UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS
SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES

HAM OF THE YEAR
W8RLJ – Rick Jersey
Petoskey, MI

HAM OF THE MONTH
KB8NOE - Charlie (Dick) McNeal – Clio, MI

MARCH 2020

FROM THE EDITOR----------JIM - K8UHF k8uhf@sbcglobal.net

March is here… Daylight Savings "Spring Ahead" Time is March 8th. Dawn and I heard our first Robin but have not actually seen one yet. It's 25 degrees today, but we expect to see 50 degrees soon. Can't wait.

We want to welcome Dave, KD8KCV, back to the U.P. Net after his extended leave due to radio problems. Dave purchased a brand new radio and was all set to go when it just went dead with no display. It was suspected to have some type of DC input power problem so he returned it and they sent out another brand new Icom IC-7300. His new radio sounds great, and Dave is already back at it taking care of the Sunday Noon Net.

We also wanted to mention W8RLJ had 23 check-ins on the Sunday Noon Net on February 9th. It's not a record but pretty fantastic, just the same.

Thank you to those net controls who stepped up for Dave to do the Sunday Noon Net.

NET STATS

Feb 2019: Check-ins 940 – Traffic 36
Feb 2020: Check-ins 1072 – Traffic 32
High Check-ins: KC8ZMN 41,35,39,34; KC8GTE 35,35,37; KE8AHK 37,41,34; WA8DHB 35,38
W8WR 36,37,32,32; N8BNC 34,37; NS8S 41,35,33,32
Sunday Noon Net High Check-ins: W8RLJ 18,23,17; KD8KCV 15

FEBRUARY'S HAM OF THE MONTH

Dick Smedberg – WA8YLZ – Custer, MI

Birthdate and Place: December 23, 1953, Detroit, MI

Education: High School MCE, Associate Electronics WSCC; BS in Broadcast Electronics Technology at Ferris

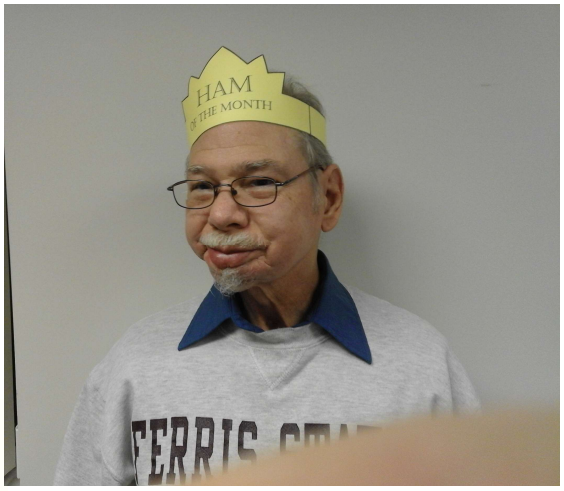
Employers/Type of work: Taught Electronics at WSCC for 5 years. Bought out a radio/TV business and am still going at it. Drummer in a country band. Music equipment repair.

How did I get into Ham Radio: Parents had a Ham friend. Took classes with my dad and passed test. First Novice license 07-18-67; Extra now.

Spouse/Family: Nora wife, daughters Christine, Colleen; grandchildren

Other hobbies/interest: Woodworking & woodturning, metal working; playing drums in a band. Church choir and soundman. Member of West Michigan Old Engine Club in machine shop.

Other interesting info or experiences: Installed sound and intercom systems in churches and schools. Built a wood lathe from junk.



ALL HAMS OF THE MONTH/YEAR

When you receive your certificate from Chris, KC8ZMN, and your crown from Kelly, KC8GTE, please take a "selfie" holding your certificate and sporting your crown. E-mail it to Jim, K8UHF, at k8uhf@sbcglobal.net. Please include a short bio about yourself or use the updated Member Profile Questionnaire. We will include this information in the next Newsletter; that way we all can get to know you a little better.

DON'T FORGET

Cadillac Hamfest – Cadillac, MI

It's that time of year again…the Cadillac Hamfest! Mark your calendar NOW for this May 2, 2020 event. Please plan on attending the U.P. Net meeting at 10:00am. Be one of the first to know… the new Ham of the Year will be announced! We want to see you there.

NEVER A DULL MOMENT WHEN YOU ARE A HAM

Jim Hein – K8UHF – Dimondale, MI

I've been working on another project. About a year ago I picked up an old radio at a swap. The sign read "Free for parts or repair". The radio receives fine, however there is crackling in the audio when adjusting volume. Radio has strong carrier when transmitting but has little to no modulation. Transmit audio exhibits crackling and hash noise. Included Hand Mic has no connector. Overall condition of radio was dirty with scratches but basically in decent condition for its age. The guy at the table, Randy, told me a little bit about the radio and I told him my story. He just wanted it to go to someone like lucky me. This radio was the same model as my very first radio purchased back on 07/07/1977. I paid $360.85 COD from Srepco Electronics Division in Dayton Ohio. I still have the original receipt.

The first thing I did was bring it home and power it up. No problem, so far all the display segments lit up and the meter light was good. Then I adjusted the squelch and volume controls and sure enough loud scratch noises. The speaker was loud and clear. So I took the top and bottom covers off and sprayed the volume and squelch potentiometers as well as all the rotary switches with De-Ox. I worked all the controls a couple times and then let the radio sit for a couple days.

When I came back to the radio, I connected a dummy load and powered it up again. The De-Ox spray really worked good. No more crackling controls. In the mean time, I installed a new four pin connector on what looked like a new Citizen Band type microphone. I set up a handheld radio on the same frequency as the TR-7400. I plugged the Mic in and when I keyed the Mic I could hear the terrible hash noise. I talked into the Mic and could hardly hear myself. Power down and time to start looking around inside.

I located VR1 Mic adjustment and VR2 deviation adjustment pots on the circuit board and they looked very bad with dark color corrosion. They also looked like they had been adjusted from the original set points. I sprayed these two pots and worked them a bit. Then I let the rig sit another day or two with the covers off.

When I came back to test the radio again I could hear no change in the poor transmit audio. I made some adjustments to VR1 and VR2 and I was able to get some audio but not very loud and lots of hash and crackle noise. Not good. I poked around with my plastic tool and it made a few more crackle noises but nothing that indicated a bad solder joint or poor wire wrap connection. At this point I was not making any progress and lost interest in working on it for the time so I put the radio back together and set it aside for several months.

Ray, K8RLE, said he had the original microphone for this model radio and I could have it. So, I got the Mic from Ray and pulled out the TR-7400 again. Well, the microphone was not the problem so I decided to take another stab at this old radio. I downloaded the service manual on to my PC and looked over the schematic and decided to try something really strange. The TR-7400 has a four-pin plug on the side for external device like a touch tone keyboard or other audio input. I got out my clip leads and tapped into the pins on the backside of this

connector and clipped the other end of the leads to the Mic plug end. I shorted the PTT pins in the connector on the front of the rig and the carrier was noise free. I then spoke into the Mic "test" "test" and heard perfect clear audio on my handheld receiver, just a little low. (This is how I test things when I don't have the proper test equipment.) So, from this test I knew I could fix this old rig. I now knew where to look for the problem.

First, I traced the shielded Mic line from the audio board to the Mic connector and looked for anything obvious. Nothing looked bad and not much could be bad, just a couple disk capacitors and resistors. The shielded Mic line went into a 10-pin connector so I unplugged and sprayed it and re-seated the connector a couple times; that surely must be the problem. Nope, still poor quality audio using the Mic plugged into the Mic plug on the front of the radio. So, next I disconnected the Mic audio wire from the Mic connector and ran a clip lead from the Mic audio pin on the connector to the side connector audio-in leaving the ground wire on the Mic plug. WOW, I expected perfect audio transmission. Nope, crackling and hash low level modulation just as original problem.

What do I do now? I reconnected everything back as original and tested to see it all still worked with the original problems. I started looking at the Mic connector and noticed the ground pin 4 for the audio line had a heavier unshielded single black wire connected to it. I noticed earlier during my inspection of the radio, a black wire that looked out of place. It ran from the power connector negative pin at the back of the radio across the circuit boards and not nicely routed like all the other wires. It disappeared toward the front of the radio under the display board. I traced this rouge black wire to the Mic connector pin 4. That was odd because the schematic shows pin 3 and pin 4 tied together to ground. Yes, they should ideally be at the same potential. I unsoldered the black wire at the power connector and cut it short near the front of the radio. I found a good place to solder it to a grounded trace on the back of the front circuit board. I looked everything over to make sure nothing was touching something it should not be touching as I had all the front panel disassembled and hanging by the wires.

I plugged in the Mic and powered up the radio. Good, all the display lights came on and the speaker made its customary power on squelch noise. I keyed the Mic and silence! No crackling or hash noise. I spoke into the Mic and heard my voice clearly on my Handheld receiver. Success! Now I just had to make some minor adjustments to the VR1 Mic gain and VR2 deviation adjustment pots. Before doing this, I decided I better do a little cosmetic cleanup on the cabinet and face of this old rig as I reassemble it. I reassembled all but the top cover so I could make the final adjustments. I don't think I did too bad. I've never run across a problem with a ground wire like this. I don't know if the rouge black wire was a factory thing or someone made some modification or it was an attempt to fix the original transmit audio problem. It doesn't really matter because I played with this old radio for a couple hours after this fix. I talked with several people that know my voice on the air and every one of them said it sounded great. This was another fun learning project and I had no cost in it.

U.P. NET MEMBERS IN ACTION

Article Submitted by Jeannie - KE8MZU

The Luce Amateur Radio Society (LARS), of which Kelly, KC8GTE, and Jeannie, KE8MZU, are members, participated in a District 8 Upper Peninsula-wide Ham exercise on Saturday, February 22nd. This was a District 8 emergency communications simulation - practicing for the Spring SET that will be held Michigan-wide on Wednesday, April 15th. The purpose of the exercise is to determine how far traffic can be passed across the Upper Peninsula, and down to the State EOC, in situations where there are critical infrastructure failures. This was the second exercise we participated in, the first being in January, and possibly there will be one more prior to the actual State-wide exercise.

Basically, the U.P. does not have the infrastructure in place to be able to contact the Lansing EOC - so we try to be sure that we can at least contact the different County EOC's in the U.P. so we would be able to help each other out in a true emergency. We try to make contact on several different bands, as well as simplex, to determine the ability to contact other County EOC's within our District.

The exercise on February 22nd saw good participation, with contacts made from Luce County all the way over to Houghton County, and several counties in the Lower Peninsula. The simulated State EOC was manned by a person in Kalamazoo County, and contact was made with him.

KELLY AND JEANNIE HAVE HAD ENOUGH SNOW!

Snow pictures from their home QTH in McMillan, MI (U.P.)
February 8, 2020

March 2020
BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thu*	*Fri*	*Sat*
1	2 W8IFI Jim WD8CUO & XYL	3 K8LQV Dick	4	5 WT8G Gerry KB8TS Ken	6	7
8 Daylight Saving Time	9	10	11	12	13 W8KIM Kim N8OSD Dan	14
15 N8NJA & Kathleen	16	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18	19	20	21 WA8LT Walt KE8MZU Jeannie XYL of KC8GTE Kelly
22	23 Katie daughter of AA8SN	24 Jeri daughter-in-law of WA8DHB	25	26	27	28 WB8FUW Lee
29	30 WA8DVD Dennis	31				

HAMFESTS

For complete information, refer to the ARRL Hamfests
www.arrl.org

April 11, 2020
Crossroads Hamfest
Kalamazoo, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Soc.
Website: http://www.w8dj.com

April 18, 2020
Chassell Hamfest
Chassell, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: KCRA CCRAA BCRA Radio Clubs
Website: http://kcra-mi.net

April 19, 2020
3rd Annual Technology Expo
Madison Heights, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: GM Amateur Radio Club
Website: http://www.gmarc.org

EXAM SESSIONS

For complete information, refer to ARRL – Licensing, Education and Training
www.arrl.org

Mar 7, 2020
Mt. Clemens Salvation Army Corps (rear entrance)
Mt. Clemens, MI
7:30pm – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 10, 2020
Livingston County EMS
Howell, MI
7:00pm – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 14, 2020
Washtenaw Red Cross Building
Ann Arbor, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 14, 2020
Lansing Fire Station #44 (Community Room)
Lansing, MI
11:00am – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 14, 2020
Marquette Health Dept Bldg
Negaunee, MI
8:30am – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 14, 2020
St Clair County Library
Port Huron, MI
10:00am – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 14, 2020
First United Methodist Church
Wyandotte, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 18, 2020
Livonia Police Department
Livonia, MI
7:00pm – No Walk-ins/Call Ahead

Mar 21, 2020
Dalton Airport
Flushing, MI
9:30am – No Walk-ins/Call Ahead

Mar 21, 2020
Salvation Army Building
Midland, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 28, 2020
Kalamazoo County Sheriff Dept
Kalamazoo, MI
8:30am – Walk-ins allowed

Mar 28, 2020
Witch's Hat Depot
South Lyon, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed

Apr 2, 2020
Lansing Fire Station #44 (Community Room)
Lansing, MI
7:00pm – Walk-ins allowed

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UPPER PENINSULA NET WEBSITE www.michupnet.com