

UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES



HAM OF THE YEAR

W8RLJ – Rick Jersey
Petoskey, MI

HAM OF THE MONTH

KB3KCJ – Wayne Hamilton
Brownsburg, IN

DECEMBER 2019

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

It's here, December. Christmas and the New Year will be here before long. The snow is falling all over Michigan. We are nearing the end of the year and beginning the unofficial start to the busy indoor Ham Radio season. I hear up and down the bands, "now that it's cold outside, I'll be playing more radio". I also hear; "I can run my old tube gear to heat up the Ham Shack".

I thought it might be nice to ask if I could get some pictures of your favorite old gear and tube amp with a short two- or three- line story to share in the upcoming winter U.P. Net Newsletters. Take a nice bright and clear close up picture of your clean old gear, tubes glowing, if possible, and send them to me at k8uhf@sbcglobal.net

Here is my "new to me" old rig - Kenwood TS-520 and Heathkit Electronic Keyer. I don't have any history on the Electronic Keyer other than I purchased it from an estate sale at a swap. It came with the original box, manual and some other small parts. It was a little dirty but I took it apart and cleaned the contacts and switches. I made some adjustments and it works great.

The Kenwood TS-520 came from my neighbor who let his ticket expire many years ago and just wanted to find a good home for his old rig. I told him I could take care of it for him! Hi Hi. My first HF rig purchase was a TS-520S so this rig was almost like an old friend to me. He stored this rig safely in a plastic tub for many years. It also came with the original manual, a Swan desk microphone and Coffin Bug Key (thanks to Brad, KR8P, for the identification of the Key) which is quite dirty and I have not cleaned up yet. I disassembled and cleaned the TS-520 inside and out and sprayed out all the pots and switches. It has no rust and has not yellowed. After it set a day, I brought it up to power with a Variac. It only blew one small value fuse that I added in line for safety as I brought up the power. The fuse was well under rated so I'm not surprised it blew out. I increased the fuse

value, increased the power slowly and the Rig lit up just like brand new. What a beautiful rig! I've used it to check-in on the U.P. Net a couple times and made several other contacts receiving good reports. These old rigs sure are a lot of fun! Your turn now to send me some pictures and information on your "special old rig".

Look at that Shine!



NET STATS

Nov 2018: Check-ins 1045 – Traffic 36

Nov 2019: Check-ins 1008 – Traffic 38

High Check-ins: KC8ZMN 33,32; KC8GTE 41,32; KE8AHK 36,32,32; WA8DHB 35,34,31
W8WR 36,31; N8BNC 40,38,38; NS8S 37

Sunday Noon Net High Check-ins: KD8KCV 18

U.P. NET TRIVIA

Submitted by David Fleming – NS8S – Montague, MI

I worked a station near Phoenix on November 24, 2019. He is a former U.P. Net and YOOPER from Ironwood, Michigan. His old call was W8LON and now W7JIF. Jerry reported that back in the early days of the U.P. Net, it was known as the "Nutty Net" and the award was a nut, received in the mail with letters conceived of Alphabet Soup letters, dried, and glued to a nut with your call sign. In order to receive this prestigious award, you had to check into the "Nutty Net" at least 10 times. The original frequency was 3920 khz back then... How weird is that?

I don't know if anyone has been around long enough to remember this. Jerry remembers Aileen, WA8DHB, well and is happy to hear that she is still Net Manager! Thanks to Jerry, W7JIF, for sharing the trivia about the origins of the U.P. Net!

NOVEMBER'S HAM OF THE MONTH PROFILE

Michael Gottsacker – KD9TZ – Ada near Elkhart Lake, WI

I was born in Sheboygan, WI on November 13, 1950. I received a high school diploma.

My employers included National Tea Company, retail grocery – stock to manager; Kohler Company, foundry grinder to foreman cleaning room; Muth Mirror – engineering and R & D; Heartland Video – broadcast engineering radio, TV and microwave. Presently retired from the TV broadcast industry.

I served in the US Army, Vietnam, 101 Airborne machine gunner and 426 Supply Co “B” ration yard – acting Sergeant.

My Ham Radio days began when my father gave me a crystal set kit and I experimented; built my own gear, caught the bug listening to shortwave. Equipment here consists of a Kenwood TS 830 S and a Kenwood TS 590SG. I also have an Ameritron AL-1200 amplifier to use when the going gets tough. I am active on HF, 2 meters, 440, 6 meters and Echolink. Antennas are a Mosley TA33 WARC and wire dipoles for HF and vertical and small beams for 2 meters, 440 and 6 meters.

My wife, Gail, and I have a hobby farm where we have four trail riding horses. We raise our own feed and this, coupled with grandchildren, keeps us out of trouble. Our son, Jason, is also a Ham and his call is KE0FKE. He is active on HF and is often found doing a summit for Summits on the air. Our daughter, Jennifer, is a police dispatcher.

Besides our hobby farm, with horses and riding, I enjoy sailing and camping. I also enjoy nets, chasing DX, rag chewing and repairing all types of radios as well as building and maintaining repeaters, both analog and digital. I have been a scout leader for 30 years and am the sound support for church.

Hope to hear you on the air!



FRACTURED SUBJECT: "THE DEFINITION OF 73 AND ITS ORIGIN"

Submitted by Bill Kelso – N8NJA

A true deception of the description of 73's started back in the laboratory of the great scientist Marconi- in the year of our Lord 1899, on the first of April, with his trusty sidekick, Morris Hebert.

Now, Morris, in the early days, before his accident in the woods of New Mexico, was a lumberman. One day a large bamboo tree fell into the chain saw Morris was using causing the loss of three fingers. That was when Marconi had the good fortune of obtaining Morris Hebert as his sidekick.

Back to the first of April of 1899. Marconi, with his faithful sidekick Morris, was working on a new invention... attempting to feed sound from one side to the other of the big cow pasture without stepping in something or getting hoarse.

Well, Marconi was just outside the laboratory holding his dixie cup with the bottom pierced and 1234 feet of string emerging from the bottom to the other dixie cup in the hands of trusted employee Morris. Now, Morris was out there about 1220 feet running like the New Mexico wind when he slipped on something in that cow pasture. Picking himself up and drawing the string tight, he heard Marconi say, "Are you alright? Are you alright? If you are, give me a ten count."

Well, when Morris Herbert was a slipping and a sliding, he stretched the string beyond 1234 feet. Well, sir that popped the bottom right out of that dixie cup, so Morris could not give Marconi his requested ten count. But, being the resourceful man he was, the ability to meet the demands of any situation ingeniously, held up the right and left showing seven fingers. Then he held up the right hand exposing only three fingers for the signal of then showing he was fine, and wishing Marconi the best for a successful completion of his new sound invention. And-so was born the expression of 73's.

(This was originally submitted to the U.P Net Newsletter in November of 1996 by Jack N8XQG.)

DIARY OF A DEMENTED SNOW SHOVELER

Written by someone who just moved to snow country

Submitted by Brad Hulce – KR8P – Twin Lake, MI

December 8 6:00 PM

It started to snow. The first snow of the season and the wife and I took supper and sat for hours by the window watching the huge soft flakes drift down from heaven. It looked like a Grandma Moses print. So romantic we felt like newlyweds again. I love snow!

December 9

We woke to a beautiful blanket of crystal white snow covering every inch of the landscape. What a fantastic sight! Can there be a more lovely place in the whole world? Moving here was the best idea I've ever had!

Shoveled for the first time in years and felt like a boy again. I did both our driveway and the sidewalks. This afternoon the snowplow came along and covered up the sidewalks and closed in the driveway, so I got to shovel again. What a perfect life!

December 12

The sun has melted all our lovely snow. Such a disappointment! My neighbor tells me not to worry-we'll definitely have a white Christmas. No snow on Christmas would be awful! Bob says we'll have so much snow by the end of winter, that I'll never want to see snow again. I don't think that's possible. Bob is such a nice man, I'm glad he's our neighbor.

December 14

Snow, lovely snow! 8 inches last night. The temperature dropped to -20. The cold makes everything sparkle so. The wind took my breath away, but I warmed up by shoveling the driveway and sidewalks. This is the life! The snowplow came back this afternoon and buried everything again. I didn't realize I would have to do quite this much shoveling, but I'll certainly get back in shape this way. I wish I wouldn't huff and puff so.

December 15

20 inches forecast. Sold my van and bought a 4×4 Blazer. Bought snow tires for the wife's car and 2 extra shovels. Stocked the freezer. The wife wants a wood stove in case the electricity goes out. I think that's silly. We aren't in Alaska, after all.

December 16

Ice storm this morning. Fell on my butt on the ice in the driveway putting down salt. It really hurt. The wife laughed for an hour, which I think was very cruel.

December 17

Still way below freezing. Roads are too icy to go anywhere. Electricity was off for 5 hours. I had to pile the blankets on to stay warm. Nothing to do but stare at the wife and try not to irritate her. Guess I should've bought a wood stove, but won't admit it to her. I hate it when she's right. I can't believe I'm freezing to death in my own living room.

December 20

Electricity is back on, but had another 14 inches of the stuff last night. More shoveling! Took all day. The snow plow came by twice. Tried to find a neighbor kid to shovel, but they said they're too busy playing hockey. I think they're lying. Called the only hardware store around to see about buying a snow blower and they're out. Might have another shipment in March. I think they're lying. Bob says I have to shovel or the city will have it done and bill me. I think he's lying.

December 22

Bob was right about a white Christmas because 13 more inches of the white stuff fell today, and it's so cold, it probably won't melt till August. Took me 45 minutes to get all dressed up to go out to shovel and then I had to go to the bathroom. By the time I got undressed and dressed again, I was too tired to shovel. Tried to hire Bob who has a plow on his truck for the rest of the winter, but he says he's too busy. I think he's lying.

December 23

Only 2 inches of snow today. And it warmed up to 0. The wife wanted me to decorate the front of the house this morning. What is she, nuts?!! Why didn't she tell me to do that a month ago? She says she did but I think she's lying.

December 24

6 inches - Snow packed so hard by snowplow, I broke the shovel. Thought I was having a heart attack. If I ever catch the guy who drives that snowplow, I'll drag him through the snow and beat him to death with my broken shovel. I know he hides around the corner and waits for me to finish shoveling and then he comes down the street at 100 miles an hour and throws snow all over where I've just been! Tonight, the wife wanted me to sing Christmas carols with her and open our presents, but I was too busy watching for the snowplow.

December 25

Merry Christmas! 20 more inches of the slop tonight - Snowed in. The idea of shoveling makes my blood boil. I hate the snow! Then the snowplow driver came by asking for a donation and I hit him over the head with my shovel. The wife says I have a bad attitude. If I have to watch "It's A Wonderful Life" one more time, I'm going to stuff her into the microwave.

December 26

Still snowed in. Why did I ever move here? It was all HER idea. She's really getting on my nerves.

December 27

Temperature dropped to -30 and the pipes froze; plumber came after 14 hours of waiting for him, he only charged me \$1,400 to replace all my pipes.

December 28

Warmed up to above -20. Still snowed in. My wife is driving me crazy!!!

December 29

10 more inches. Bob says I have to shovel the roof or it could cave in. That's the silliest thing I ever heard. How dumb does he think I am?

December 30

Roof caved in. I beat up the snowplow driver, and now he is suing me for a million dollars. The wife went home to her mother. Nine more inches predicted.

December 31

I set fire to what's left of the house. No more shoveling.

January 8

Feel so good. I just love those little white pills they keep giving me. Why am I tied to the bed?

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 Member Profile questionnaire. We will include this information in the next Newsletter; that way we all can get to know you a little better.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The U.P. Net needs you! It has been mentioned that it would be nice to have a few more people take on the role of Net control and/or Pre-Net control to give the regulars a break. If you have time and are interested, contact any of the Net controls and find out what you can do to help out. Opportunity is knocking!

HAMFESTS

For complete information, refer to the ARRL Hamfests
www.arrl.org

Jan 19, 2020 Hazel Park ARC's 54th Swap & Shop
Madison Heights, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Hazel Park Amateur Radio Club
Website: <http://www.hparc.org>

Feb 1, 2020 HARA Annual Swap-N-Shop
Negaunee, MI
Type: ARRL Hamfest
Sponsor: Hiawatha Amateur Radio Association
Website: <http://www.qsl.net/k8lodmichigan>

EXAM SESSIONS

For complete information, refer to ARRL – Licensing, Education and Training

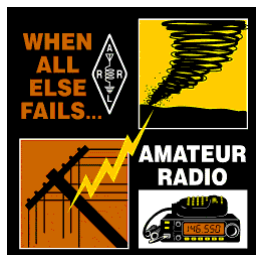
www.arrl.org

- Dec 1, 2019 UFCW Hall, Madison Heights, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 3, 2019 Oak Park Community Center, Oak Park, MI
7:00pm – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 5, 2019 Lansing Fire Station #44 (Community Room), Lansing, MI
7:00pm – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 7, 2019 Mt. Clemens Salvation Army Corps (rear entrance), Mount Clemens, MI
7:30pm – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 7, 2019 American Red Cross Muskegon, Muskegon, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 10, 2019 Livingston County EMS, Howell, MI
7:00pm – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 14, 2019 American Red Cross Building, Ann Arbor, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 14, 2019 Charlotte Church of Christ, Charlotte, MI
12:00pm – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 14, 2019 Marquette Health Dept Bldg, Negaunee, MI
8:30am – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 21, 2019 Jackson Carnegie Library, Jackson, MI
10:15am – Walk-ins allowed
- Dec 26, 2019 Maple United Methodist Church, Battle Creek, MI
7:00pm – Walk-ins allowed
- Jan 4, 2020 Franklin Township Office, Hancock, MI
9:00am – Walk-ins allowed
- Jan 4, 2020 Mt. Clemens Salvation Army Corps (rear entrance), Mount Clemens, MI
7:30pm – Walk-ins allowed

December 2019

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	3	4	5 KD8CYK Gerry	6	7
8 K8HRO Randy	9 W8SKS & Donna	10	11 Donna XYL or KN8N K8CIA Paul K8LQV & Gloria	12	13	14
15	16 WT8G & Linda N8ISV	17 KN8N Larry	18	19	20	21
22	23 WD8PRW & Helen	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 Travis Grandson of WA8DHB New Year's Eve				



JIM HEIN, JR. – K8UHF
 4833 N. GUNNELL RD.
 DIMONDALE, MI 48821
k8uhf@sbcglobal.net

Merry Christmas to everyone!

UPPER PENINSULA NET WEBSITE www.michupnet.com