, our local VE team conducted their quarterly license testing on Saturday, June 15, 2024. I am very happy to report that we had two upgrades to General class and one gentleman who's license had expired who took – and passed – the Technician class and who could possibly be reinstated as a General. Congratulations to all!



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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