

# UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES



HAM OF THE YEAR  
KC8ZMN CHRIS HANSEN  
UNIONVILLE MI

HAM OF THE MONTH  
K1ND JAN JELLEMA  
YPSILANTI MI

DECEMBER 2016

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

It's December, the official start of Winter this month, celebration of Christmas, and time to reflect on the year about to come to an end. For me, both good times and sad times this year. Lost to many friends, I guess that is one of the problems of getting old.

Sorry the newsletter is so late, but I had an outside project I wanted to finish before the weather got seriously winter like, and down deep inside I did not want to report the passing of Bob, W8KP. I guess having to put it in the newsletter really made me have to admit it happened.

Now that cold and snow have arrived I will be spending a lot more time in the shack. Lot of "boat anchors" to work on, and even picked up a new one. I know I said no more, but this was too good to pass up! A Johnson 6N2 Thunderbolt amp, I will now have a "big signal" on six and two meters next summer. I have not even taken it out of the case yet to look it over, maybe because it weighs 120 pounds! That will happen in the next couple of weeks and I will see what has to be done to it, if anything. The strange thing about this amp is that there is no parts list in the manual, and I cannot find one on line. If anybody has one please send it to me! I know I will replace the filter caps.

Also this winter I plan on getting on the radio and talking, make some new contacts and work some DX even. Making contacts, isn't that a big part of the hobby? Merry Christmas and Happy New Year everyone!

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

## NET STATS

OCTOBER 2015 CHECKINS 953 TRAFFIC 43  
OCTOBER 2016 CHECKINS 900 TRAFFIC 40  
HIGH CHECKINS 34 K8BLL 32 N8BNC 32 KC8ZMN 31 W8WR  
HIGH TRAFFIC WA8DHB 2 KC8ZMN 2

# DECEMBER 2016

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>4</i>	<i>5</i> <i>W8PZ DAVE</i> <i>KD8CYK GERRY</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> <i>K8HRO RANDY</i>	<i>9</i> <i>W8SKS &amp; DONNA</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>11</i> <i>DONNA XYL OF</i> <i>KN8N</i> <i>K8CIA PAUL</i> <i>K8LQV &amp; GLORIA</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>16</i> <i>WT8G &amp; LINDA</i>	<i>17</i> <i>KN8N LARRY</i>
<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i> <i>KD9NGX &amp; XYL</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i> <i>WD8PRW &amp; HELEN</i>	<i>24</i>
<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>  <i>TRAVIS GRANDSON</i> <i>OF WA8DHB</i>

## EXAMS

**12/15/2016 | Lowell MI 49331-9609** Sponsor: Lowell ARC Location: Flat River Outreach Ministries Bldg

Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**12/16/2016 | Prescott MI 48756-9108** Sponsor: none Location: Mills Township Hall

Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**12/17/2016 | Jackson MI 49201-2230** Sponsor: Cascades ARS Location: Jackson Carnegie Library

Time: 10:15 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**12/17/2016 | Monroe MI 48162-5231** Sponsor: Monroe Cty Radio Comm Assoc

Location: American Red Cross Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**12/22/2016 | Battle Creek MI 49017-4867** Sponsor: SMARS Location: Maple United Methodist Church Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**12/22/2016 | Owosso MI 48867-9999** Sponsor: Corunna VE Team Location: Baker College Welcome Center Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**01/07/2017 | Mount Clemens MI 48043-2217** Sponsor: SAROF Location: Mt. Clemens Salvation Army Corps (rear entrance) Time: 7:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**01/09/2017 | Adrian MI 49221-8709** Sponsor: Adrian ARC Location: Building at Lenawee County Airport Time: 7:00 PM (No walk-ins)

## HAMFEST

**01/29/2017 | HPARC Swap** Location: Madison Heights, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club Website: <http://hparc.org>

**02/04/2017 | Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association Shop and Swap**  
Location: Negaunee, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest Sponsor: HARA  
Website: <http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/index.html>

**2/11/2017 | Swap N Shop** Location: Traverse City, MI Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Cherryland Amateur Radio Club

**02/19/2017 | 46th Annual Livonia ARC Swap & Shop**

**Location:** Livonia, MI **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Livonia Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://www.livoniaarc.com/index.php?page=swapshop>

**Learn More**

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**03/11/2017 | Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club Hamfest Location:** Lowell, MI

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Lowell Amateur Radio Youth Club

**Website:** <http://k8lhs.club>

**03/18/2017 | Michigan Crossroads Hamfest and Radio Swap Location:** Kalamazoo

Township, MI **Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://www.w8df.com/index.php?content=hamfest>

**04/22/2017 | Chassell Michigan Hamfest Location:** Chassell, MI

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest **Sponsor:** Copper Country Radio Amateur Assn. & Keweenaw County

Repeater Assn. **Website:** <http://kcra-mi.net/>

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## Rare Polar Openings Reported on 630 Meters

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*12/06/2016*

John Langridge, KB5NJD/WG2XIQ, reports that “extremely rare polar openings” have been occurring the past three nights on 630 meters between a number of North American stations and Rolf Torvik, LA2XPA, in Norway.

“This path is straight through the auroral oval, and quiet geomagnetic conditions have allowed signals to traverse the polar regions,” Langridge told ARRL. He said LA2XPA has “an amazing station on an isolated island and is using 500- to 700-meter long Beverages. It’s quite remarkable.”

He said these openings also appear to be happening on 160 meters to a lesser extent, “based on a number of reports.”

While Amateur Radio does not yet have access to 630 meters in the US, several enthusiasts of the nether regions, such as Langridge, have FCC Part 5 Experimental licenses or are part of the ARRL 600 Meter Experiment (**WD2XSH**). Langridge has been **chronicling** the activity on his blog.



BOB W8KP  
BRUCE CROSSING MI

Robert James Wittla 74 of Bruce Crossing, MI passed away Friday, November 18, 2016 at his home. Robert was born in Detroit, MI to Emil and Olive (Juntunen). Robert is a graduate of Cass Tech High School in Detroit, MI. He retired from the Detroit Public Schools as a Electrician in 1998. Robert is a member of IBEW Union local 58 in Detroit, MI. He has been a licensed Ham Radio Operator for over 50 years. He enjoys his music especially attending concerts and music festivals. Robert enjoyed looking into his family history and was very proud of his Finnish heritage.

Robert is survived by two sons; Ronald of Dearborn, MI and Kenneth (Maki) of Misawa, Japan. four grandchildren; Hannah, Amanda, Kelsey and Scott Wittla. one brother; William (Beatrice) of Laurium, MI, one sister; Barbara (Anthony) Valdivia of Katy, Texas. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Robert was preceded in death by his parents and one brother Donald Wittla.

Visitation will take place Saturday, November 26, 2016 from 10:00 AM until time of services at 11:00 AM. at the Cane Funeral Home in Ontonagon with Pastor Ted Trudgeon officiating. Interment will take place in the spring at Hillside Cemetery in Bruce Crossing.

The Cane Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

We will all miss Bob's presence on the U.P. Net. He was a very loyal participant and was always willing to help get people into the net when they could not be heard by Net control.

Bob was very proud of his station and as we all know had the "Big Signal" from Bruce Crossing.

Bob said he was not a DXer, but every morning on 3.906 he would tell us about the station he worked that morning on 40 meters and they were usually somewhere out in the Pacific ocean.

There are hams all over the world who have looked up on a map to see where Bruce Crossing is located. He really put that part of the U.P. on the map for a lot of people.

I had the pleasure of operating from Bob's station a few times and it was a Ham's dream, very good equipment, good high antennas, big power, and a quiet location.

73 my friend

UPN NET MEMBER PROFILE .....EDITED BY AL, K8BLL

WALTER WALL, K8VSO  
LAKE, MICHIGAN

A NATIVE OF MICHIGAN, WALT WAS BORN IN JUNE OF 1932. HE COMPLETED HIS EDUCATION THROUGH THE 12TH GRADE VIA A GED. IN ADDITION TO EMPLOYMENT AT GENERAL MOTORS, WALT DID HOUSEKEEPING JOBS. HE ALSO SERVED THREE YEARS IN THE MILITARY. HE LIVES ALONE IN COMPANY WITH HIS PET DOGS.

WALT GOT INTO AMATEUR RADIO IN 1960 AND NOW HOLDS A EXTRA CLASS LICENSE. HE ALSO HAS BEEN A RIDER OWNING A HARLEY AND A HONDA 1100SHADOW MOTORCYCLE.

WALT'S HAM SHACK INCLUDES TWO HF ALL-BAND TRANSCEIVERS. AN ICOM 718 AND AN ICOM 746 FEEDING DIPOLE ANTENNAS.

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### **ARRL Transitioning to New Digital Publishing Platform**

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12/07/2016

ARRL is moving to a new digital publishing platform! The January 2017 digital edition of *QST* will be the first produced using *PageSuite*. ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, said the transition from the current *NxtBook* platform to *PageSuite* not only will improve members' reading experience, it will be more convenient.

"*PageSuite* provides a sleek, modern design that runs on desktop browsers, mobile browsers, and within apps for mobile devices," Ford said. "*PageSuite* does not require *Flash* but uses *HTML5* instead. This alleviates many security concerns and makes the magazine more broadly compatible."

New *QST* issues, beginning with the January 2017 edition, will take up less space on mobile devices, speeding up download time. Added features include digital *bookmarks* to save a page and pick up right where you left off, and a *clipping tool* to save or share important passages as JPEG files. Video files will be hosted on YouTube in high resolution.

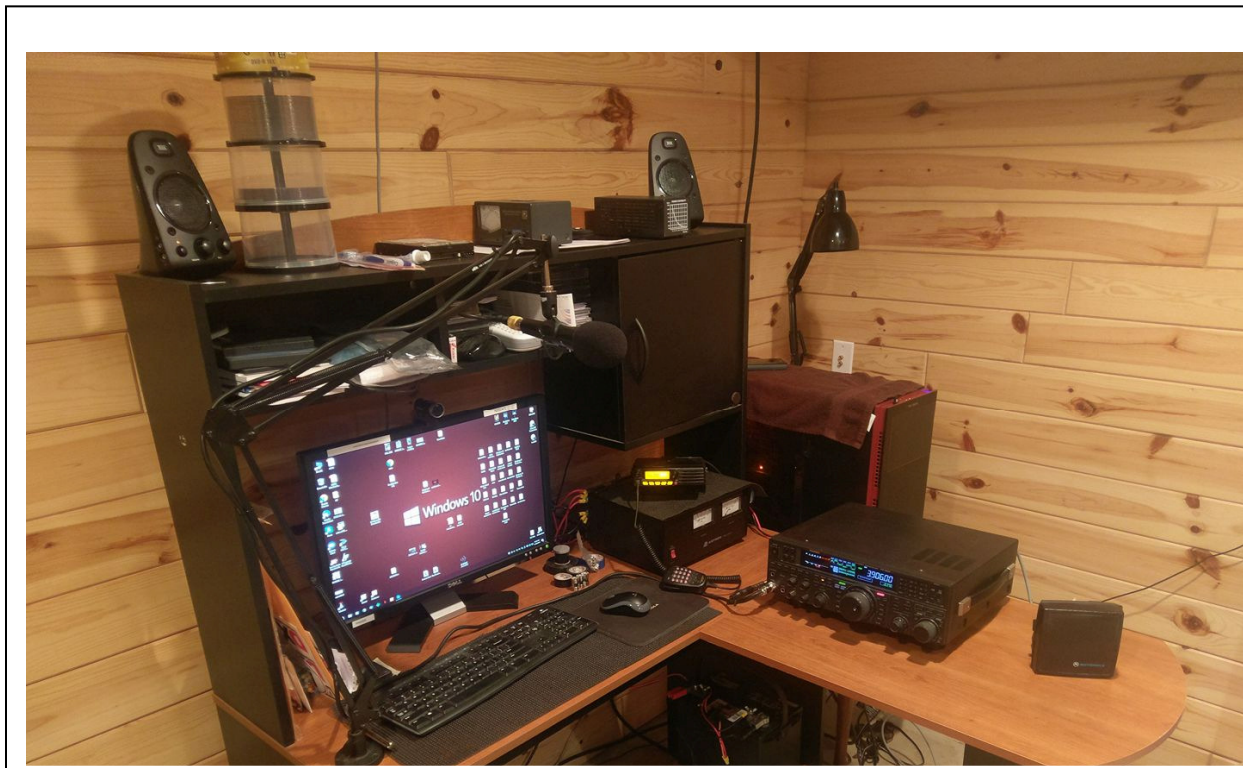
The new application is compatible with Android devices, iOS devices — including iPhones, iPod touches, and iPads — and will be newly available to Kindle Fire! These apps will receive regular, quick updates in order to keep the application running smoothly.

Ford said the link to the digital edition of the monthly journal will remain in the same spot on the *QST* website, and members will continue to be notified of its release via e-mail.

ARRL has compiled a "how-to" guide to help members navigate *PageSuite*, which will be available on the ***QST* webpage** on the day the January digital issue is announced. The announcement concerning the availability of the January issue of *QST* in the new desktop/laptop version, the how-to guide, and the new digital *QST* apps, will be forthcoming.

Members can use the online digital ***QST* feedback form** to comment on the new platform when it is available. To ease the transition, *NxtBook* applications will continue to function on iOS and Android devices until January 1.

THE NEW LOCATION FOR BARRY'S, N8DAD, STATION IN GAYLORD





MAYBE WE SHOULD LOWER OUR ANTENNAS ON CHRISTMAS EVE?  
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

