

# UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES



HAM OF THE YEAR  
W8KP BOB WITTLA  
BRUCE CROSSING MI

HAM OF THE MONTH  
K8PDC PETE COSTA  
MC MILLAN MI

DECEMBER 2011

FROM THE EDITOR-----BILL, N8NJA [bkn8nja@att.net](mailto:bkn8nja@att.net)

Sorry this is so late, bad month so far. But its December and no snow in my yard yet. I do not really miss it. I know some do, but this year I can live without it. It will take a toll on my business, but I will be willing to give up some income for not having to hire someone to get rid of it for me and not having to drive in it.

I hope you all have let Santa know what great ham radio goodies you want under the tree this year. I really have not developed any kind of list myself. So I guess I will settle for what the jolly old elf brings me.

I see with the colder weather the net checkins are starting to climb. Even with the loss of some of our snowbirds the numbers are up. Of course we pick up some additional long distance checkins this time of year. It is great to hear K8DSS on remote from Florida and also to hear from Joe AB8N on occasion. Wish more of the snowbirds had the remote capability.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. Hope to be timelier next month and start 2012 off right.

## NET STATS

2010 OCT CHECKINS 1200 TRAFFIC 45

2011 OCT CHECKINS 1261 TRAFFIC 75

OCT HIGH CHECKINS WA8DHB 45

OCT HIGH TRAFFIC WA8DHB 11

UPPER PENINSULA NET WEBSITE [www.michupnet.com](http://www.michupnet.com)

## UPPER PENINSULA NET PROFILE

GEORGE ROUMAN W8OWN

BY GEORGE ROUMAN

Born in 1924 and raised in Gladstone in the Upper peninsula of Michigan I graduated from high school and was immediately drafted the next day into the Army Air Corps, sent to basic training at Miami Beach and then to attend radio school at Sioux Falls South Dakota. That was followed by training on C-47 Troop Carrier Command planes at Sedalia Air Force Base in Missouri and then to action in the Pacific.

After the war my interest in radio was put aside while I attended college at the U of M and at Marquette University. I worked for a short time at a Zenith facility in Chicago where I heard about Amateur Radio Communication, visited the Allied Radio store, (what a fascinating place) and picked up an old pre-war Hallicrafters SX24 receiver. The first ticket arrived in 1952. As I moved to and around several places in the Upper and Lower Peninsula through the years, I have always managed to have a station so I could enjoy this hobby.

In 1956 my life was forever enriched with happiness and beauty when I met and married Helen. She may not want to be a radio operator, but she supports and encourages my activities in every way as well as listening to those I talk to on the airways including both fixed and mobile operations. Our two grown children and their families live, one in Sparta, Michigan and the other in Westchester, California.

Over the years I have participate in several nets including the Single Side Band Net in its early days when it was surrounded by AM signals, leisurely chased DX, served as a VE since its inception, been active in ARES, RACES and Skywarn activities, built kit rigs including many Heathkits, explored packet, and enjoyed rag chewing with friends. Early on I did mostly CW, but have lost the ability to keep it together when sending and have become a real lid. I belong to QCWA where I tried sending on their CW Net. Its members gallantly put up with my efforts of trying to control hand and mind and listened faithfully with gritted teeth. Eventually I took pity on them and dropped out.

Other hobbies in my life were balsa airplane construction and flying, woodworking, stained glass and photography. I enjoyed photo processing and taught it for some time. That's now a thing of the past!!!

While I have built some my gear over the years, my station now consist of an Icom 756 PRO III, an Ametiton ALS 600 amp and a Palstar AT1500CV tuner. My backup rig is a Ten-Tec Jupiter. I do have the usual junk boxes and my working Drake 1A receiver that I keep just for old time's sake. I modified it with a notch filter so I can't say it's pristine. I must admit I miss the old rigs I have owned. The National receivers, the Johnson Viking 2, the Central Electronic excitors and amp, The Drake TR7 with all its accessories adorning the ham desk, the Kenwood 840, the Collins KWM2 and like may of you all the adjunct stuff I have cherished and used in over a half a century of ham radio. But then again, isn't the new gear wonderful to behold?

## **FASTRAC-1 Satellite Digipeater Active**

12/01/2011

Beginning Friday, December 2, at 1600 UTC, the FASTRAC-1 satellite (FO-69) will be open for use as a packet radio digipeater. Anyone with a 1200 baud packet TNC and a VHF/UHF FM transceiver will have an opportunity to try it. If you own satellite tracking software, you'll find the latest orbital elements on the FASTRAC Web site.

FASTRAC-1 receives at 145.825 MHz and transmits at 437.345 MHz. The digipeater alias is FAST1. To connect to ARRL Headquarters station W1AW through FASTRAC-1, for example, you would send the following packet:

**C W1AW VIA FAST1**

Reports of your results are welcome via e-mail, or at the FASTRAC Facebook page.

--*Courtesy AMSAT-UK*

## **Special Prefixes on Tap for Canadian Stations this December**

12/05/2011

If you are a prefix hunter, take note: Stations in Canada will be sporting new prefixes. To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the CBC and Radio Canada, radio amateurs in Canada have been granted permission to use special prefixes for the month of December. Hams with call signs beginning with VA may use the prefix VG; those call signs beginning with VE may use VX; hams whose call signs with a VO prefix may use XJ, while call signs beginning with VY may use XK. -- *Thanks to The Daily DX for the information*

## EXAMS

**12/10/2011 | Flint MI 48507 Sponsor: The KD8NLP V.E. Team**  
Location: **Baker College of Flint-Tech Center** Time: **9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**12/10/2011 | Charlotte MI 48813-1031 Sponsor: Eaton County ARC**  
Location: **Eaton Cty Sheriff's Dept-EOC** Time: **12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

- **12/10/2011 | Ann Arbor MI 48108-1516 Sponsor: ARROW Communications Assoc.**  
**Location:** American Red Cross Building  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**12/10/2011 | Port Huron MI 48060-4014 Sponsor: Eastern Michigan ARC**  
Location: **St Clair County Library** Time: **10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**12/16/2011 | Dearborn MI 48124-3958 Sponsor: FARL**  
Location: **Ford Motor Company-Building 1 Atrium Conference Room**  
Time: **11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**12/17/2011 | Midland MI 48642-5940 Sponsor: Midland ARC**  
Location: **Salvation Army** Time: **9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**12/17/2011 | Fenton/Flint MI 48430-9798 Sponsor: Genesee County Radio Club**  
Location: **Mott Community College** Time: **9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**12/17/2011 | Jackson MI 49204-9999 Sponsor: Cascades ARS**  
Location: **Jackson District Library** Time: **10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)**

- **12/21/2011 | Prescott MI 48756-9108 Sponsor: Prescott Testing Group**  
Location: **Mills Township Hall** Time: **7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**12/22/2011 | Corunna MI 48817-1230 Sponsor: Corunna VE Team**  
Location: **American Red Cross** Time: **7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

- **12/22/2011 | Battle Creek MI 49014-4011 Sponsor: SMARS**  
Location: **Maple United Methodist Church** Time: **7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

**01/07/2012 | Mount Clemens MI 48043-2217 Sponsor: Mt Clemens SAROF**  
Location: **Salvation Army Corps-Corner South Gratiot**  
Time: **7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)**

## HAMFEST

**01/15/2012 | Hazel Park 46th Annual Hamfest Location: Hazel Park, MI**  
Type: **ARRL Hamfest** Sponsor: **Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club**  
Website: **<http://hparc.org>**

**02/04/2012 | HARA Swap and Shop**

**Location:** Negaunee, MI  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association

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**02/11/2012 | Cherryland ARC Swap-N-Shop**

**Location:** Traverse City, MI  
**Type:** ARRL Hamfest  
**Sponsor:** Cherryland Amateur Radio Club  
**Website:** **<http://cherrylandarc.com>**

# December 2011

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 <i>W8NSH DAVE KC8NVI &amp; KC8QII KD8CYK GERRY</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>W8SKS &amp; DONNA</i>	10
11 <i>DONNA SYL OF KN8N  K8CIA PAUL</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>KN8N LARRY</i>
18	19	20 <i>KB9NGX XYL</i>	21 <i>KB9NGC &amp; XYL</i>	22	23 <i>WD8JPRW &amp; HELEN</i>	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>KC8TXT &amp; BARB</i>	31 <i>W8ERB &amp; HARIE</i>

FROM JIM WB8IEH    RATED P.G.

A Catholic Priest, a Baptist Preacher, and a Rabbi all served as chaplains to the students of Northern Michigan University in Marquette.

They would get together two or three times a week for coffee and to talk shop.

One day, someone made the comment that preaching to people isn't really all that hard - a real challenge would be to preach to a bear. One thing led to another, and they decided to do an experiment.

They would all go out into the woods, find a bear, preach to it, and attempt to convert it.

Seven days later, they all came together to discuss their experience.

Father Flannery, who had his arm in a sling, was on crutches, and had various bandages on his body and limbs, went first. 'Well,' he said, 'I went into the woods to find me a bear. And when I found him, I began to read to him from the Catechism. Well, that bear wanted nothing to do with me and began to slap me around. So I quickly grabbed my holy water, sprinkled him and, Holy Mary Mother of God, he became as gentle as a lamb. The Bishop is coming out next week to give him first communion and confirmation.'

Reverend Billy Bob spoke next.. He was in a wheelchair, had one arm and both legs in casts and had an IV drip. In his best fire-and-brimstone oratory, he claimed, 'WELL, brothers, you KNOW that we don't sprinkle! I went out and I FOUND me a bear. And then I began to read to my bear from God's HOLY WORD! But that bear wanted nothing to do with me. So I took HOLD of him and we began to wrestle. We wrestled down one hill, UP another and DOWN another until we came to a creek. So I quickly DUNKED him and BAPTIZED his hairy soul. And just like you said, he became as gentle as a lamb.. We spent the rest of the day praising Jesus..Hallelujah!"

The priest and the reverend both looked down at the Rabbi, who was lying in a hospital bed. He was in a body cast and traction with IVs and monitors running in and out of him.

He was in really bad shape.

The Rabbi looked up and said: "Looking back on it, .....circumcision may not have been the best way to start."

## KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old Reese :

'Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His name. Amen.'

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A little boy was overheard praying: 'Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it. I'm having a real good time like I am.'

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After the christening of his baby brother in church, Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car. His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied,

That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home,  
and I wanted to stay with you guys.'

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One particular four-year-old prayed, 'And forgive us our trash baskets  
As we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'

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A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service,  
'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied,  
'Because people are sleeping.'

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BILL KELSO  
133 SIXTH STREET  
MARION MI 49665