

QRM

The Newsletter of The Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association
Fall 2017 No.3

Our Repeaters 52.760 146.760 147.260 224.640 440,400

GRARA's History part 1

By Rich Ranta K8JX

Editors Note: The following is an excerpt of a letter sent to KG Bullock W8YDJ by Pete Vander Meer W8GWQ. This is from the QRM newsletter from Summer 1994 issue

"Did you ever wonder how the Gee-Rah-Rah got the W8DC call, or how it first became associated with the Red Cross? Then listen up!

Three of my "highlight" years were: 1946, I got my B license: 1947 the A upgrade: 1948 I got married (and we still are!)... and I returned from our honeymoon to find that, in my absence, I had been elected President of GRARA. Our meetings were held on the upper floor (attic) of the police station at Ottawa and Crescent. Not ideal, even if it was free. BUT THEN.

Norm MacPhail, W8DLZ, became acquainted with the Executive Secretary of the Red Cross, probably through fund raising efforts. Anyway, he was able to arrange for us a home on the top (5th) floor of the Red Cross building which was at 55 North Division, just north of Monroe. In return, we were to provide emergency and / or disaster communications for them.

Since we now had a room for it, thoughts turned to a fixed club station. The club approved and it became my duty to obtain the station license. After the usual wait, it came through, and I proudly announced at the next meeting that our station was W8EWD (I'm not 100% certain after about 45 years, but it was W8E something-like-that).

(continued on page 2)

2017 GRARA Officers

Below are the current Officers of GRARA.

President - Tom Hansen, N8DGD

Vice-President - John Streyle - W8QZ

Secretary - Richard Ranta - K8JX

Treasurer - Philip Nordstrand - W8IPN

On Air Director - Hank Greeb - N8XX

Off Air Director - Dustin Olsen - KD8PVZ

**Website Administrator - Thom Durfee -
KI8W**

Red Cross Liason - Jim Leys - K8CAN

Member at Large - Bob Moe - AC8ZX

**Technical Director - Steve Provost -
AC8QE**

**Grara Historian - Frank D Thompson
KD8QXC**

From our President desk.

“it’s been a few years since we published our newsletter, “The QRM”. Along with our new secretary, Rich K8JX, we decided there was a need to tell the new folks and the ham community in general, what we’re about and what we’re doing. This is the first issue and we will make it more informative as the months go. On. For current information, our web site, <http://w8dc.org> is still the best source of up to date club information. We hope you enjoy learning about your/ our club.”

Tom Hansen N8DGD President Grara

Grara’s History Part 2

. We’ve come a long way, haven’t we. Now we meet in the American National Red Cross building located on Fuller ave NE and near Leonard NE. We have plenty of antenna’s dotting the sky as well as internet links. We are also providing many community services.

(continued from GRARA’s History part 1)

However, a couple of the pre-WW2 GRARA hams were present and they said that the club had a call in the thirties of W8DB. So, back again to the FCC with a letter requesting that the old call be re-assigned in place of the 1 x 3. In due time, a new license came with the W8DC call, and an explanation that the W8DB had been given to another station, since it had lapsed and not been renewed.

When I announced that, all were satisfied and now you know how your GRARA got the Dirty Charley 1x 2, and how you initially became associated with the Red Cross.

(thanks to KG for sharing that informational history about GRARA with us.)

The below list were compiled by Ron AB8DT. Thanks to Ron. You should check back often: Fusion repeaters are being put on the air.

LOCAL FUSION REPEATERS										
		Analog							Connection	
Frequency	Offset	Tone	DSQ	City	County	Call	Use	Wires-X	Type	Node #
145.230	-0.6 MHz	94.8	OFF	Sparta	Kent	W8USA	OPEN	YES	RF Link	30382
145.490	-0.6 MHz	94.8	OFF	Grand Haven	Ottawa	W8CSO	OPEN			
146.760	-0.6 MHz	94.8	OFF	Grand Rapids	Kent	W8DC	OPEN	YES	RF Link	30074
146.880	-0.6 MHz	141.3	OFF	Cedar Springs	Kent	NW8J	OPEN	Near Future		
147.380	+0.6 MHz	94.8	OFF	Muskegon	Muskegon	KE8LZ	OPEN			
443.075	+5 MHz	94.8	OFF	Cedar Springs	Kent	NW8J	OPEN	YES	Direct Connected	11924
444.100	+5 MHz	94.8	OFF	Grand Rapids	Kent	N8NET	OPEN			
444.800	+5 MHz	103.5	OFF	Holland	Ottawa	N8XPQ	OPEN	YES	RF Link	11960
444.900	+5 MHz	94.8	OFF	Hudsonville	Ottawa	K8IHY	OPEN			

Simplex Nodes						
Frequency	DSQ	City	County	Call	Node #	Info
144.750	OFF	Grand Rapids	Kent	WA8EB M	11779	Open Simplex Node
145.625	OFF	Cedar Springs	Kent	AB8DT	30466	Open Simplex Node with occasional RF linking to various Fusion RPT

Below is a list of Repeaters that can be accessed from Grand Rapids.

Frequency	Call sign	PL-tone	Sponsor	Features
52.760	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM/wide
145.110	NW8J	94.8	KCEM	FM/Wide
145.230	W8USA	94.8	MARA	FM/Wide
145.270	W8LRC	94.8	LARC	FM/wide
145.410	K8WM	94.8	541.inc	FM/Wide
146.760	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM/c4fm
146.880	NW8J	141.3	NW8J	FM/Wide
224.140	NW8J	94.8	NW8J	FM/Wide
443.075	NW8J	94.8	NW8J	FM/wide
145.110	NW8J	94.8	KCEM	FM/Wide
147.160	W8IRA	94.8	IRA	FM/wide/link
147.260	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM/Wide
224.440	KB8YNC		KB8YNC	FM/Wide
224.640	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM/Wide
421.250	K8DMR		ATV/FM/Wide	K8DMR
442.000	K8EFK	141.3	K8EFK	FM/Wide
443.800	KA8YSM	94.8	IRA	FM/Wide
444.100	N8NET	94.8	N8NET	FM/Wide
444.250	N8ISN	CC/01	DMR RS	KCEST
444.325	N8WKN	94.8	N8WKM	FM/Wide
444.400	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM/Wide
444.625	KD8RXD		KD8RXD	DMR RS
444.775	K8WM	94.8	K8WM	FM/Wide
443.850	AA8JR	94.8	Lowell Sch	FM/Wide
443.1125	KD8RXD	CC/01	DMR RS	KD8RXD
442.125	WY8P	97.4		AI Wever

Thanks to the Michigan Area Repeater Counsel for this list.

GRARA History Part 2

We've come a long ways since meeting in the old police station attic. Now we're meeting in the Red Cross Building, on Fuller ave and Leonard NE. Our club's antenna farm is to be amired!

We're also helping the Red Cross with the installing Smoke Alarm program.

We have a clean up the highway program, twice a year, weather permitting.

We also help hams in the community with their needs, such as tower work, antenna construction and even repairing, when that is possible, their Ham Radios.

The club also continuals doing what it has provided for a long time, giving Volunteer Examination exams once a month. Our monthly club meeting is also where we hold our classroom. We try to have topics of interest to the ham once a month, from "Microprocessors", to how to repair a complex Yaesu FT-9000. We are also open to suggestions on what our members would like to learn more about.

We are also keeping up the Ham Traditions , like Field Day, holding a yearly "Swap" (see the attached flyer) where we look at what treasures other Hams are willing to part with. We also have On the Air contests our members are very involved with, like VHF-UHF, CW- SSB contests. If you have an interest in Ham Radio. GRARA has what you might want.

Come join us on the first Friday of the month.

GRARA History Beyond

The first two parts of "Grara History" was what we've accomplished. The next part is what we're up to now, and what possible areas we may get into. First off is the publishing of this newsletter. It's been quite a while since the QRM has come out. What with our newly designed Web site, this paper version simply keeps the different avenues of publishing available.

Along with these two means of getting GRARA known, we have also started a 2 meter Net. Since we got a new Yaesu C4FM Fusion equipped repeater, we thought it would be a great idea to use it, both analog and C4FM. We've included both the analog and C4FM repeater lists in this Newsletter so you can see how many opportunities you have to participate in Amateur Radio.

Many years ago, (actually not that long ago), three clubs, The Lowell ARC, The MARA and GRARA, got together and acknowledge the achievements local Hams had accomplished in our area. The West Michigan Ham of the Year came into being. We've been discussing the possibility of bringing that back. More later.

It's time I put my name on this effort, with all the mistakes in it. I'm your new secretary, Richie Ranta K8JX. I've been around and wore many different hats, in different clubs. But it all comes back to my love and adventure of "Amateur Radio". There is nothing like it.

73 and hope you find something useful in these pages.

See you at the swap

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145.230	W8USA	94.8	MARA	FM/Wide
145.270	W8LRC	94.8	Lowell Amateur RC	E 87878 FM wide WX
145.410	K8WM	94.8	541.inc	FM Wide
146.760	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM wide c4FM
146,880	NW8J	141.3	NW8J	FM Wide
224.140	NW8J	94.8	NW8J	Fm wide
443.075	NW8J	94.8	NW8J	FM WIDE
145.110	NW8J	94.8	KC EM	FM WIDE
147.160	W8IRA	94.8	IRA	FM WIDE LINK
147.260	W8DC	94.9	GRARA	FMWIDE
224.440	KB8YNC		KB8YNC	FM WIDE
224.640	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM WIDE
421,250	K8DMR		ATV analog FM Wide	K8DMR
442.000	K8EFK	141.3	K8EFK	FM WIDE
443.800	KA8YSM	94.8	IRA	FM wide
444.100	N8NET	94.8	N8NET	FM WIDE WX
444.250	N8JSN	CC/01	DMR R S	KC EST
444.325	N8WKN	94.8	N8WKN	FM WIDE
444.400	W8DC	94.8	GRARA	FM WIDE
444.625	KD8RXD		KD8RXD	DMR R S WX
444.775	K8WM	94.8	K8WM	FM WIDE
443.850	AA8JR	94.8	Lowell schools area	FM WIDE
443.1125	KD8RXD	CC/01	DMR R S	KD8RXD
442.125	WY8P	97.4		Al Wever



GRAHamfest 2017

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest

Saturday, September 9th

an ARRL Approved Hamfest

The Home School Building
5625 Burlingame, SW
Wyoming, MI 49509-9702

Annual Electronics, Ham Radio, Shortwave
 CB and Computer Equipment, Trains, Airplanes
or just about anything with an electron in it!
 Swap Meet / Flea Market

Opens at 8 AM

Ends at 1:00 PM

Seller Setup: Friday 7- 9PM, & Saturday 7AM

(Vendors only prior to 8AM)

Indoor and Outdoor Sales

Laurel VE Session - 10AM

DX Card on-site checking

Concessions provided on-site

Admission: \$6 at the door

K-12 students free admission

with student ID

See: www.w8dc.org

for updates, maps, directions and
 additional information.

General questions:

KC8NKA 616-531-6218

Table reservations:

W8QZ 616-791-9411 (evenings)

or streyle.j@comcast.net

Deadline for guaranteed reservations

(paid in advance): August 19th

Make checks payable to: G.R.A.R.A.

Paid table requests rec'd after Sept. 16th
 will be held at the door. Tables unclaimed
 after 8 AM are available first-come basis!

No refunds on unclaimed tables.

Reservation form and payment to:

John Streyle W8QZ

1487 Maderia Ave. SW

Grand Rapids, MI 49534



Talk-In: W8DC on 147.26+ (94.8HZ PL)

Table Reservation Form

Description	Qty.	Ext. amount
6' table along wall* (<i>check for availability—limited quantity</i>) @ \$8 ea.		
6' table (middle of the gym) @ \$6 ea.		
Total	—	

* *Only wall tables have access to electricity.* Table rental does *not* include admission to the swap. No charge for tailgate spaces, except a hamfest admission ticket is required for each person.

Name / Callsign

Phone (optional)

Email (req'd for table confirmation)

Address

City, State, Zip

See other side for map & directions

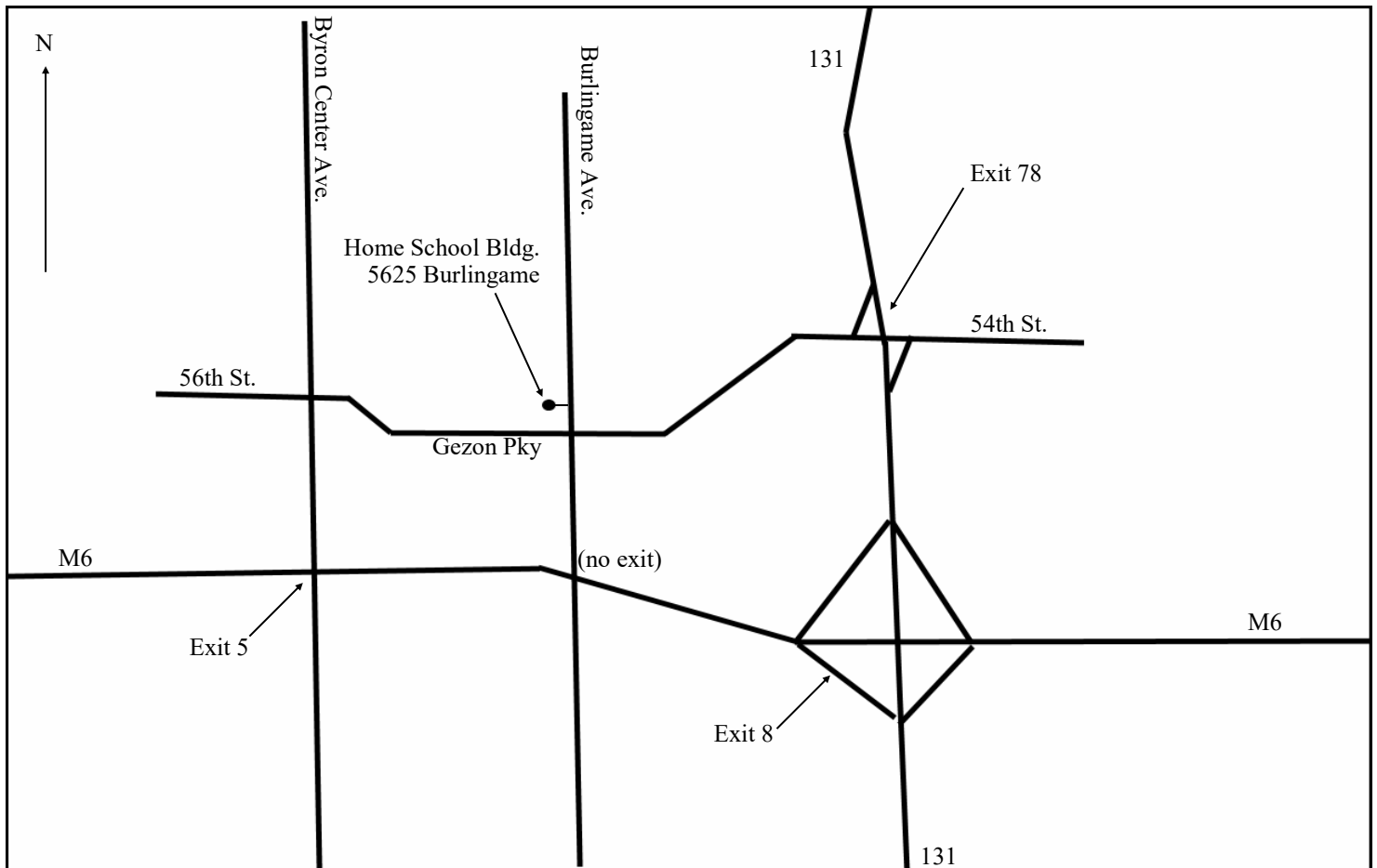
GRAHamfest directions

From the West:

Take M6 East / Lansing to exit 5 / Byron Center Ave. Turn left onto Byron Center Ave., drive 0.8 mi. Turn right onto Gezon Parkway, Drive 1.0 mi. Turn left onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.

From the North:

Take 131 South, to exit 78 / 54th St. Turn right onto 54th St. (turns into Gezon Pkwy) Drive 1.1 mi. Turn right onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.



From the East:

Take M6 West / Holland to exit 8, 131 North. Drive 1.3 mi. to exit 78 / 54th St. Turn left onto 54th St. (turns into Gezon Pkwy) Drive 1.1 mi. Turn right onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.

From the South:

Take 131 North to exit 78 / 54th St. Turn left onto 54th St. (turns into Gezon Pkwy) Drive 1.1 mi. Turn right onto Burlingame Ave. Turn left into the Home School Building.