

# UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES



## HAM OF THE YEAR

KE8AHK – Mike Driscoll  
Wayland, MI

## HAM OF THE MONTH

KE8IWM – Kent Babcock  
Arcadia, MI

**AUGUST 2020**

FROM THE EDITOR-----JIM - K8UHF [k8uhf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:k8uhf@sbcglobal.net)

Congratulations to all of our Hams of the Month! Being a Ham of the Month (HOM) comes with several perks. I'll start with the very nice certificate to frame and display in your shack.

Next, your name and call sign are listed on the front page of U.P. Net Newsletter for the month you are HOM. Also, your name and call sign are listed on the U.P. Net Newsletter HOM web page along with past HOM recipients. You have the opportunity to have your picture and profile published in the U.P. Net Newsletter, and of course "on the air" congratulations from your fellow hams as well as being introduced by Chris, KC8ZMN, as the new HOM at the beginning of your month.

And, in my opinion, the greatest benefit of being Ham of the Month is the privilege of being at the top of the list of check-ins for the regular net for an entire month! This is very cool. No matter when you check-in during the pre-net you will be put at the top of the list for the regular net time. In addition, even if you are a bit late and check-in later at any time during the regular net, Net Control will recognize you and you will be called on next to make your transmission.

What this really means is during your month as Ham of the Month, take advantage of your privilege. You do not need to check-in at the beginning of the pre-net when so many others are trying to get on the top of the list. Sit back, relax, and listen to everyone checking-in on top of one another and see if you can pull out the calls. (Credits to the Net Controls). You have the privilege of waiting until the Net Control calls for the second or even the third round of check-ins during the pre-net and you will still be added the top of the list at the regular

net time. Isn't that GREAT? It makes it a little easier on the Net Control, too, by you waiting to check-in as it is one less call that Net Control has to pull out of the pile up.

Enjoy your rein as Ham of the Month. Be sure to visit [www.michupnet.com](http://www.michupnet.com) to see yourself highlighted on the U.P. Net website.

### NET STATS

July 2019: Check-ins 904 – Traffic 39  
July 2020: Check-ins 972 – Traffic 39  
High Check-ins: KC8ZMN 33,31; KE8AHK 32,31  
WA8DHB 33,33; NS8S 33,33,34,34,35; W8WR 33,35  
Sunday Noon Net High Check-ins: KD8KCV 16,15,16,21

### CHECK-IN AND TRAFFIC

#### **Jim Hein – K8UHF - Dimondale, MI**

Bill, N8NJA, provided this information for 2007-2008 in the August 2008 U.P. Net Newsletter. I thought it would be interesting to see what has transpired over the last 10 years, 2010-2020.

	<b>2010</b>		<b>2020</b>	
MONTH	Check-Ins	Traffic	Check-Ins	Traffic
Jan	1591	66	1003	38
Feb	1332	62	1072	32
Mar	1188	59	1249	36
Apr	1145	55	1274	36
May	1182	40	1138	38
Jun	1016	45	898	39

### HAM OF THE MONTH

#### **Kent Babcock – KE8IWN – Arcadia, MI**

**Name and Call:** Kent Babcock – KE8IWN

**Birthdate and Place:** July 11, 1957 in Traverse City, MI

**Education:** AAAS Automotive Technology (1977); AAAS Electronics Technology (1998); West Shore Community College

**Employer(s)/Type of Work:** Amptech, Inc Electronics Technician, Test Department Manager, 1998 to 2020

**Military Service:** None

**How did you get into Ham Radio:** Retread CBer (there, I said it). Before the days of cellphone, I burned up a transmission coming home from a meeting in Lansing on U.S. 127 and figured there had to be a better way to get assistance than CB. That took me down the rabbit hole that is electronics and amateur radio. When kids came along and with a steady job in the electronics field, I let the hobby slide through the cracks and my license lapsed in 2003. David, NS8S, played a large part encouraging me to get licensed again.

**Spouse/Family:** Terry L. Babcock – wife. Adult children: Brandon and Amanda

**Other Hobbies & Interests:** Gardening, guitar playing, my old Ford tractor, volunteer work at our church.

**Any other interesting info or experiences:** Not much; I'm a pretty dull guy.



### ALL KIDDING ASIDE

**Brad Hulce – KR8P – Twin Lake, MI**

During February of 2018, Dave, NS8S, asked me to be Net Control station since he was going to be out of town. At that point, I had already been doing pre-net duties for some time but this was going to be my first time doing the full net. When Dave returned home, he sent an email to me asking how it went. This is the response he received. Can you imagine what Dave was thinking as he read it?

“Dave, I'm sure you already heard it was a disaster. I flubbed it.

First, I forgot to print out the preamble. I panicked but good thing Larry was there. He has it memorized so he did it for me. He is sure a nice guy. He saved the day. Then, I forgot to ask for mobiles. I had at least five people telling me I forgot. Then, I forgot the standbys - It was three or four who had to let me know that. I can't remember the exact count because at this point I was a nervous wreck. Then, I used the wrong name for two who joined the net. At least there was only one who let me know (one each time) - the person himself let me know.

After the net Bill suggested to Aileen that we may need to require training and certification ahead of time before they allow someone to do this for the first time. I guess that's on the agenda for the net managers to discuss at their next meeting.

BTW, I'm kidding <grin>. It went great. I appreciate the opportunity you gave me. I had fun. They are anxious to have you back.”

I was laughing very hard as I typed it as I was trying to imagine all the worst possible things that could go wrong. Dave said he was relieved when he got to the end of the email.

## **CREATIVE VE TESTING**

**Lansing, Michigan**

**This information obtained from the Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club  
Facebook Page**

The VE Session originally scheduled for Thursday, August 6th HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th AT 11:00AM. It will be held at last month's location—Moores Park (400 Moores River Drive, Lansing, MI) in the Picnic Shelter. As usual, we will be offering examinations for Technician, General and Extra and all walk-ins are welcome.

PLEASE NOTE: Face masks WILL be required in the shelter area and we WILL be adhering to social distancing regulations. The parking lot closest to the shelter is near the corner of Moores River Drive and Osband Road, not far from the restroom building. Talk-in will be on the 145.390 repeater (100 Hz PL).

HEADS UP! Our September session will be on Saturday, the 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00AM, at the same location.



## **The following information came from ARRL.org.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic continues to complicate amateur radio license testing.** ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) VE Jim Rinehart, K9RU, reported having to break a July 11 test session at the Salvation Army EDS Center in Indianapolis into two 90-minute segments in order to meet COVID-19 guidelines, requiring the additional step of having to notify applicants as to which test session they belonged.

For the split session, one member of the testing team checked applicants' temperatures, while three VEs signed them in, checked their paperwork and calculators, and collected the exam session fee. "We have a packet for each applicant with the test and answer sheet prepared, and we go over it with them," Rinehart told ARRL VEC. "To minimize the handling of paperwork, we have the applicant turn in the answer sheet to the VE graders and throw away the exam booklets." Rinehart said exam session tables are disinfected between test sessions. Face masks and social distancing are required.



## **A BLISSFUL STORY**

### **Jim – K8UHF- and XYL Dawn**

Happy Anniversary to us! We just celebrated our 25<sup>th</sup> (Silver) wedding anniversary on July 29, 2020. We planted a Silver Maple tree to commemorate the occasion.



# August 2020

## 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 W8WOJ & XYL	3	4	5 K8UHF Jim	6	7 KD9TZ & Gail	8
9 Helen XYL or WD8PRW W8IBT Debbie	10	11	12 KA8IQJ & Ruth	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 N9QPJ & XYL	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 KB8MCR Jim	29 KC8ZMN Chris
30	31					

### 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](mailto:k8uhf@sbcglobal.net). Please include a short bio about yourself or use the updated Member Profile Questionnaire. We will include this information in the next Newsletter; that way we all can get to know you a little better.

## HAMFESTS

For complete information, refer to the ARRL Hamfests

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

08/01/2020 - **CANCELLED** - [U.P. Hamfest 2020](#)

**Location:** Escanaba, MI

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Delta County Amateur Radio Society

**Website:** <http://k8pl.org>

[Learn More](#)

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

09/12/2020 - [GRAHamfest](#)

**Location:** Wyoming, MI

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Grand Rapids Amateur Radio Association

**Website:** <http://w8dc.org>

[Learn More](#)

### HAMFEST/CONVENTION

09/20/2020 - **CANCELLED** - [Adrian Hamfest](#)

**Location:** Adrian, MI

**Type:** ARRL Hamfest

**Sponsor:** Adrian Amateur Radio Club

**Website:** <http://w8tqe.com>

[Learn More](#)

## EXAM SESSIONS

**Please verify the Exam Session has not been cancelled before going.**

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

[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

### EXAM SESSION

08/01/2020 | [Muskegon MI 49440-1233](#)

**Sponsor:** Muskegon Area AR Council

**Location:** American Red Cross Muskegon

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

### EXAM SESSION

08/02/2020 | [Sandusky MI 48471-9603](#)

**Sponsor:** Thumb Amt radio Club

**Location:** Liberty Lanes Bowling Alley

**Time:** 3:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

### EXAM SESSION

08/08/2020 | [Lansing MI 48910](#)

**Sponsor:** Ingham County VE Group

**Location:** Moores Park

**Time:** 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

### EXAM SESSION

08/08/2020 | [Smiths Creek MI 48074-4409](#)

**Sponsor:** Eastern Michigan ARC

**Location:** St. Clair County International Airport Parking Lot

**Time:** 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

### EXAM SESSION

08/08/2020 | [Traverse City MI 49686-3103](#)

**Sponsor:** Cherryland ARC

**Location:** Traverse City District Library

**Time:** 1:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

[Learn More](#)

### EXAM SESSION

08/11/2020 | [Howell MI 48855-8703](#)

**Sponsor:** Livingston Amateur Radio Klub

**Location:** Livingston County EMS

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

[Learn More](#)

### EXAM SESSION

08/15/2020 | [Gaylord MI 49735-9387](#)

**Sponsor:** Top of Michigan ARC

**Location:** VE Residence

**Time:** 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

### EXAM SESSION

08/15/2020 | [Romulus MI 48174-9999](#)

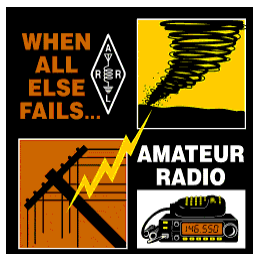
**Sponsor:** Livonia Amt Radio Club

**Location:** K8TAS & K8DXJ Residence

**Time:** 10:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)

[Learn More](#)

- EXAM SESSION  
[08/15/2020 | Romulus MI 48174-9999](#)  
**Sponsor:** Livonia Amt Radio Club  
**Location:** K8TAS & K8DXJ Residence  
**Time:** 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[08/15/2020 | Romulus MI 48174-9999](#)  
**Sponsor:** Livonia Amt Radio Club  
**Location:** K8TAS & K8DXJ Residence  
**Time:** 2:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[08/22/2020 | Lapeer MI 48446-8333](#)  
**Sponsor:** Lapeer Co. Search & Rescue  
**Location:** Lion's Bear Lake Camp  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[08/22/2020 | South Lyon MI 48178](#)  
**Sponsor:** South Lyon Area ARC  
**Location:** Witch's Hat Depot  
**Time:** 9:00 AM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[08/23/2020 | Benton Harbor MI 49022-9999](#)  
**Sponsor:** NQ8A Testing Group  
**Location:** Church of God  
**Time:** 12:30 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[08/27/2020 | Battle Creek MI 49017-4867](#)  
**Sponsor:** SMARS  
**Location:** Maple United Methodist Church  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[08/27/2020 | Corunna MI 48817-1416](#)  
**Sponsor:** ARRL VEC D08  
**Location:** Shiawassee EOC  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[08/27/2020 | Corunna MI 48817-1448](#)  
**Sponsor:** SARA  
**Location:** Shiawassee Co. EOC  
**Time:** 6:30 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[09/08/2020 | Howell MI 48855-8703](#)  
**Sponsor:** Livingston Amateur Radio Klub  
**Location:** Livingston County EMS  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[09/09/2020 | Livonia MI 48154-3045](#)  
**Sponsor:** Livonia ARC  
**Location:** Livonia Police Department  
**Time:** 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Call ahead)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[09/12/2020 | Lansing MI 48910](#)  
**Sponsor:** Ingham County VE Group  
**Location:** Moores Park  
**Time:** 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[09/12/2020 | Negaunee MI 49866](#)  
**Sponsor:**  
**Location:** Marquette Health Dept Bldg  
**Time:** 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
[Learn More](#)
- EXAM SESSION  
[09/12/2020 | Smiths Creek MI 48074-4409](#)  
**Sponsor:** Eastern Michigan ARC  
**Location:** St. Clair County International Airport Parking Lot  
**Time:** 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)  
[Learn More](#)



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