

UPPER PENINSULA NET NEWS

SERVING THE WESTERN GREAT LAKES



HAM OF THE YEAR

KE8AHK – Mike Driscoll
Wayland, MI

HAM OF THE MONTH

KD8FWZ – Alan Graham
Whitehall, MI

DECEMBER 2020

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

Now that we're getting into the winter months, the bands are really coming alive. Several people have commented they worked people on 15 meters and haven't done that in years. So, get out there and call CQ!

A friendly reminder: This was published in the April 2018 U.P. Net Newsletter: "As the result of a recent polling of U.P. Net check-ins, it's been decided to continue the Pre-net starting time at 4:30pm daily with the regular Net starting at 5:00pm. Thank you to all of you who were involved in this polling process."

This original decision to change the Pre-net start time and shorten the Pre-net to a half hour was due to changing band conditions, daylight savings time change, QRM, and to lighten the load on the Net Controls a little bit. A gentlemen's agreement was made in an attempt to reduce interference to another net that operates on an adjacent frequency during the 4 o'clock hour and hopefully the favor is returned during U. P. Net time. If you do need to operate before the Pre-net starts, please use reduced power to help reduce interference and keep your transmissions as short as you can. Anything helps. We all know how annoyed we get when someone moves in right next to the Net frequency and starts talking or even worse starts Tuning Up on the air for an extended period of time.

A last couple things. The Net Controls have asked that when you check-in at the beginning of the Pre-net, please only say your call sign one time. As you know, everyone calling in at once is turned into just noise. Once you're on the list be sure to stand by and wait for your turn during the regular Net. I personally write down the check-ins as they are acknowledged by Net Control so I know when my turn is next. This really helps the Net flow smoothly and it helps me learn everyone's call, name, and voice.

KEEP 'EM COMIN'

I have been asking everyone to send me a picture or two of their shack, antenna system, and projects with a short article about what it is. I have received several responses. Thank you to those who sent things to me. More are included in this Newsletter. Everyone really enjoys reading about one another and getting a peek at the person and shack behind the voice.

NET STATS

Nov 2019: Check-ins 1008 – Traffic 38

Nov 2020: Check-ins 1251 – Traffic 37

High Check-ins: K8SKY 40; KC8ZMN 41,39,39,43; KC8GTE 37,39,31,32

NS8S 41,37,48,46,38; W8WR 39,33,33,43; N8BNC 40,42

KE8MZU 40; KE8AHK 34,40,48,49,31; WA8DHB 40,40,37

Sunday Noon Net High Check-ins: KD8KCV 17,11,20,18,15

DECEMBER'S HAM OF THE MONTH

Alan Graham – KD8FWZ – Whitehall, MI

Name and Call: Alan Graham – KD8FWZ

Birthdate and Place: July 27, 1958, Shelby MI hospital, home was Montague

Education: Still in progress. Associates Degree in Industrial Engineering

Employer(s); Type of work: Retired since 2017. Worked at Howmet in Whitehall, Dana Corp in Muskegon. Mostly in project/process engineering. Spent the last three years working in the LED light industry doing quality and design engineering.

Military Service: None

How did I get into Ham Radio: Natural transition from 11 meters. It was time to move on and up!

Spouse/Family: Wife, Vicki. We have been married 33 years. Two daughters, one is a RN, the other is a teacher.

Other hobbies and Interests: Biking, Cross Country Skiing, Golf, Fabrication

Any other interesting info or experiences: I am a high school classmate to both NS8S, Dave, and KR8P, Brad; Montague class of 1976. I don't recall how well they both did in school but I remember

(like it was yesterday) that I graduated in the TOP 80% of my class!



NOVEMBER'S HAM OF THE MONTH

Cindy Parker – N8JSI – L'Anse, MI

I was born on January 30, 1951 in Lansing, Michigan. I graduated from L'Anse High School in L'Anse, Mi. I spent one year right after graduation at Northern Michigan University studying computer programming. After that, I decided that I didn't like being broke all the time and I didn't really need an education anyway. I went home at the end of the school year and found a job.

After two children and a divorce, I figured out that I really did need an education and I enrolled at Michigan Technological University. I graduated in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Accounting Major. I had been working at Baraga County Memorial Hospital before I went to Michigan Tech. They contacted me about a new position in accounting that they had open. I went back to work there in that position. In all, I worked there for 37 years in various positions in financial services. I spent 17 years as the Chief Financial Officer and retired in 2007.

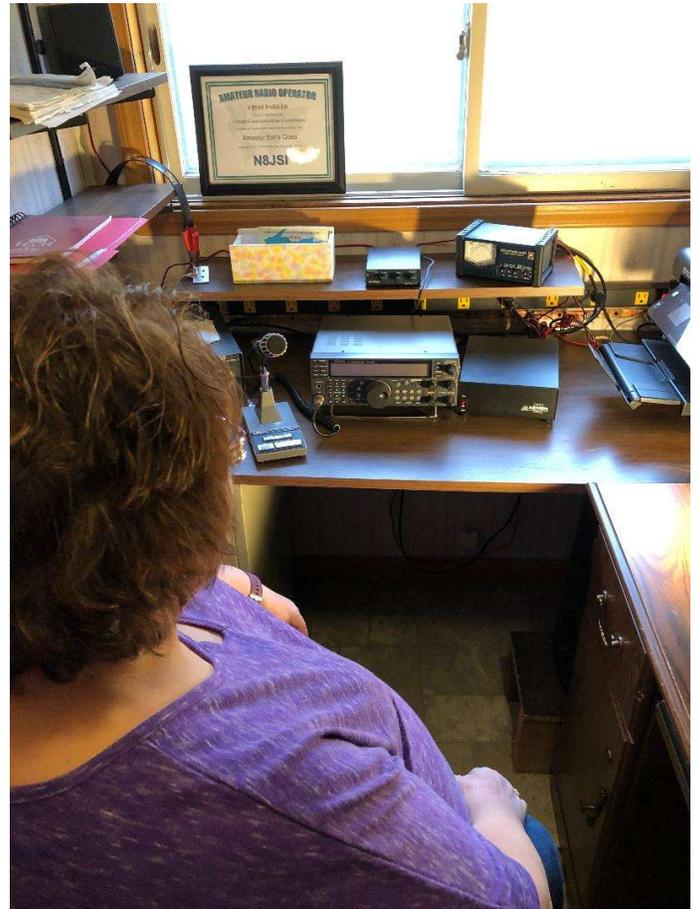
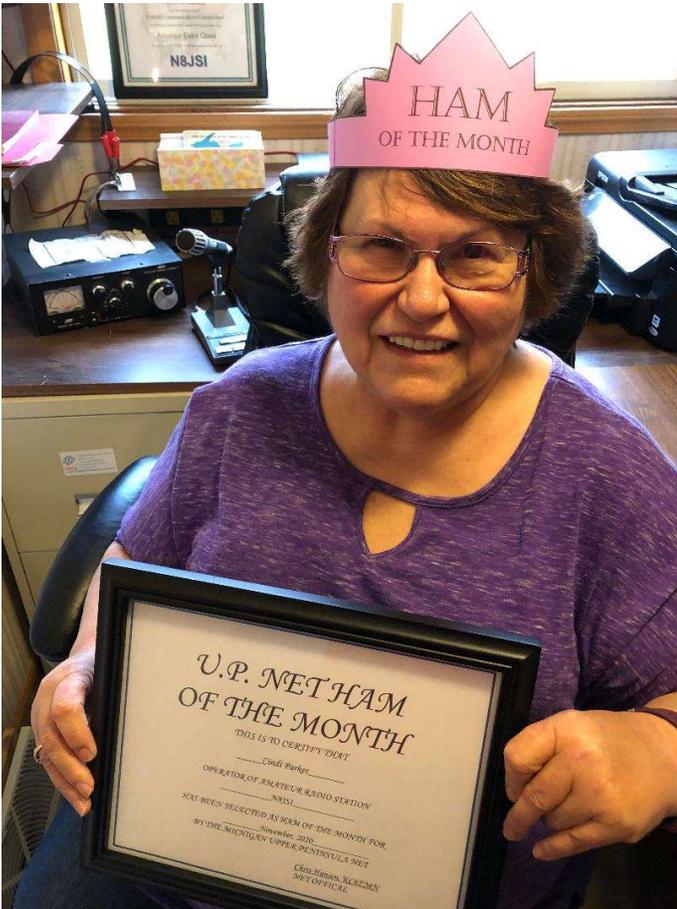
My Dad is N8BNC, Bob. Naturally, there were radios around our house most of my life. Ham radio was kind of a family affair. Besides Dad and I, my mom, my brother and my oldest daughter were all hams. In 1998, my Mom, my daughter, Jennifer, and I took a class taught by George Thurner, W8FWG, at Michigan Tech. In April, we all passed our tests. We were licensed as Technicians. That later turned into a Technician Plus license. I mostly worked 2 meters and packet in those days.

My brother and I (and Mom and Dad) provided communication services for the Press On Regardless race which generally happens in our neighborhood in the fall. That was lots of fun. We also got involved in the Copper Country Radio Club for a few years. After that, life got busy and I was pretty much inactive for several years. In June, 2020, I took the exams for General and Extra class license in Ishpeming. I passed both and was able to upgrade my license.

N8BNC is net control on Tuesdays for the U.P. Net. He has been net control for a long time. Since I hang out with him a lot, I have been exposed to the net for some time. I have met lots of the members at Ham Fests over the years. It is such a great group of Hams that I wanted to be able to participate too. That is the main reason I went through the effort to upgrade my license.

As I mentioned, I am divorced but we have two beautiful daughters. The oldest, Jennifer, lives in Iron Mountain with her husband and two of her five children. The youngest is 20. Her two oldest are married with children of their own – 3 between them. My youngest daughter, Jamie, lives in Springfield, Illinois with her husband. They have five children between them between the ages of 8 and 20. And then there is my Shih Tzu, Rascal. He is 12 and my constant companion. His Mom was Hope's dog.

Retirement is the best job I ever had. I get to indulge all of my hobbies and interests. I really enjoy camping. Dad and I go several times during the season. I like crochet, reading, gaming, sewing and puzzles of all kinds. I volunteer for the Baraga County Communities That Care. I am the Chairman of the Executive Workgroup and the Data/Resource Workgroup. I serve on the board of the Baraga County Shelter Home, a women's shelter. I am the Board Treasurer. I also serve on the board of the Baraga County Federal Credit Union. There I am the Board Liaison to the Supervisory Committee and a member of that committee. Those organizations keep me busy enough and allow me to give back and share my skills with the community.



ANTIQUA RADIO RESTORATION

Dave Fleming – NS8S – Montague, MI

In my many years of antique radio restorations, I have always strived to improve my handling of the old chassis, and be able to turn them over and work underneath without damaging the top mounted components like IF cans, tubes and tuning capacitors.

This idea came to me from a fellow on YouTube, “Electronics old and new” from Portugal. A great channel for those wanting to see great troubleshooting and alignment techniques! He used a sleek, bent frame approach, but I opted for more conventional means, using aluminum thin bar stock available from my local hardware store... some simple steel “L” brackets and using all #8-32 hardware and all 12” cut lengths.

This handy jig can be drilled out in several places on the bottom frame, and fit many USA and EUROPEAN radio chassis.

Very satisfying little one-hour project to make life better!

Old antique radio jig.



A BIRD IN THE HAND

Dave Fleming – NS8S – Montague, MI

Editor's note: What is that old saying? A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. I don't know if I've remembered that right, or not, but Dave and his wife, Bonnie, really do get "birds in their hands".



Want a bird in YOUR hand? Dave Peck, KD8KCV of Gaylord, MI provided this “how to”.

1. Let your feeders go empty.
2. Stand near your empty feeder each morning.
3. Be still, and hold a hand full of seed out near your feeder.
4. Be persistent and patient.
5. Chickadees do a brain “reset” once a year, so some will pass on information through to the spring!
6. Soon you will be talking with your chickadees.

HAMFESTS

For complete information, refer to the ARRL Hamfests

www.arrl.org

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

12/06/2020 - CANCELLED - LCARC Amateur Radio SwapHamfest

Location: Madison Heights, MI

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: L'Anse Creuse Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://www.n8lc.org>

Learn More

That's all there is folks!

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

- EXAM SESSION
12/08/2020 | [Howell MI 48855-8703](#)
Sponsor: Livingston Amateur Radio Klub
Location: Livingston County EMS
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More
- EXAM SESSION
12/12/2020 | [Charlotte MI 48813-9999](#)
Sponsor: Eaton County Arc
Location: Charlotte Church of Christ
Time: 12:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Learn More
- EXAM SESSION
12/12/2020 | [Negaunee MI 49866](#)
Sponsor:
Location: Marquette Health Dept Bldg
Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More
- EXAM SESSION
12/12/2020 | [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
- EXAM SESSION
12/13/2020 | [Shelby Township MI 48317-1307](#)
Sponsor: U.S.E.C.A ARC
Location: Packard Proving Grounds
Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More
- EXAM SESSION
01/02/2021 | [Hancock MI 49930-9999](#)
Sponsor: CCRAA
Location: Franklin Township Office
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Learn More
- EXAM SESSION
01/08/2021 | [Livonia MI 48154-3045](#)
Sponsor: Livonia ARC
Location: Livonia Police Department
Time: 7:00 PM (No Walk-ins / Register or Call ahead)
Learn More

December 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	3	4	5 KD8CYK Gerry
6	7	8 K8HRO Randy	9 W8SKS & Donna	10	11 Donna XYL of Kn8N	12
13	14	15	16 WT8G & Linda V8ISV	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 WD8PRW & Helen	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26
27	28	29	30	31 Travis Grandson of WA8DHB New Year's Eve		

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 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.



Merry Christmas to all!



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

UPPER PENINSULA NET WEBSITE www.michupnet.com