

## The Marinette and Menominee Amateur Radio Club

# GROUND WAVE

Repeater Frequencies 147.00MHz & 444.075MHz

Club Net: Sunday 7PM 147.00MHz

Simplex DX Spotting and Ragchew Frequency 146.55

Web Page <http://w8pif.com>



### Officers:

President: Jim Callow K8IR

Vice President: Valerie Hallam KC8WAI

Treasurer: Paul Drees WC9E

Secretary: Mark Erickson KD8ESH

The MMARC Newsletter

May 2008

### CLUB CALENDAR...

May 8 Club meeting

May 24 Fox Hunt

June 28-29<sup>th</sup> Field Day

August 9<sup>th</sup> Waterfront Festival Special Event

August 17<sup>th</sup> Club Picnic Henes Park

### MAY MEETING...

The May meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday May 8<sup>th</sup> at Spies Library in Menominee. We have an important decision to make on the repeater, as well as updates on planning for upcoming events including the Fox Hunt and Field Day. We hope you can attend.

### FISH FRY...

18 club members and guests enjoyed a Fish Fry on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Little River Country Club. It was an enjoyable get-together. Thanks to Bob,

AA9IB for making the arrangements and taking care of the reservations.

### THE REPEATER NEEDS YOUR HELP...

By Jim, K8IR, President

As many of you are aware, the 147.000 repeater has had some serious problems in the past month, so serious that we have had to move the Sunday net to the link repeater system for a couple of weeks. The good coming out of this is that what had been an intermittent problem for several months finally lasted long enough to be diagnosed. Jim, KC8DOA was kind enough to go out to the repeater site and make some measurements and confirmed what we had suspected, that it is indeed the aging duplexer.

Here is Jim's report:

"I went out to Rangeline and checked things...the repeater is old but holding its

own...the duplexer is another story. I checked desense and receive sensitivity first....no desense what so ever...but also no receive (1.9uV)...I went thru the duplexer and readjusted the pass and reject tuning...I could tune for .4uV pass but could not reject sufficiently to do away with desense noise, I had to settle for .7uV with no desense which sounded clearer with no crackle in the background.

The transmit has 1.07dB loss on the transmit side and no reflected to the transmitter from the duplexer..also looks clean on the spectrum analyser. I hooked up my Kenwood repeater and tested but gained nothing over the GE so I re-hooked the GE in. The duplexer is also noisy...if you tap it during transmit it crackles...it may be a bad reject capacitor assembly or a cavity may have at some point seen some lightning...can't tell without disassembly. I also suspect that it will not hold the retune....I think a new duplexer may be the first upgrade to look at as this one has to be over 25 years old."

The repeater was somewhat better on the Sunday net after Jim's tune-up, but seemed to degrade as the net went on, so Jim's comment about the duplexer not holding the tune appears correct.

So we are now faced with replacing the duplexer. Pete, AB9PJ had gotten a quote of \$1255 plus shipping for a TX RX Systems, Inc. duplexer model number 28-37-02A. This model is recommended because it can provide up to 90 dB of isolation, which would allow the full performance our current repeater, and a future replacement is capable of. See the article by Bill, WA8WG in the November 2007 Ground Wave for a more complete discussion.

While the club treasury could handle this expense if we decide to go ahead, I think we should see what donations we could get towards this major expense, so as not to deplete our funds too far should other needs arise.

I would like to see as many members as possible at this month's meeting so we can decide how

we are going to proceed with this important project.

## MICHIGAN QSO PARTY...

Surprisingly good conditions greeted participants in the 2008 Michigan QSO Party on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Jim, K8IR and Eric, KG9GH operated mobile from 12 U-P Counties, and made over 700 contacts, the best K8IR has done in 7 years of mobiling in the U-P for MIQP. Their most amazing contact was with OM2VL in the Slovak Republic, on 80 meters, quite a feat for a mobile station.



K8IR operating from snowy Keweenaw County. That's 80 meters on the trunk, 40/20 on the roof, and a 75 meter Hamstick on the hood. KG9GH Photo



K8DAR on the air, with Tyler, KC9FKE and Hunter, KD8IJQ. Paul, NS8V is observing. KG8CX Photo

Many club members and other area hams made Menominee County and easy catch, including the K8DAR station, where some YACHT team

members made 72 contacts. Thanks to KG8CX for opening up the DAR on a Saturday. KS8O, NS8V, K8NB, and the BAWA team operating N9KI at Shakey Lakes were all active. Jeff, KE9S was on from his cabin in Iron County.

All in all, it looks like a very successful year for the Michigan QSO Party.

### **FOXHUNT SET FOR MAY 24<sup>TH</sup>...**

Eric, KG9GH is planning a Fox Hunt for Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>. The event will start at 10:00am. Transmitter frequency is to be 147.555. Snacks will be provided by KG9GH at the transmitter site. All hams are invited to join in the hunt.

Eric set up a mini-fox hunt in the Library after last month's club meeting. It's amazing how using an HT and some body shielding techniques, you can do some effective direction finding.

### **YOUNGEST HAM IS 3RD GENERATION IN FAMILY...**

On Sunday, April 13, Hunter Mans took his Technician exam and passed with flying colors. At 10 years old, he is the youngest area ham radio operator. His call is KD8IJQ, but a vanity one is expected soon. Hunter is the 3rd generation ham in the Mans family, an achievement they are all proud of. Hunter's dad is N8YWB, Uncle Jim is AA9PB, Grandma Sally is KB9IMX, and Grandpa Al is KG9BI. Hunter is especially fond of checking into the U.P. net and Teen Age net on HF from the K8DAR station.

### **HAT TEAM...**

The HAT team had another busy month. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, they were in Oconto Falls placing a PVC stabilizing arm on the top of the 146.835 repeater antenna. On April 16<sup>th</sup>, the team assisted with a 6 meter J-Pole antenna at W8SCO. Unfortunately, some technical problems with the antenna prevented completion of that project.

Any area hams who need help on antenna or other radio projects should contact Pete, AB9PJ to schedule a HAT team project.

### **YACHT GROWS AND GOES INTERNATIONAL...**

The Young Amateurs Contest Ham Team received its new vanity call recently. Check out K8KDZ on QRZ.COM. KS8O is in charge of the site and plans to change pictures regularly. The YACHT team is now 27 members strong, from six states. The newest members are Hunter Mans KD8IJQ, Liam Bennett KC9NGW of Wausau, WI, and John (JT) KC9LHM from Springfield, IL.

We have also been in contact with the originators of a new young ham site in England. They will go online with their site on May 1st and will give us recognition and space. That site is <http://www.youngham.net/index.php> YACHT is international in scope and will be looking for members outside the U.S. An Echolink Youth net is held each Sunday at 6 pm CDST on the 444.000 Sturgeon Bay repeater, node #44407. A number of young hams check in on a regular basis from as far away as New Hampshire, Florida, West Bend, WI, and Troy, MI, as well as locally. Adults are welcome and encouraged to check in as well. We usually have several doing so every week.

### **WIDE AREA YOUTH NET...**

The local version of a youth net which has been running since June 1st of 2007 is still very much alive. The April 25 session had Dallas Blair KD8ESI as net control and garnered 12 check ins. Adults are welcome as well, and usually make up the majority of the check-ins, although four young voices were heard besides Dallas. One of the check-ins is a Michigan State Trooper that regularly does so from his blue MSP patrol car in the Gaylord area. Give these two nets a listen and support our young ham program activities.

AGENDA for M & M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
May 8, 2008

**1. Call meeting to order**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Recognize guests and/or new members**

Members introduce themselves with their call sign and talk about their HAM Radio activities in the past month. DX Stations worked, Antenna Projects, Contests worked, etc.

**4. Approve Secretary's report as printed in the Ground Wave**

**5. Treasurer's Report (Paul)**

**6. Communications to read (any club officer)**

**7. Net report (Ed)**

**8. DAR Project Report (Ed)**

**9. Quartermaster Report (Ed)**

**10. Repeater Committee Report (Pete)**

**11. HAT Report (Pete)**

**12. QCWA Report (Dave)**

**13. Old Business**

- Weather Spotter Training
- Fish Fry
- Fox Hunt
- Field Day
- Waterfront Festival Special Event Station
- Picnic
- 

**14. New Business...**

- June Meeting

**15. Announcements/Raffle**

**16. Adjournment**

**17. Program**

**M & M Amateur Radio Club Meeting 4-10-2008**

7:00pm The Club President led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance.  
All members discussed their radio related activities since the last meeting.  
Secretary's Report: Approved as printed.

Treasure's Report: Paul was not present; Mr. Callow informed the membership of some transaction details.

Communications: Mr. Brian Long, a representative for The Boy Scouts of America, Bay Lakes Council, was inquiring as to our intent with "The Jamboree on the air" A discussion among the membership took place. Mr. Engleman said that if there was interest he could arrange to open the DAR's Radio room. Tentative date is October 18<sup>th</sup>.

2 Meter Net Report: The Sunday night check ins are averaging 25 every week.

The DAR Report: Schools on vacation this week and next. Very good traffic in the radio room. Mr. Engleman talked about the Echo link youth net. There was also a discussion about the very positive impact that the Yacht Team had at the AES Super Fest. Michigan QSO Party 4-19-2008. K8DAR will be open from 12noon until 6pm.

Quartermaster's Report: Current as listed on the Web page.

Repeater Committee: Eric talked to the Membership about the Oconto Falls site repairs.

HAT Report: The DAR antenna repairs went well. Calendar is starting to fill up.

QCWA Report: Dave brought in pictures from AES Super Fest. Three Chapters of the QCWA were present. 25 members visited the table. 10-12 individuals applied for membership. The chapter's new banner really looked great.

Old Business: A group discussion about the AES Super Fest took place. License classes: The classes resulted in three new Ham radio operators. Weather Spotter Training will be held at Menominee High School r on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. April 28<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm the Marquette weather office will be providing "Weather over Water" training at the Yacht Club in Menominee. Fish Fry: Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 5:30pm. A reminder will be talked about on the club 2 meter Sunday night Net. A Fox Hunt is planned for Saturday May 24<sup>th</sup>. The event will start at 10:00am. Transmitter frequency is to be 147.555. Snacks will be provided by KG9GH at the transmitter site. Field Day will be at The Jones's property again this year. A V.E. Testing session will be held. A discussion among the membership took place.. Questions about how a beam antenna could be set up were raised.

New Business: Mr. Callow talked about a special event station for the Water Front Festival Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> 2008. A discussion led by Ken and Eric about the loop antenna at the DAR. Questions were raised about the grounding structure and how they could drive the fascia on the building. Picnic Issues: People are needed to help with menu coordination, and set up/clean up. Please consider helping with this event!

Raffle items were provided by Dave (W8DXX) On behalf of The M&M ARC Thank You. The Drawing was conducted by Mr. Art Lewis.

Members Present:

|      |        |        |        |        |        |
|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| K8IR | WC9E   | KD8ESH | K9GGV  | N0AWM  | W8DXX  |
|      | KG9GH  | N5FVM  | KC9III | KD8IGH | KC8WJO |
|      | KG9NDC | KC8WAI | KC9FKE | KG8CX  |        |

Two guests were present, Mr. Art Lewis and his grandson Jeff Lewis

N0AWM called for adjournment at 8:00pm. Support by KG9GH. Motion carried.

### **April 30<sup>TH</sup> Treasurers report from Paul, WC9E**

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| Checking | \$1425.94 |
| Savings  | \$691.65  |
| Total    | \$2117.59 |

|          |          |
|----------|----------|
| HAT      | \$100    |
| Repeater | \$463.25 |
| DAR      | \$133.29 |

**M&M AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
P.O. BOX 1082  
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