

# Air Scoop

Newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society

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

March 2009

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### Meetings

The next DCARS meeting will be held on

**March 16<sup>th</sup>**

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## New meeting room for DCARS

With the growing number of members attending the DCARS meetings we were beginning to outgrow our old meeting room. Beginning last month DCARS moved across the hall to room 963 at Bay De Noc College. The new room is not only bigger but more comfortable.

## Tech Training Completed

The article about ham radio in the Daily Press apparently help publicize the tech training. The result is the largest number of students that I have had since taking over the class. The training has been completed and the testing should be finished by the time you read this.

Photo courtesy of Mark KD8DVN



## Please bring your hand-held to the meeting

The students will be getting their licenses soon and they will be in the market for radios. If our members brought their hand-helds to the meeting, it would give them an opportunity to check out what he have and help them decide what to buy.

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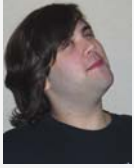


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**Chairman**

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# Monster Ham Antenna

Actually the antenna is called a Mammoth. I'm talking about the Radio Arcala Mammoth. The car was suspended to give the picture scale. The red section is part of the yagi's boom and the white section is part of one of the three elements.

*See page 3 for more information*



## Minutes from the February meeting

The February meeting of DCARS began at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were N8DP, K8AO, K8WLT, N8OYR, W8JNL, WA8LE, WD8RTH, KA8RPB, KD8DKB, KD8HOR, KD8IGY, K8EMS, N1PWW, N8VBA, Roy Chenier & Jason Germaine

**Correspondence** – None  
**Repeater Reports** – None

**Treasurer's report** read – Motion to accept by KD8DKC, Second by WD8RTH - Passed

**Secretary's report** – Motion to accept by WA8LE, Second by W8JNL – Passed

**Old Business**

The progress on the club's callsign replacement was discussed

**New Business**

Dog sled races – don't use the Marquette area's linked repeater system this weekend.

Motion to adjourn made by WA8LE, Seconded by W8JNL – Motion Passed.

N1PWW won the 50/50 and donated the winnings to the club. Thanks Phil.

The program was about QSL'ing, Eqsl, Logbook of the World etc. Great job Duane – K8AO & John – WD8RTH

Justin – KD8HOR will provide March's program with a discussion on computer networking – WIFI etc.

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## Web Sites of the Month

In the past, I've mentioned that video's are available on youtube.com on everything ham radio related. The searching is only limited by your imagination. Well to help you find ham radio related videos there's a couple of new web sites you can use.

[www.hamradiotube.com](http://www.hamradiotube.com) and [www.cqtube.com](http://www.cqtube.com) are now available and they specialize in ham radio content. Check them out!

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# Happenings in Amateur Radio

*“When News Breaks – We Fix It!”*

## RADIO MISTAKE: THAT'S NOT A BOMB - IT'S AN ANTENNA

A sad yet funny story out of Omaha. That's where Police and a Bomb Squad have blown up a trap from a ham radio antenna because nobody could figure out what it was.

It all happened on Thursday, February 26th. That's when both agencies were called out following the discovery by a cleaning crew of a device that they thought looked like a PVC pipe bomb.

The house in question belonged to Bob Rennolet, W0AEX.

There had been an electrical fire in the house 2 weeks ago and he had hired the cleanup crew but it had no idea as to what it had found. So, rather than take chances, the Bomb Squad decided to blow it up. That's when they realized it was not a bomb but a piece of W0AEX's ham radio gear.

Ironically, W0AEX lives next door to a fire station, so they didn't have far to go to put out the fire or blow up the trap.

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## MORE OF THE MAMMOTH ANTENNA STORY

The picture on page 2 shows part of a 3 element yagi antenna for 160 meters. The antenna is owned by a contest station located in Finland. The antenna is mounted at the 270 foot level of a 330 foot rotating tower. Above the 160 yagi is a full size 5 element 80 meter beam at the 300 foot level. Additional information can be found at [www.radioarcala.com](http://www.radioarcala.com).

*Continued on page 4*



*Above* is the base of the tower

*Left* Martti OH2BH stands next to the tower rotor



*Below*

Pekka OH7RM stands inside the 7 foot boom for the 160 yagi.



## Airscoop

The Airscoop is the official newsletter of the Delta County Amateur Radio Society

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[WWW.DCARS.ORG](http://WWW.DCARS.ORG)

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## Area 2 Meter Repeaters

Escanaba	147.15 +	100.0
	145.13 -	No PL
Gladstone	147.24 +	100.0
IRLP 4013	147.55 Smpx	100.0

Cooks	146.70 -	No PL
Grd Marais	147.195+	No PL
Gwinn	146.64 -	100.0
Iron Mtn	146.85 -	No PL
Iron River	145.17 -	107.2
Ishpeming	146.91 -	No PL
Marquette	146.97 -	100.0

	147.27 +	100.0
Menominee	147.00 +	107.2
Munising	145.41 -	No PL
Newberry	146.61 +	127.3

	147.09 +	114.8
Republic	147.09 +	No PL
Trenary	147.03 +	No PL
Wetmore	146.79 -	No PL

## Wisconsin Repeaters

Abrams	146.835 -	107.2
Crivitz	145.47 -	107.2
Egg Harbor	146.73 -	107.2
McAllister	146.88 -	136.5
Green Bay	147.12 +	107.2
	147.27 +	107.2
	146.685 -	107.2
	145.49 -	100.0
Sister Bay	147.18 +	107.2
Sturgeon Bay	147.21 +	107.2

## Club History

Our organization began with a group of local hams getting together in 1964 for the purpose of hosting a U.P. Hamfest.

They called themselves the "Bay de Noc Radio Club" This first local Hamfest became a reality in 1965.

On September 1, 1970 the group met once again at the Northern Michigan National Bank to create a more formal club. The name chosen was the "Delta County Amateur Radio Society".

Arrl affiliation was applied for and the club received its charter on February 15<sup>th</sup> 1971.

Please address all correspondence to:  
DCARS

Dave Palmgren  
6132 Co 420 - 21<sup>st</sup> Road  
Gladstone, Mi 49837



DCARS is an  
ARRL Affiliated Club

### Area Nets

**UP Net** 3921khz  
Daily - 5pm EST  
Sunday - Noon EST

**Midcars** 7258khz  
Daily 7:30am - 2pm EST

**IRLP Linkup** Node 9206  
Tuesday 9pm EST

**Southcars** Node 9617  
Saturday - 9am EST

**UP Echolink** Node 9617  
Sunday - 8pm EST

## Local News (and other stuff)

**C**ongratulations to Ed - KG8CX & Jim - KS8O in Menominee for their work with the DAR Club and YACHT (Young Amateur Contest Ham Team). Their efforts have been getting national attention for attracting youth into the Ham ranks. They have a very nice article about their efforts in the March issue of CQ magazine.

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**C**ontact Joe - W8JRT for information on Ham exams. Joe will be filling in for Howard - W8HSJ who is "snowbirding" in Arizona for the winter.

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## Radio Arcala Mammoth

Specifications	160 m elements	80 m elements
Tower height - 330 ft	Weight - 3800 lbs each	Longest length - 140 ft
80 m beam - 300 ft	Length 190 ft	Max Windload - 70 m/s.
160 m beam - 270 ft		
Total weight - 80 000 lbs	36ft capacitive hats	

### Boom dimensions

160 m length - 215 ft  
80 m length - 200 ft  
The triangular 160m boom  
(7.3 ft) comes with a rail  
for walking inside it.

### Turning gear

Weight - 6000 lbs  
11 kW motor  
Inverter driven  
softstart/stop

### Largest guy ring bearing

Weight 3300 kg  
50 mm (2") diameter balls  
in the bearing arrangement  
Ring diameter 3,8m (13 ft)

### Guy wires

Total length - 6900 ft  
Phillystran/element guys  
3450 ft

### Final touch

120 gallons of paint

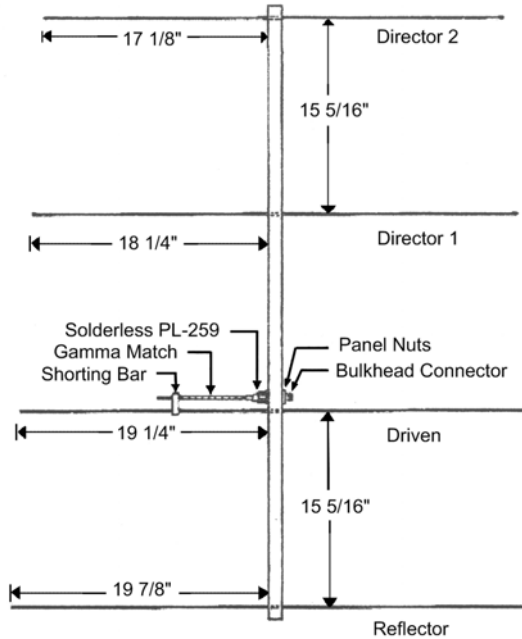
*Below is a photo of the structure soon after the installation.*



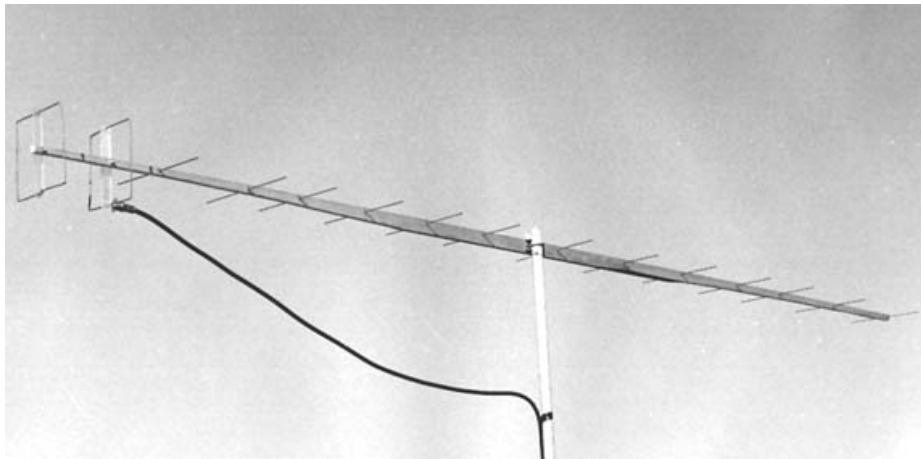
## Fun Stuff – Homebrew Antenna's

A few years ago, many of our members built 2 meter "arrow" antennas as both a project and wanting to own a portable beam antenna. It's been awhile since we've talked about this great little antenna so I thought I would resurrect it and also mention another antenna that was very popular about 30 years ago, the "Quagi".

But first let's talk about the "Arrow" antenna. This antenna first appeared in 73 Magazine in April 1992. The antenna is a four element yagi that uses a square aluminum boom and arrow shafts for the elements. The arrow antenna has very good performance and it's design makes it easy to disassemble, that makes it very convenient to transport.



Dimensions for the Arrow antenna



15 element 70cm Quagi

The second antenna I wanted to talk about is the "Quagi" antenna. This antenna was first described in the April 1977 issue of QST. Wayne Overbeck N6NB designed the antenna which is a yagi style beam that uses a quad type radiator and reflector mounted on a non-conducting boom. Wayne found that using yagi style directors made the antenna easier to build and much more weather resistant. The quad

radiator and reflector gave the antenna a significant boost in performance. The antenna can be scaled for any frequency and used vertically as well as horizontally. Years ago I built a 8 element Quagi for receiving the local UHF TV translator. It worked very well. If you're interested in either antenna, let me know and I can get you the dimension details.

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## V. E. Testing

### Gladstone

Apr 11<sup>th</sup>  
9 am EST  
Gladstone Library  
Howard St. John W8HSJ  
(906) 428-9476  
w8hsj@dcars.org

### Marquette

Mar 14<sup>th</sup>  
8:30 am EST  
Marquette Co. Health Dept.  
U.S.41  
Rich Schwenke N8GBA  
(906) 249-3837  
n8gba@chartermi.net

### Kingsford

May 2<sup>nd</sup>  
9 am CST  
Dickenson County Library  
Mark Lewis N8UKD

Bring a **photo ID** if available otherwise two forms of identification will be required.

Test session fees are **\$15**, Please bring exact amount or a check.

Bring your actual license or C.S.C.E. and a **photocopy** to be sent in for element credit

## Upcoming Events

Michigan Qso Party  
April 18<sup>th</sup>

Dayton Hamvention  
May 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

Field Day  
June 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

U.P. Hamfest  
August 1<sup>st</sup>

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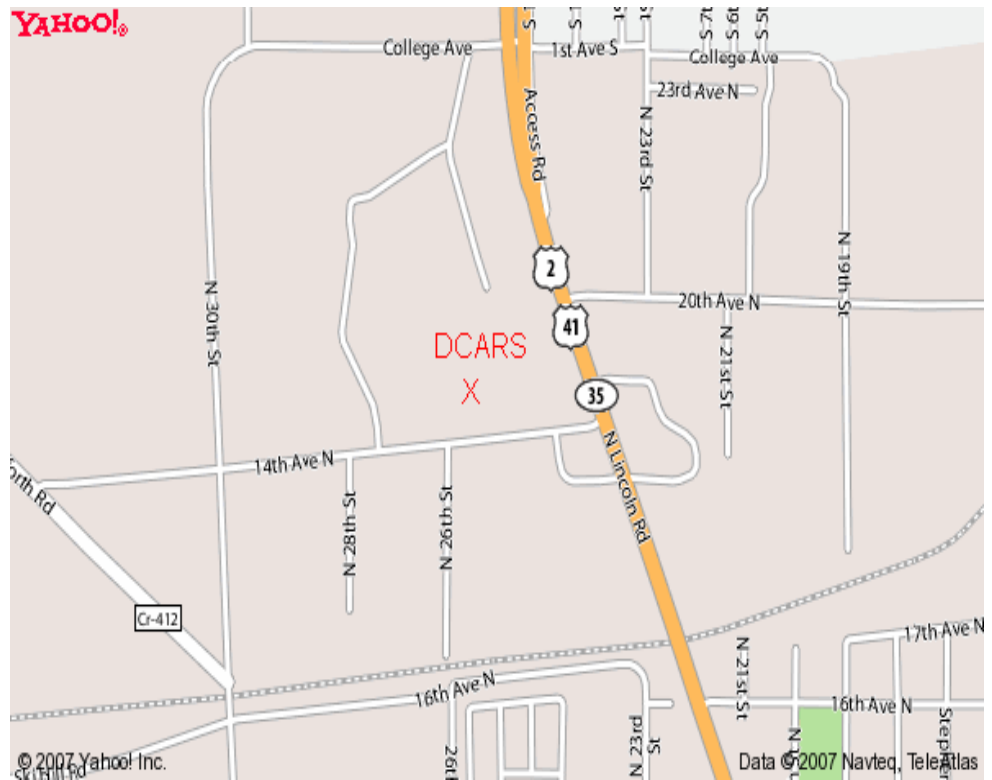
## Meetings

The Delta County Amateur Radio Society meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of each month. The meeting is held in the Joseph Heirman University Center, Room 963 at Bay de Noc College.

Annual Membership Dues are \$15

## Project Nights

Projects nights are held on Mondays from Labor Day until Memorial Day. (except club meeting nights)



From US – 2 & 41  
Turn West on to Danforth Road,  
Travel one block and turn right into Lot D

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**Delta County Amateur Radio Society**  
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Gladstone, Mi.  
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