



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club  
 Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association  
 P O BOX 27321  
 LANSING MI 48909

# The Scope

August 2003



**Emergency**

## 2003 CMARC FIELD DAY

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For those who didn't, or couldn't make it out to Field Day the end of June, here's kind of a picture summary of what took place:

The food was terrific! (did anyone go hungry?) Great fellowship was had by all.

We had a Get On The Air station for first timers or "currently non-active hams" to participate. This station used Kevin Mulder's call, KC8QZE, operated by Kevin and a buddy of his.

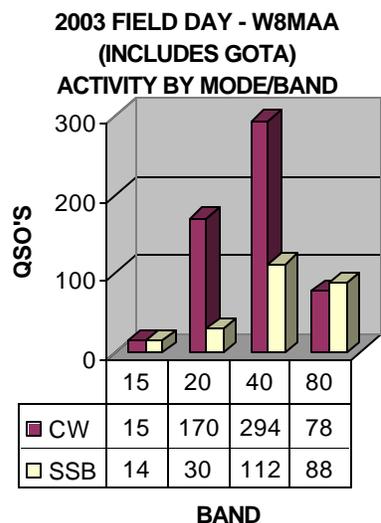
We had one CW station and 3 side-band stations in addition to the GOTA station. One of the side-band stations was QRP and battery powered. We were a class 4A station which meant we were a club station, and had 4 transmitters on the air. The GOTA station did not count as one of our transmitters. We had campers, screen houses, tents, tarps and every other type of shelter you can imagine

But, most importantly, we converted an open field into a communications

site.

I was charged with getting the computer software going for each station and consolidating the results for submission to the ARRL. Here's some data generated from the results:

This chart shows activity by mode and band. CW activity is shown in red and side-band activity is shown in yellow. (cont'd on page 3)



## CMARC BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

"Bruce" Rainey	KC8ODP	(517) 627-9118	kc8odp@arrl.net	President
Tom Shaver	KC8NJK	(517) 651-6694	kc8njnk@arrl.net	Vice President
Dick McGuire	KI8C	(517) 782-1430	dickki8c@juno.com	Secretary
Randy Stortz	K8VY	(517) 393-0634	rstortz386@msn.com	Treasurer
Clint Hannahs	KC8EHR	(517) 882-1799	kc8ehr@arrl.net	Director
Gregg Mulder	WB8LZG	(517) 646-6257		Director
Kevin Mulder	KC8QZE	(517) 646-6257		Under 22 Director
John Ingraham	NG8L	(517) 484-8027	ng8l@arrl.net	Membership Chair

## LCDRA BOARD MEMBER CONTACT INFORMATION

Dan Harger	W8BCI	(517) 882-8784	w8bci@juno.com
"Bruce" Rainey	KC8ODP	(517) 627-9118	kc8odp@arrl.net
Don Rickerd	W8BQD	(517) 339-8496	
Dennis Boone	KB8ZQZ	(517) 337-0857	drb@msu.edu
Troy Creed	W8TCC	(517) 323-6358	w8tcc@arrl.net
Hal Bell	W8LAY	(517) 484-0962	
Scott Newfer	W8SRN	(517) 373-0786	



## FIELD DAY LOW DOWN

Field Day 2003 will go down in history as one of the club's better ones, IN SPIITE OF.....Rain, the worst band conditions in many years ( 10 meters never opened up ) , equipment trouble, cw station lost the main x-ciever at about 2 hours into the contest, the phone station lost a power supply, and the wind threatened to blow down the food tent!

It seemed as if Ol' Murphy was out to get us for sure. However, cool heads and fast action prevailed as back-up equipment was quickly installed and tarps were erected to keep the precious food supply from harm! Soon all the stations were up and logging QSO's, and it quickly became evident that Ol' Sol was in a bad mood too as 80, 40, and 20 meters were the only bands "playing" and they were just so so.

In spite of the odds, all the stations made contacts, so we succeeded in the Primary Goal of emergency communications. All of the club members who came out will also testify as to how much fun we all had. The food was delicious too! My favorites too! Meat loaf, Au gratin taters, baked beans! The Mason A & W supplied hot dogs and root beer too ! Top it all off with cake and fruit salad. I thought I was at the church "pot luck". It just doesn't get any better than this!

Many new things and ideas were tried also. I had the chance to enjoy a little QRP cw, and I also tried my hand at the totally computer control cw station too, and I must admit that it was indeed fun to use . (although I still have deep reservations as the use of these bit crunching marvels at Field Day), and in-

deed I wound up learning a few things. Hmmm, imagine that.

How did the stations do ? Well our scores were off a bit compared to some of our previous efforts. Yet we did well given band conditions and other obsticals. PH 1 about 75; PH 2 about 50; QRP about 50; GOTA about 40; and CW 1 about 550 QSO's. A very good showing!

To all those who came out this year let me say thank you for a job well done! To those who did not make it this year, too bad you missed some of the best fun to be had in HAM RADIO. Please consider joining us next year won't you? I'd just love to tell you about the 20 meter dipole I caught while fishing in the trees!

73's Gregg WB8LZG

## 2003 CMARC Field Day

(cont'd from page 1)  
40 meters was the best band overall, followed by 20 meters.

Although plagued with static crashes from nearby storms, we were able to put some 80 meter contacts in the log. We sampled 10 meters but found no activity. We had no antenna set up for 160 meters and, based on other sites summaries, this would have been wasted effort.

Total CW QSO's were 557. Total sideband QSO's were 244. For a Grand Total of 801 QSO's.

Our thoughts were that propagation for the weekend was lousy and that it was probably the worst ever for field day.

I checked on the Internet for reported Field Day scores and copied off some of the comments that I'll found.

? **K7SDX in Idaho** said that the band conditions stunk at 48 degrees North (we're not that far away at 43 degrees North), not a signal on 10 meters and just a few signals on 15 meters on Sunday morning.

? **K3FT in Maryland** said 40 meters was fantastic, 15 meters barely opened, and there was nothing on 10 meters.

? **N5CRP in Texas** said 80 meters had noisy conditions, 15 meters was good for them in their Southern latitude, but that 10 meters was stinko!

*(Editor note: for more Field Day comments, see page 9.)*

The data shown in the chart on the right reflects all stations activities but comments are slanted to the CW station that I helped operate.

This chart shows activity by mode and hour. Again red shows CW activity and yellow shows side-band. The chart is in local time for better understanding, running from 2:00 PM Saturday to 2:00 PM Sunday.

We had a wet start for the first hour. The CW rig, a Yaesu Mark V Field, was brought into the camper and set up there to get it out of the rain. The rain soon stopped and we took the rig outside, at which point it would not transmit CW. We changed out the Yaesu with a portable Icom 706 and we ran with that for the rest of the contest.

The QSO rate held up through the nighttime hours. All in all, we had a relatively level operation over the 24 hour period.

Ron St. Laurent, ND5S

(see corresponding article on page 8)



### Hamfests for August

**Aug 2**

Iosco County AR Enthusiasts  
Tawas City, MI

**Contact:** Ray Knuth, KB8ZYY  
**Phone:** 989-739-2896  
**Email:** kb8zyy@qix.net

**Aug 9**

Iron Range ARC  
Alpha, MI

**Contact:** Ken Hookenson,  
N8XTC  
PO Box 89  
Stambaugh, MI 49964  
**Phone:** 906-265-5430  
**Email:** hooken@ironriver.tv

**Aug 9**

Cascades ARS  
Jackson, MI  
<http://www.w8jxn.org>

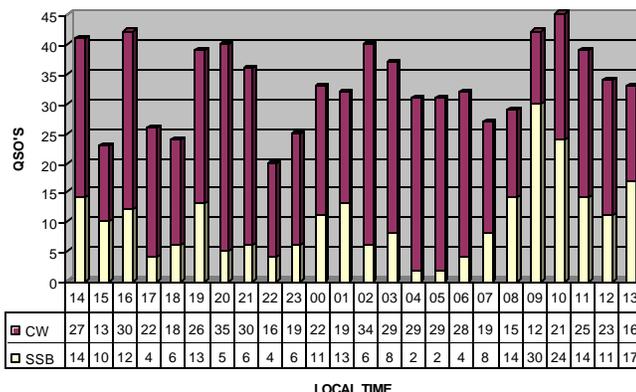
**Contact:** Lee Van Alstine,  
KA8VMJ  
7145 Clinton Road  
Jackson, MI 49201  
**Phone:** 517-787-7783  
**Email:** ka8vmj@arrl.net

**Aug 24**

Lapeer County ARA  
Lapeer, MI  
<http://www.w8lap.com>

**Contact:** Ken Kelch, AB8PM  
1302 Clark Road  
Lapeer, MI 48446  
**Phone:** 810-245-3907  
**Email:** ab8pm@arrl.net

2003 FIELD DAY - W8MAA (INCLUDES GOTA)  
ACTIVITY BY MODE/HOUR



LOCAL TIME



Thank you to Rick Thomas from WKAR for his presentation at CMARC's July meeting on the reconstruction of the Okemos tower.

Rick gave a history of the tower as well as a slide presentation of the current construction being done to refurbish the tower.



## Upcoming Presenters At CMARC Meetings

Come on out to the monthly CMARC meetings and check out the great informational presentations that CMARC has to offer. The following list is comprised of *tentative* presenters for upcoming CMARC Meetings. Presenters begin their presentations at approximately 9:00 pm and last about 30 minutes.

- ☞ **Captain Kirt Baker**  
Arson Investigator  
City of Lansing
- ☞ **Doug Bates**  
Board of Water & Light  
Crisis Supervisor
- ☞ **Karen Chadwick**  
911 Center Supervisor  
Ingham County
- ☞ **Dave Karr**  
American Red Cross  
Food Distribution Controller
- ☞ **Larry Estlack**  
Emergency Alert System Coordinator  
State of Michigan
- ☞ **Inspector Terry Fox**  
Federal Bureau of Investigation
- ☞ **Nancy Lindman**  
Michigan 211 Coordinator
- ☞ **Bill Blick**  
DXing & Nodes  
Amateur Radio Operator W8EB

### For Sale or Not!

Kenwood 530S Transceiver. 162 through 10 meters. Good condition. Contact Dick Stortz, K8JNZ, 517-323-4598.

Free: TVRO Mesh Dish and 2 receivers. Contact Scott Rowe, KB8HTM, Bath, MI, at 517-641-6201

### Hide Small Nicks

Instant coffee can make an instant cover up for nicks in your wood furniture. Just make a paste with coffee and water, and press it into the scratch with a soft cloth. For longer lasting coverage, mix the coffee with beeswax or paste wax..

### Did You Know?

*The first potato chip sprouted from the exasperation of a Native American chef, George Crum, at a fancy resort in Saratoga Springs, NY. A dinner guest complained that the french fries were not thin enough. So Crum sliced and cooked a thinner batch. When these, too, were rejected, Crum decided to slice them so thin and fry them so crisp the complaining guest would not be able to eat them with his fork. The guest, however, was thrilled with the paper thin, crispy chips, and so were other guests. Crum eventually opened his own restaurant, and the chips became the featured item.*

## Two recent Iraq war casualties were amateur licensees

(Jul 24, 2003) -- Two of the most recent casualties of the war in Iraq were Amateur Radio licensees. According to an Associated Press report, Specialist Jon Fettig, KC0HSQ, of Dickinson, North Dakota, died July 22 in an ambush on a road some 50 miles north of Baghdad.

Another soldier from Fettig's Army National Guard unit was wounded in the attack. Both belonged to the 957th Multi-Role Bridge Company based in Bismarck.

Fettig, 30, a member of an engineering unit in Dickinson, had volunteered to fill a vacancy in the Bismarck company to bring it up to full strength. A Guard member for some 11 years, Fettig died at the scene of the ambush. He was the 153rd member of the US armed forces to die in action since the war began March 20.

On July 23, Nadisha Yassari Ranmuthu, 4S7NR--an international Red Cross aid worker from Sri Lanka--was shot and killed and his Iraqi driver wounded after their vehicle, marked with the Red Cross emblem, came under fire south of Baghdad.

Ranmuthu, 37, a communications engineer for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), reportedly died instantly. The ICRC issued a statement calling on "all armed persons and groups" to grant safe passage to its vehicles and staff working under the Red Cross and Red Crescent emblems.

The Red Cross has 850 staffers now working from eight bases in Iraq. Ranmuthu was there to install communications equipment at Red Cross offices and to help train Iraqi operators to use it, news accounts said.

ARRL Web Site



## Field Day—A Different View

This was my first experience with a Field Day event. I didn't stay the whole time, just visited the site at three different times.

I arrived on Saturday as things were being set up. It was interesting to watch a field being turned into an emergency location.

What interested me most was how antennas were going to be put up (unfortunately, I missed Gregg's (WB8LZG) fishing expedition!!). But I

did get to

watch as Clint (KC8EHR) and John (KC8QZB) hooked up one of the aerial antennas. They got it hooked up in a short amount of time.



John (KC8QZB) was set up out in the far corner of the field with an antenna hooked up to his trailer. Steve (W8CRH) put his rig up

under the trees, which, considering the weather, probably was a smart place to be. I'm not sure who's rig it was, but there was a rig set up on a card table up under the trees (I think that's where Gregg (WB8LZG) did his fishing as there was an antenna strung through the trees).



I returned later that evening (around 10:30) and found the CW tent just a buzzin'. They already had 200+ contacts at that point. Everyone seemed to have survived the bad weather that came through. Other than having to redo some of the antennas, everyone stayed dry and the QSOing kept right on happening.



On Sunday, I returned around 12:30 to see how things had fared over night. We got there just in time for lunch and what a spread that was!!! Great food was enjoyed by all.

Clint (KC8EHR) convinced me to sit down at one of the stations and give it a try. Well, let me tell you...once I made my first contact, I was hooked. I finally turned over the mike to Doug (KC8UUF) about 10 minutes before Field Day was to end, after making about a half dozen contacts.

I can't wait for next year...I'll be out there for the entire time and hope to see more of you out there as well!!!

Evelyn Sitterson

## Field Day Comments

(as found on the Internet by  
Ron St.Laurent ND5S)

? **NJ4M in Florida** said they had occasional torrential downpours and lousy conditions.

? **W2RDX in New York** said that conditions were rough in the Northeast and that activity was just on the lower bands.

? **W7MT in Oregon** said that at the beginning of the contest at 1800 Zulu all band conditions were very poor and improved only slightly over the next 12 hours. At that point they pulled the plug.

? **W8CAR in Ohio** said that conditions were fairly punk at the beginning of the contest - he really tried to make one contact on 10 meters - and that, although he suspected the band was open, found no activity on 15 meters.

? **From the ARRL Propagation Bulletin** - looking at the daily A index over the past week, Saturday was the most active day, which was the first day of ARRL Field Day. On both days our earth was awash in a fast solar wind that has continued, making HF conditions dicey.

? Finally **from the COzeroUS group from California that traveled to Cuba** - The conditions for FD -- in a word were "terrible". In fact, for most of us who have been doing FD for years and years, they were some of the worst conditions that any of us remember.

**But for all the negative reporting on the band conditions EVERYONE reported that they had a great time.**

## Whatta Ham

Inez Pearson (KY8V) is not your normal ham. She celebrated her birthday last month which made her 94 years young.

Inez holds the highest classification license available on a short-wave radio. In 1976, after the death of her husband, her brother suggested she try her hand at being a ham. Well, Inez was familiar with the old saying "You can't teach a old dog new tricks," but she started reading the books and listening to audio tapes. She also took classes and studied hard and passed her novice with great satisfaction.

That was just the beginning. Inez went on to getting her General license, then her Advanced and finally her Extra. I tell you, she is definitely not your normal ham!!

Inez was awarded the Ziegenbein Award in 1989, an honor not too many women have captured. Ham radio has given Inez the opportunity to do so many things for others.

When KY8V hits the short-wave mike, she's on top of the world knowing that whatever the situation may be, she is there to give comfort and help to those who need it.

Remember, Inez is not your normal ham, she's an extra special one!! Join me in wishing her a wonderful celebration of live and we hope she is around for a long time to come.

Happy Birthday Inez!!

Evelyn Sitterson  
(excerpts from freelance writer Art Wainwright, Lansing Magazine)

## CENTRAL MICHIGAN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balances  
As of July 26, 2003

### ASSETS:

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Mich. Nat'l Bank Checking	\$ 871.42
Mark & Marilyn Humphreys' Fund	\$ 445.00
TOTAL Cash & Bank Accounts	\$1,316.42

### Other Assets:

Comerica Bank	
\$1,000.00 CD	\$1,515.22
Interest due CMARC	\$ 2.55
CD Total worth to date	\$1,517.77
Mark & Marilyn Humphreys' Fund	\$ 445.00
TOTAL ASSETS:	\$1,962.77

### LIABILITIES:

\$0.00

TOTAL NET WORTH \$2,834.19

Income & Expenses  
June 24 to July 26, 2003

### INCOME:

Dues	\$ 10.00
Directory sales	\$ 0.00
LCDRA Pymt. for Scope /as of now	\$ 00.00
Field Day Donations	\$ 14.65
TOTAL INCOME:	\$ 24.65

### EXPENSES:

Scope Cost for printing	\$ 28.09
Stamps for Scope mailing	\$ 38.85
Service Charges, Bank Checking	\$ 10.00
Field Day expenses	\$ 125.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$ 201.94

TOTAL NET  
PROFIT/LOSS: \$ -177.29

Respectfully Submitted by:  
Randall Stortz, K8VY  
Treasurer

# August 2003

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## July Schedule of Events

- Aug 1 **CMARC Meeting**  
7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, Lansing
- Aug 4 **DTACS Meeting**  
7:00 p.m., Delta Township Fire Station

## August Birthdays

- Aug 4 David Wegner, K8HD  
Aug 5 Roger Young, KC8CGH  
Aug 5 James Kenyon, KC8DJH  
Aug 7 Ralph Riggs, N8YQJ  
Aug 9 Dan Harger, W8BCI  
Aug 27 Donovan Riley  
Aug 29 Peter Lycos, KM8K

## August Anniversaries

- Donovan Riley  
Aug 3 Charles Johnson  
Aug 16 Jack Wiswasser  
Aug 20 Inez Pearson

## Special Items of Interest

- \* Dan, W8MMQ, has changed his call sign back to his original call of KB8UYZ
- \* Watch for upcoming movie clips from Field Day on CMARC's website ([www.qsl.net/kc8qou](http://www.qsl.net/kc8qou))

## Upcoming Events

### Mark Your Calendars!!!

**October 11 Ham Fair**  
Lakeside Christian School  
Old 78 Highway  
69 and Marsh Rd

Address or Email change?

Please make corrections on this page and mail to:

John Ingraham/NG8L, Membership Chairman  
2807 Greenbriar Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48912

Or email changes to: [NG8L@arrl.net](mailto:NG8L@arrl.net)

[www.qsl.net/cmarc](http://www.qsl.net/cmarc)  
**80 Years of Service to Our Community!**  
[www.qsl.net/lcdra](http://www.qsl.net/lcdra)

# Field Day—Good Things & Considerations

## GOOD THINGS

- ✧ **Great Fellowship**—*A fine time was had by all with great fellowship. Hams of all ages mingled well together. This was as much a social event as it was an emergency exercise and that's the way it should be.*
- ✧ **Great Food (Thanks Jeanne And Don & Others)** —*The food was excellent and a yeoman's job was done by the food committee considering what they had to work with. Thanks to Gloria and Don and others.*
- ✧ **Great Coffee & Banana Bread (Thanks Sue)** —*Sue, KF5LG, kept the coffee pot full and provided some delicious banana bread to add to the breakfast fixings.*
- ✧ **Sharing (Food, Equipment, Etc.)** — *Everyone shared what they had. Decisions were made, and agreed to, by the group.*
- ✧ **Consensus Decisions - Give And Take** — *Decisions were made, and agreed to, by the group.*
- ✧ **Gardner School Good Location (RFI Quiet)** —*To my surprise, Gardner School has a great field behind the building that allowed us to really spread out. Although high tension lines were very close by . . . the location was RFI quiet.*
- ✧ **Nighttime Sodium Lighting Helped**
- ✧ **Nice Trees For Wire Antennas**
- ✧ **Large Field For Verticals/Radials**
- ✧ **Port-a-John Available** — *and the ever needed outhouse, was arranged by the club to be there.*

## CONSIDERATIONS

*This is not meant to be a criticism of this year's event, but rather a constructive list that can be added to by other members to improve next year's Field Day.*

- ✧ **Better Use Of Band/Mode Operation** — *Band and Mode assignment could have been pre-determined with adjustments made for band conditions.*
- ✧ **Pre Field Day Operator Schedule Sign-Up**
- ✧ **Pre Field Day Station Assignment (Band/ Mode) Or Computer Networking** — *Having a sketch of the "layout of the property" - and planning station and antenna placement, would have been helpful. Computer Networking is something that should be explored.*
- ✧ **Station Placement Planning (Layout Of The Land)** — *Having a sketch of the "layout of the property" - and planning station and antenna placement, would have been helpful.*
- ✧ **GOTA More Accessible** — *GOTA station could have been in a more accessible location.*
- ✧ **More Efficient Use Of Generator Power** — *We had several generators running and perhaps we could have been more efficient with our layout to supply all stations and the kitchen.*
- ✧ **Local Simplex Communication Between Stations?**
- ✧ **Explore Additional Modes (Data - PSK/ RTTY)** — *Setting up a RTTY or Data mode station would have contributed double points to our score, just as the CW station did. And setting up a RTTY station is relatively easy to do. Perhaps one of the side-band stations could have been a data station.*
- ✧ **UHF/VHF Operations?** — *In our entry category we could have had a "6m and up" station, without having to go into another class, and we would have benefited by the added points.*

## QSL CARDS - What a Wonderful Way to Say Hello!



I returned from the mailbox with a smile today. In with all the bills, junk mail, and other stuff was a letter with my call on it. OH

BOY! This could mean only one thing. QSL card!

Sending and receiving QSL cards is a treat that I've looked forward to ever since my first experience with ham radio. Many hams feel that a QSL is the final courtesy of a QSO. Aside from being "written proof" of your contact, I find them very interesting to read and view. Many of them are colorful and contain a wealth of information about the operator and customs of the country or region.

My very first QSL card was from a contact made before I became a ham. Lyle Brooks W8TIJ (sk) knew of my interest in electronics and invited me over to his "shack." He explained some of the fun about radio as he was tuning up the rig. Well, as luck would have it, some rare DX was just calling his first CQ of the evening. We answered him and got him and he came back to us! CE0AE, Father Dave at the catholic mission on Easter Island.

Wow! I'd read about Easter Island in school, and of the giant stone statues there. We talked for a while and I explained my desire to become a ham. Father Dave was kind enough to give a little "verbal tour" of his remote South Pacific Isle. After a wonderful conversation, I asked if he would send me one of his QSL cards and he consented but cautioned me not to be in a hurry to get it, as the mail ship only stopped at the island but 4 or

5 times a year!

As we signed our 73's the band ERUPTED with calls from all over the globe! DX from everywhere! (I did not realize then just how rare a DX he was!) I said my goodbyes and thanked Lyle for having me over to his shack. I knew then someday I would be a ham.

Several months went by and I finally got what I had been waiting for. As I walked from the mailbox, a big smile came to my face as I looked at the letter with "funny" stamps on it, and postmarked CHILE. Inside was the prize, a beautiful card showing several views of the island and some of the famous monoliths there. It also contained a letter telling of some of the culture and local flavor of the island and the mission.

QSL cards, what a neat followup to a QSO!

Over 30 years later I still get all excited when I open the mailbox. Will there be a card today? Will it be from around the block? Or will it be from around the globe? Hey it's my lucky day! I've got 2 of 'em! I hastily open the first one, it's from a ham in Missouri, it's a picture of him in a 1957 operating mobile. Cool!

Now the second one! It's one that I'd been waiting for from a ham in Illinois. Not very far DX as the crow flies, but this one was special because it was for my first QSO with my 2n2222 / 40 homebrew rig. A nice note accompanying it, thanking me for my card too!

A smile came as I thought to myself, "QSL cards. What a wonderful way to say hello!

73's Gregg WB8LZG

Post Script:

I did a bit of thinking and remembering after I'd written this. Several things occurred to me about this QSO. First, was my plain old "dumb luck"! This was my first QSO ever and it happens to be with a very sought after DX island. The next thing that I thought of really amazed me.

Here I was a teenage kid carrying on a lengthy conversation with hundreds of other DX'ers from around the world wanting to QSO so bad it HURT! We were only "BREAK"ed one time about ten minutes into our chat. Father Dave asked that "All stations please not to interrupt the QSO", and that he would get to them after our ragchew was finished.

I then proceeded to "chew the fat" with him for nearly an hour, while the whole world waited silently, politely, and patiently, until we signed our 73's. I think this says quite a bit about the discipline and courtesy of the DX ops of the early 1970's. I wonder if today's DX ops would be that patient. I certainly hope so! But I wonder....

It also occurred to me that the QSO may have been very pleasant for Father Dave as well.

Here he was being the rarest of DX and no doubt had hundreds of "hello name, RST, QTH please QSL" type contacts. I may have been like a breath of fresh air for him to sit and answer my many questions and tell me of the great beauty there on "Rapa Nui" as the natives called it. It certainly helped put the magic in radio for me.

BCNU Gregg WB8LZG

## Two-Ham Crew Named for ISS Expedition 8

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 25, 2003--Another two-ham crew will take over the reins of the International Space Station (ISS) this fall. Veteran NASA astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, and seasoned Russian cosmonaut Alexander Kaleri, U8MIR, have been named as the ISS Expedition 8 crew.

As former crew members aboard the Russian *Mir* space station, Foale and Kaleri are no strangers to long stays in space. They'll kick off their latest space station duty tours October 18 when they launch into space aboard a Russian *Soyuz* spacecraft with a third ham, Spain's Pedro Duque, KC5RGG--representing the European Space Agency (ESA). They'll dock two days later at the ISS.



Astronaut Mike Foale, KB5UAC, gets the final touches on the training version of his Extravehicular Mobility Unit spacesuit during training at Johnson Space Center. [NASA Photo]

The English-born Foale, 46, will serve as the Expedition 8 commander and NASA ISS science officer. Kaleri will be the *Soyuz* commander and ISS flight engineer. They'll replace Expedition 7 crew members Commander Yuri Malenchenko, RK3DUP, and Ed Lu, KC5WKJ, who have been aboard the ISS since April.

A native of Latvia, Kaleri, 47, was a member of the backup crew for Expedition 5 and had been scheduled to be the third Expedition 7 crew member. With the



Cosmonaut Alex Kaleri, U8MIR, during training in the ISS Destiny Lab mockup at Johnson Space Center. [NASA Photo]

NASA shuttle fleet still grounded at least until early next year in the wake of the Columbia tragedy, however, the Expedition 7 crew was trimmed to two people, and Kaleri was the proverbial odd man out. NASA says the two-person crews are "big enough to maintain operations onboard the station and small enough to live on a reduced supply of water and other consumables."

Two-person crews will be the rule at least until the

space shuttle--with its significantly larger cargo and crew capacity--returns to flight. The *Soyuz*, which carries three passengers, will remain the prime crew transport system. Foale and Kaleri are scheduled to spend approximately six months aboard the ISS.

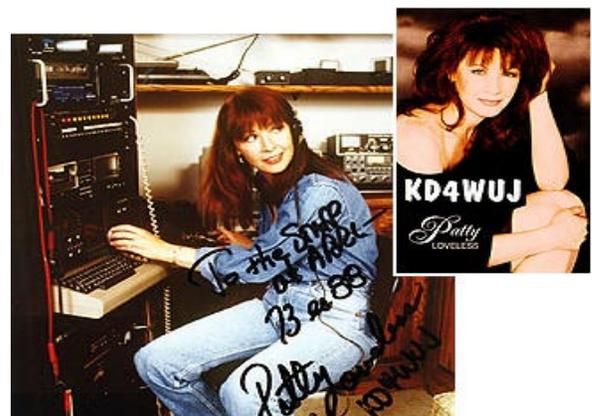
The backup crew for Expedition 8 is veteran NASA astronaut Bill McArthur, a retired US Army colonel and Russian veteran cosmonaut Valery Tokarev, a Russian Air Force colonel. Duque's backup is ESA astronaut Andre Kuipers of the Netherlands.

Foale, who has been serving as assistant technical director at Johnson Space Center, is a veteran of five space flights and has spent a total of nearly 180 days in space--including more than four months on *Mir* in 1997.

During his *Mir* stay, Foale found ham radio a valuable supplement to conventional Russian and NASA communication systems after the station was damaged in a collision with an unmanned Progress cargo rocket.

Kaleri flew on three *Mir* missions and has logged 416 days in space. October's mission will mark Duque's second space flight, following his mission on the shuttle *Discovery* on the STS-95 mission in 1998. --information provided by NASA was used in this report.

ARRL Amateur Radio News—July 25, 2003



How about that!!

Even entertainers are hams. Check out country singer Patty Loveless!!!

(Photo courtesy of ARRL)

## QRP - PART III

Last time, I touched upon operating habits and procedures for QRP. One of the best ways to get more proficient at those habits is to get in on a Net. Net operations will have you sending and receiving messages and information, and will turn you into a good CW operator with a bit of practice. Our own QMN net is a good place to start.

If net operation doesn't sound like your bag, then maybe QRP contesting will appeal to you. Yes, you can jump in head first into one of the major contests. But I'm suggesting you try one geared just for the QRP gang. There are many and are put on by the QRP clubs in and around the area. Many of these are 4 hour contests called "Sprints," and they are a bit more relaxed. They also let you get in a full night's sleep. (This becomes increasingly important in direct proportion to the age of the operator!)

Another great way to try new things and learn new tricks is to operate ARRL Field Day. Field Day is my favorite of all the ham things going. Why? Because it will help build a better op and always presents those who participate with interesting and diverse challenges, and so LEARNING is a key ingredient, and part of what makes it so much fun.

If contesting is not for you, but the idea of portable operation sounds fun, it is! The next time that you go on vacation consider taking along a QRP rig and a dipole. With a little practice you'll be surprised at how quickly one can erect an antenna and be on the air.

This type of QRPing can be most relaxing with many of the QSOs being "rag chew" style. (As you know, QRPers love to talk about their gear!) With summer in full swing now is the time to give it a try! An entire station can easily be stored in a small box or even a brief case. Many a dull business trip has been transformed to QRP fun.

Backpacking is one of the newest ways to enjoy QRP operations and is catching on quite rapidly all over, due in part to the small size of a lot of the newer rigs out on the market, and the availability of a large variety of accessories also available commercially. I have not tried this kind of operating yet but it sounds like lots of fun. It definitely poses a whole new set of challenges and obstacles to overcome.

I hope this whets your appetite to get in on the fun and get going with the rest of us having a blast using QRP and continually learning new ways to communicate with low power.

73s es 88s WB8LZG Gregg

## DTACS GETS NEW HOME

Delta Township – Delta Township Auxiliary Communications Service occupied its new quarters on Monday, June 30 in the new Central Fire Station located just North of the site of the old Fire Station Number One. The old building stood at the corner of West Saginaw and Canal Roads since 1956. That site has been razed and is slated to become a park.

The new facility was built at a cost of \$4.9 million and includes a training room for firefighters, six large vehicle bays, larger living quarters for on duty personnel, dispatch center, larger training facilities and state of the art hose care and equipment cleaning stations.



At the station's grand opening, former firefighters raised the flag and unveiled a statue of a firefighter holding the hand of a small child. The statue was not placed as a memorial, since Delta has never lost a firefighter in the line of duty, but as a tribute to the heroism and dedication of the firefighters of the

past and those yet to come.

DTACS will occupy one room in the spacious 24.3 thousand foot building. The room is located adjacent to the training area that doubles as the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) during emergency or disaster situations. Currently, DTACS operates a VHF packet station and an additional VHF and UHF station. Plans are being discussed for additional equipment.



The group is currently licensed under call letters KC8QOU and operates the N8DEF repeater on 444.125 mhz with a PL of 100 hz. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the new fire station. Training nets operate on 146.940 each Tuesday night at 1900 hrs. local with a PL of 100 hz. Amateurs living in Delta Township and the surrounding communities are invited to visit and join the net.

'Bruce' Rainey. KC8ODP

Remember America's Heroes



Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club  
Lansing Civil Defense Repeater Association  
P O BOX 27321  
LANSING MI 48909



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ARRL Member?  Yes  No

Email SCOPE?  Yes  No

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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As a licensed Amateur, you can sign up today as a FULL member of CMARC. You will have voting rights as well as an annual subscription to the SCOPE. As an ASSOCIATE, you have an annual subscription to the SCOPE, but no voting rights.

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Phone: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ License Class: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member?  Yes  No

Email SCOPE?  Yes  No

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth day: \_\_\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary: \_\_\_\_\_

Use of the repeater does not REQUIRE membership, but your support is GREATLY appreciated.