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PERMIT NO. 232

ELGEN WALT W8RND
121 N. SPRUCE ST.
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684

HEARD ON THE REPEATER

Some of the funniest stories ever can be heard listening to repeaters. It's a relaxing past time and if you don't listen, here is a funny story you've missed. The names are fictitious and no criticism's are intended, just good humor.

A newly licensed ham was extremely excited about the hobby having just received his license in the mail. With noticeable exuberance, he proceeded to tell his friend how much he was enjoying the hobby. "I just can't get enough of the hobby, I like operating my radio all the time, I enjoy talking to people," he said excitedly. "I enjoy it so much that when I die I want to take my handie-talkie with me in the casket so that I can continue to operate." On the next transmission his friend calmly asked, "I wonder what frequency they operate down there?"

IRA BOARD FOR 1991

The IRA board of directors elected for 1991 are John Knoper, KC8KK President; Tom Werkema, KA8YSM Vice- President; Steve Stutzman, WB8NCD Treasurer; John Rittenhouse, WB8VOJ Secretary; Ray Abraczinskas, W8HVG Trustee, and as boardmembers; Fred Heileman, WB8HKD; Dick Carter, N8DMO; Paul Gardner, WD8IZB; John Gardner, N8DLN and Dave Stutzman, WD8SAC.

The Independent Repeater Association, Inc., is a tax exempt non-profit corporation registered in the state of Michigan and is responsible for managing the technical and financial aspects of its repeater systems.

EMERGENCY COORDINATORS
ROUNDTABLE...CHECK IT OUT!

Check out the western Michigan Emergency Coordinators "roundtable" held at 9 p.m. on the first thursday of every month on the W8HVG/R. Larry, KA8PWB, Kent Co. EC and his deputy Harold, WA8HVR, conduct an informative session involving Emergency Coordinators from around western Michigan. Listen and by all means, check in!

HAMFESTS AROUND MICH.

Sunday, March 24, 1991 Grosse Pte. Woods, MI. Southeast Michigan ARA hamfest. Grosse Pte. North High School, located on Vernier Rd between Mack and Lakeshore, E. of I-94. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. VE exams, forums. Talk-in 146.74. Info: SEMARA Hamfest, Box 646, St Clair Shores, MI. 48080. Phone (313) 527-3497.

Sunday, April 7, 1991 St. Joseph, MI. "Blossomland Blast". Berrien County Sportsman's Club located off I-94 at exit 28, South on US 33 6 1/2 miles then east on Linco Rd to club. 8 a.m. till ? Prizes displays, test bench. Talk-in on 146.82. Info: BARA, Box 175, St. Joseph, MI. 49805. Phone Lee, WR8R, (616) 926-1747.

Saturday, June 1, 1991 Grand Rapids, MI. IRA HAMFESTIVAL. Largest hamfest in western Michigan. Wyoming National Guard Armory, US 131, exit 44th Street, then 1/2 mile west. Prizes, VE exams, Mich/Fla group meet 11 a.m. Talk-in on 147.16. Info and reservations: IRA, Inc., 562 92nd St. S.E., Byron Center, MI. 49315. Tom, KA8YSM, (616) 698-6627.

Saturday, June 15, 1991 Petoskey, MI. Straits Area ARC hamfest. Emmet County Fairgrounds, US 31 and 131. Displays, Prizes, VE exams. Talk-in on 146.68. Info: Clark Rouse, Box 121, Boyne City, MI. 49712. Phone (616) 582-6455.

Sunday, June 16, 1991 Monroe, MI. Monroe County Radio Comm. Assn. hamfest. Monroe Co. Fairgrounds, M-50 & Raisinville Rds. 8 p.m.-2 p.m. Displays, trunk sales, VE exams. Info: Fred Lux, WD8ITZ, 5742 Parkside, Monroe, MI. 48161. Phone (313) 243-1053.

August 23-25, 1991 ARRL National Convention and Hamfest. Saginaw, MI. For information and updates write ARRL Convention, Box 1783, Saginaw, MI. 48605, contact Joe Turner, K8CQF, (517) 752-9740.

The above information was taken from "the QRV bulletin" published by Mike Kurta, W8POX. Phone (616) 436-7321 with your hamfest info.

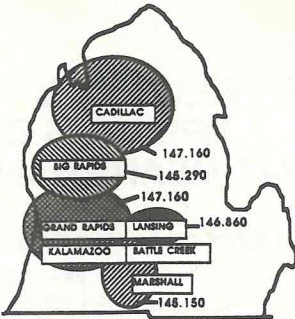
THE PURPLE CRYSTAL

No. 29

MARCH 1991

A BULLETIN OF THE INDEPENDENT REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC.

562 92nd St., S.E. -- Byron Center, MI 49315



CADILLAC LINK REPEATER.....
NEW CALLS, NEW CONTACTS
AND NEW FRIENDS

Since the 147.160 Cadillac link repeater has been put into operation in November and significantly improved in December, there have been new calls, new contacts and new friends made on the W8HVG/R system. It's been truly amazing all the people using the system from as far north as Gaylord and Charlevoix making contacts with southern state hams. The response has been extremely positive and the IRA appreciates all your letters of appreciation. It is alot of fun listening to people in Lansing using a handheld talking to hams mobile in Traverse City and all over the western Michigan area.

With such a large coverage area, the repeater system gets busy occasionally and people sometimes are heard commenting about not wanting to "tie up the system". Hams are generally considerate people. While idle repeaters are questionable in their utility, active repeaters may not be listened to or scanned because they are always busy, or so it seems. Whatever your preference is in listening to repeaters, that is, scanning idle channels trying to find activity, or listening to a conversation in progress on a busy channel, it's a choice we all have available as repeater users. It is hard to understand why anyone would tie up any repeater for hours with nonsensical chit-chat or continually give a three hour travelogue while driving from Battle Creek to Traverse City, but it sometimes happens. What's the solution to this seemingly touchy situation? The answer lies somewhere within the word **COMMUNICATE!** Make the conversation interesting and many people will listen. Make it interesting enough and many people will join in and contribute. Make the conversation nonsensical, trite and repetitious and you'll probably get turned off.

The new no-code license reinforces the theory that hams are supposed to communicate and that means much more than just making a contact via the radio waves exchanging locations, signals and equipment descriptions. Hams are licensed to build, experiment and communicate. Repeaters are built and provided to enhance and extend our abilities to communicate, the only thing that seems to be missing in this simple equation of repeater happiness then is what to communicate about. Now that's where you come in.

1991 IRA HAMFESTAL.....
..MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS!

The 1991 IRA Hamfestival will be held at the Wyoming National Guard Armory in Grand Rapids on June 1,1991 so make your plans to attend one of the best hamfests in western Michigan now. If you are planning to sell equipment at the IRA Hamfestival, make your table reservations early by sending in your table requests to the IRA address above. 8' tables are \$4.00 each and half tables are reservable. Reservations will be held until 8 a.m. on June 1, 1991 unless otherwise notified. Don't miss out.

AMATEUR NEWSLINE TIME
CHANGES TO 8 P.M. MONDAY
ON THE W8HVG REPEATER

The amateur radio newsline, usually held at 9 p.m. on the 147.16 repeater system every monday night, has been changed to 8 p.m. to facilitate an earlier start of the monthly link Michigan nets held every second monday of the month. Also, in conjunction with this time change, the ARES net held on the 147.26 GRARA repeater will change to starting at 8:15 p.m. every monday evening. Great cooperation by great hams!

Thanks to John Rittenhouse, WB8VOJ, and Electronic Automation for taking the time and effort to bring the amateur radio newsline to western Michigan on the W8HVG/R system. Tune in and hear interesting information about ham radio, many times announced by Grand Rapids own Jim Davis, KU8R.

PURPLE CRYSTAL!
WHAT'S THAT?

The purple crystal used to be referenced many years ago as the "ham jargon award" for timing out a repeater. In fact, the IRA used to actually paint old crystals purple, put call letters on them and give them away to deserving hams as call pins at the old breakfast gatherings that were alot of fun to attend and now missed. As you can now see, the Purple Crystal is an informative news bulletin of the IRA. Do you and your friends receive it? Take a copy to your club meeting and pass it around. If anyone would like to be put on the mail list, just send in your address to the IRA address given above requesting it.

THE VIEW FROM THE HILL.....SPRING IS COMING AND THAT MEANS HAMFESTS!

Hey! What am I doing here again? Didn't I just write one of these columns a year ago? Anyway, the view from the hill has changed since you last read this column, there's a new "beholder", ME! Thanks to W8HVG for holding "the HOT seat" in 1990, and away we go!

Swap fever is upon us once again, and the IRA is no exception. When June 1 rolls around this year, you'll find most of us, with hair disheveled and shirtails untucked, scurrying around the floor of the Wyoming National Guard armory. This years swap committee, co-chaired by Paul Gardner, WD8IZB, and John Rittenhouse, WB8VOJ, has all the plans to bring you the BIGGEST, BEST EVER, IRA HAMFESTIVAL. Let's hope Bill Gerber, W8CBH, can show up in his ever popular Bermuda shorts and Hawaiian print shirt.

Tom Werkema, KA8YSM, has consented to coordinate the reservations and volunteers. Call Tom if you can spare some time to help out or if you need reservations. His phone number is (616) 698-6627. As you know, the main things that make a successful hamfest are the volunteers and sellers.

Have you heard some of the calls from our northern group of users? Like Bob WD8RZL, Glenn K8OTF, Clancy N8MJC, Edgar KA8HYE, Tom WB8WIV, John W8GBV, Dick WA8SUE, Fred N8HBQ, Bill W8ZN, Walt WD8KUS, Helen W8GJX, Tom K8LZH, Bill N8NJA, Paul KA8HIB, Marshall WD8LUM and many more. It's really great!

Our linked repeater system covering western Michigan has been working just great. Unfortunately, we had to shut the Battle Creek 145.15 link repeater off in early February for some maintenance because it contributed to a self lock-up problem on the main repeater system. If you missed it that's why. Thanks to Larry, KA8PZM for helping out.

Your support with donations and help at the hamfest last year was very much appreciated. Look at the IRA annual statement in this issue. As you can see, running a repeater system takes alot of expense. Your donations and income from our annual hamfestival in June are the major sources of our income. THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT!

It's time to close this column, time goes fast when you're having fun, but I'd like to say that it's very exciting up here on the hill. Won't you join us? See you on the repeater and at the hamfestival.

73, John, KC8KK
President IRA 1991

IRA QSL'S 100% ALL DONATIONS RECEIVED

The Independent Repeater Association, Inc. greatly appreciates and acknowledges all donations received with a handsome QSL card as shown below. Since the IRA is run by people donating their time and services, it may take a while to receive confirmation of your donation, but you should receive one back if we have your address. And we automatically add your name to the mail list for the Purple Crystal newsletter.

AMATEUR NEWSLINE		AUTOPATCH		RENT		INSURANCE	
W8HVG/RPT							
QSL		, RCU'D UR		5-9			
DONATION				,199			
TNX FOR UR SUPPORT,				73'S			
147.16, 146.86, 145.29, 145.15				INDEPENDENT RPTR ASSOC., INC.			
WESTERN MICHIGAN LINK MACHINE				562 92ND STREET S.E.			
THE "PURPLE CRYSTAL" NEWSLETTER				BYRON CENTER, MI. 49315			
ELECTRICITY		ANTENNAS		COOH		EQUIPMENT	

IRA 1990 ANNUAL REPORT

OPENING BALANCE (1/1/90).....	\$ 33.12
INCOME:	
1) Donations	\$2398.25
2) Transfers from savings	\$2000.00
3) Swap & Shop	\$3676.60
5) 50-50 Proceeds	\$ 157.00
TOTAL INCOME.....	\$8231.95

TOTAL INCOME AND OPENING BALANCE:.....\$8265.07

EXPENSES:	
1) Consumers Power	\$ 740.42
2) White Cloud elec.	\$ 120.00
3) Battle Creek elec.	\$ 30.00
4) Michigan Bell	\$ 594.70
5) Building and Equipment	\$ 822.79
6) Site rent	\$ 290.00
7) Ckg. service charges	\$ 27.40
8) 1990 Armory deposit	\$ 250.00
9) PC mailing permits	\$ 120.00
10) Liability insurance	\$ 118.00
11) PC postage	\$ 341.01
12) Main site roof repair	\$ 300.00
13) Donation envelopes	\$ 156.00
14) Swap tickets	\$ 45.87
15) Equipment insurance	\$ 47.50
16) 50-50 proceeds paid	\$ 78.50
17) Swap prizes	\$ 447.42
18) Newline donation	\$ 25.00
19) Armory balance	\$ 676.50
20) Swap kitchen supplies	\$ 347.26
21) Transfer to savings	\$2000.00
22) Stamps	\$ 25.00
23) 1991 Armory deposit	\$ 250.00
24) Michigan annual report	\$ 10.00
TOTAL EXPENSES.....	\$2863.37

CLOSING BALANCE (12/31/90).....\$ 401.60

TOTAL EXPENSES AND CLOSING BALANCE:.....\$8264.97

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

OPENING BALANCE (1/1/90).....	\$1075.66
Deposits	\$2000.00
Interest	\$ 31.45
SUBTOTAL	\$3107.11
Service Charge	[6.00]
Transfers to Checking	[\$2000.00]

CLOSING BALANCE (12/31/90).....\$1101.11

Submitted by: *Steven C. Stutzman*
Steven C. Stutzman, WB8NCD
Treasurer

GRAND RAPIDS MICHIGAN I.R.A. ANNUAL HAMFESTIVAL West Michigan's largest

Saturday, JUNE 1, 1991.....8 A.M.-3 P.M.

Dealer setup starts at 6 A.M.

Wyoming National Guard Armory

44th Street, 1/2 mile west of 131 X-way

HUGE INDOOR FACILITIES with CONVENIENT ACCESS & PARKING
Tables for sellers and dealers, \$4 ea. Reservations with SASE please.
Make your table reservations early.....was booked solid last year!
Reservations held until 8 A.M.

PRIZES GALORE:

1st-Diamond X500 2-M/440 dual-band antenna

2nd-MFJ-208 VHF SWR analyzer

3rd-ICE Model 421 HF low-pass filter

4th-Set of 1991 Radio Amateur callbooks

.....and many more (over 80 last year).

VEC AMATEUR EXAMS

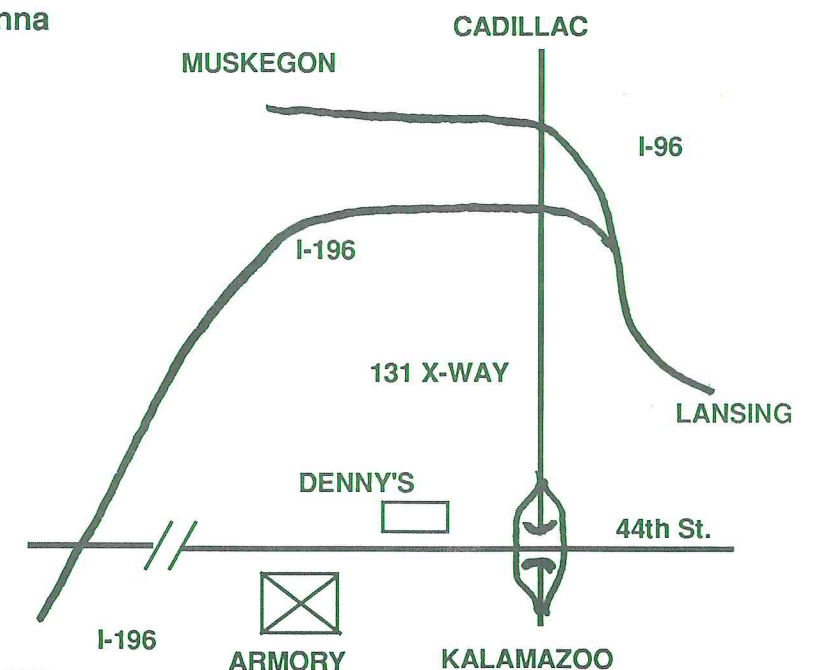
9:00 A.M.....all walkins

Novice to Extra Class

Bring original and copy of license,
picture ID and check made out to:
ARRL VEC

Write for table reservations:
Independent Rptr Association, Inc.
562 92nd Street S.E.
Byron Center, Mich. 49315

MEET YOUR FRIENDS...SWAP YOUR GEAR.
DEALERS, DISPLAYS AND DISCUSSIONS
ON ALL ASPECTS OF AMATEUR RADIO
AND PERSONAL COMPUTERS....BE THERE!
MICHIGAN/FLORIDA HAMS MEET AT 11 A.M.



TICKETS: \$3.00 before MAY31
\$4.00 after at door
FOOD and REFRESHMENTS
Talk-in on 147.160 W8HVG/R

INFO:
Phone
Tom, KA8YSM
(616) 698-6627