

UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS

SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES



HAM OF THE YEAR

KE8AHK – Mike Driscoll
Wayland, MI

HAM OF THE MONTH

W8LS – Larry Snyder
Sanford, MI

JULY 2020

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

A month or two back the conversation during the pre-net, and some more comments during the net, was about birds. I've talked a little bit about all the birds Dawn attracts with her numerous feeders. Feeders with Sunflower seed, Thistle, Suet, a 3"x 12" log with holes drilled in it to hold Peanut Butter hanging on a hook for her woodpeckers. She really enjoys her birds, especially the Orioles.

We have several sets of Orioles and they sure like the grape jelly that Dawn provides them every day. We have to bring the jelly feeder in every night so the raccoons don't destroy it. If the jelly feeder is not back in place by early morning, the Orioles will be squawking until it is. The jelly feeder is hanging off the deck railing near our bedroom window so, yes, they wake us up every morning!

I asked about Bluebirds and what color of house they like. One of you on the Net said they like dark bird boxes. I took this recommendation of painting my yellow bird houses dark green. We had no activity in the yellow houses last year or this year until the day after the new dark green paint was applied.

The next day we saw a pair of Bluebirds checking out the boxes. It didn't take long before we saw them moving in; back and forth with nesting material. One would watch from an overhead tree branch while the other was working. We hoped they would stay. A few times we didn't see them for a day or so and thought they had left but they came back. After several days I took a quick picture while they were away to see what was going on inside the box. We were rewarded by seeing five eggs. The parents didn't spend a lot of time in the box with the eggs, probably due to the very warm weather. We noticed, in a short time, the Bluebirds taking turns supplying food to the chicks. After a week or so I took another quick picture and we counted five little beaks. Time flies and the next time I took a picture in the box, all the little Bluebirds had "flown the coup", so to speak.

Thanks for the useful information on how to attract Bluebirds. What a great group of people on the U.P. Net! We had a lot of fun watching the Bluebirds. Hopefully, they will return and start all over again next year.



NET STATS

June 2019: Check-ins 800 – Traffic 37

June 2020: Check-ins 898 – Traffic 39

High Check-ins: KC8ZMN 31,33; KE8AHK 31,31,34

WA8DHB 33; NS8S 33,33,33,34; W8RLJ 34

Sunday Noon Net High Check-ins: KD8KCV 13,12,12,11

ARRL FIELD DAY 2020

Submitted by Jeannie King – KE8MZU – McMillan, MI

Kelly, KC8GTE, and others of the Luce Amateur Radio Society participated in the annual field day event on Saturday, June 27th. Eight members of the Club were in attendance, setting up at the Burgess Agency in Newberry.

Members tested out several different equipment setups and modes to make contacts. Kelly worked FT-8 on 6 meter, 40 meter and 20 meter, and also side band on 20 meter. A few contacts were made, and the group had a great time.

Several people from the community stopped by to learn about the activities. Here is a picture of Kelly working his station:



A TALE FROM NS8S

Dave Fleming – Montague, MI

I'd like to come clean, and share a bit of history with you all on the U.P. Net as we are currently both enjoying our 46th year of the hobby. Now is as good as any time to share it with you readers.

Brad, KR8P, and I both received our Novice licenses in 1974. Probably what initially drove our interest was our love of shortwave and medium wave listening as we started an informal shortwave listening group of ourselves and a couple more kids at school, perhaps as early as junior high. We would talk about the previous night's listening, mainly made up of various AM stations, and place a new marker on the US MAP each time we would receive a new catch! I remember Brad reporting AM 800, Trans World Radio on one lunch hour. Trans World Radio was located way down in the Netherland Antilles!

At that news, I was so darned jealous, I went home, and erected a long wire antenna, 220 feet long between the house eaves and a huge white pine! I remember fiddling around in the back of my 1950s era Bendix tube set clock radio, and attaching the long random wire to the loop terminals and receiving strange sounds and foreign languages! I had overloaded the poor old receiver's oscillator and that it was now receiving shortwave! I remember my dad getting so angry whenever I would put another nail, or hook in the house to hang a wire, and mom, plainly terrified of me on the roof in the first place!

Well, after successful antenna installation, I too, was picking up the elusive TWR, AM800 on a regular basis and strangely, shortwave stations too! In those days, Shortwave was pretty nil due to a dip in the sunspot cycle, and I started getting quite disappointed in the hobby with my hand me down wooden clock radio. The biggest surprise came the following November, when my parents bought me a used Hallicrafters SX-110 receiver with the matching speaker! I was in heaven with that radio!

After that, the sun spot cycle being poor didn't matter too much and we did quite a bit of listening whenever we could, such as world events on the BBC, Radio Australia, and the politically incorrect, Radio RSA from Johannesburg, South Africa. Those were the days of Apartheid, and extreme viewpoints and behavior by governments that our young minds could barely grasp. Once in a while we would shock our teachers about what was happening in the world, to their disbelief, until the following day, where our gratification was granted by those same teachers as they either read it in the newspaper, or heard the news, late, on our national news! Our news was REAL and firsthand!

During those days, we would occasionally listen to the Hams. It became clear we really needed to expand our skills and begin studying for our Novice licenses! So early on, we worked on learning the Morse code by placing our Heathkit Code oscillators near the telephone receiver, and send away, blindly so, and then pick up the telephone receiver, and check our copy. We had a blast doing this, and our parents thought we were a bit nuts.

Brad was first licensed, WN8RTB, naturally being so competitive, and me, shaggy haired laid-back guy lagging behind (as usual) licensed as WN8SRE. (I'm shaggy again, with COVID-19.) Back in those early days, after taking your Novice exam, usually at the Post Office, it would take many weeks of waiting to get your official license to operate. Brad knew of a friend who lived across the river from us, by the name of "Jim", licensed before us as a Novice with the call sign WN8QCV. He had some really snazzy Drake gear too. So, since Brad and I practiced over the telephone, and became proficient at CW, we just could not wait to get on the air, so we both started boot legging Jim's call! Brad did a little bit, but I was a rebel! I used Jim's call and name, and QTH... daily, nightly, weekends and working more than 30 states and several countries! I will always wonder what Jim thought when all the QSL cards began arriving in his mailbox!

I knew Jim never got on the air much, if at all, and then one day, it was over... The Thanksgiving holiday was present and school was out, with lots of radio time over the long weekend to have some bootlegging fun with my Heathkit HX-11, Hallicrafters SX-110 and a knife switch to transfer my antenna. The transmitter was rockbound with a crystal on 7.120 MHz but sure worked great on harmonics. With all that tube gear glowing away, and calling CQ, answering CQ and remembering my pseudo name was "Jim" not "Dave" and getting more and more excited.... my mom came knocking on my bedroom door while I was in the heat of moment of a new QSO as "Jim" interrupting me long enough to tell me that I had a couple visitors.

I was curious to see who it was and there, standing in our living room, was Jim, WN8QCV and his older brother, Bill, WN8SLU, who was also a police officer from Ohio, catching me in the act using Jim's call! I immediately shrunk down, red faced, guilty as can be. How did I get caught? Jim NEVER got on the air, and his CW was, let's say on the slow side. Well, as it turns out, one of my many illicit QSOs were with Bill, WN8SLU, in Ohio, the brother and police officer from Ohio. He also knew that Jim's CW skills were not up to par, and really knew someone else must be using his brother's call! Oh, was I so busted! I needed a clean pair of underwear after that moment for sure! So, in the following June, after much anticipation, my Novice license arrived in the mailbox and I was legit! Brad had already been on the air, getting ready to quickly upgrade to General Class! I upgraded soon after that.

So, I ask myself, "Do I feel badly about my misdeeds back then?" I have to say no. The thrill of contacting anyone across the country, or world was just too much for a 16-year-old to handle! As for Jim, his priorities moved on with radio, getting away from it for a long while, but instead, working at the State Department, in some really interesting locations around the world. We have connected again, over the years and have had some great laughs about my "bootlegging" fun I had using his call sign. Those were the days, and they still are!

Dave NS8S

Dave's Latest Shack Picture



Dave's son repairing antenna



Dave's QTH



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.

July 2020

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1	2 W8TWA Pete	3 WA8DHB & Melvin W8ING Mike	4 Independence Day
5 WX8Y Don KC8WKN Marry Ann	6	7	8 NK8V Bob	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 K8RLE Ray	20	21	22	23 N8HBZ Jim	24	25
26	27	28	29 K8UHF and Dawn	30 W8NWD Norm	31 Lynn XYL of NK8V	

HAMFESTS

For complete information, refer to the ARRL Hamfests

www.arrl.org

July 11, 2020

Summer Eat, Greet and Swap Meet

Temperance, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northwest Ohio Black Swamp Radio Society

July 11, 2020

Auburn's Classic City Hamfest

Auburn (DeKalb County), IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Assoc.

July 25, 2020 - **CANCELLED**

Gladwin Area ARC Hamfest

Gladwin, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Gladwin Area Amateur Radio Club

August 1, 2020 - **CANCELLED**

U.P. Hamfest 2020

Escanaba, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Delta County Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://k8pl.org>

August 8, 2020

Angola Hamfest

Angola, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Land of Lakes Amateur Radio Club LLC

August 8, 2020

Elkhart East Hamfest

Elkhart, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Indiana Repeater Group

Website: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

EXAM SESSIONS

Please verify the Exam Session has not been cancelled before going.

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

July 11, 2020

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

July 11, 2020

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

July 14, 2020

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

July 15, 2020

Livonia Police Department
Livonia, MI
7:00pm – No Walk-ins/call ahead

July 18, 2020

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

July 24, 2020

Martin Township Community Building
Martin, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed

July 25, 2020

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

July 26, 2020

Church of God
Benton Harbor, MI
12:30pm – Walk-ins allowed

Aug 1, 2020

American Red Cross Muskegon
Muskegon, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed

Aug 2, 2020

Liberty Lanes Bowling Alley
Sandusky, MI
3:30pm – Walk-ins allowed

Aug 6, 2020

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

Aug 8, 2020

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

Aug 8, 2020

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

Aug 8, 2020

Traverse City District Library
Traverse City, MI
1:00pm – Walk-ins allowed



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This squirrel got too hot and is cooling off.

UPPER PENINSULA NET WEBSITE www.michupnet.com