



# Kent County Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

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Kent County Sheriff Department, Emergency Management Division, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
[www.kcraces.net](http://www.kcraces.net) or [www.kentcountysar.org](http://www.kentcountysar.org) 616-632-6263

## Metro Hospital Exercise

It's always fun when we get a request to come out and play from the EMD office, so getting the request to come participate in an exercise to play at the new Metro hospital in Wyoming was even better since its in the city where Jeff lives and he doesn't get the opportunity to play in Wyoming very often.

It was a beautiful day for the end of July, not too hot and definitely not cold. We started off with a briefing from Metro Safety Officer Jamie Crouch, who also happens to be a RACES member. The scenario for the exercise was that a tornado hit the hospital and the patients needed to be evacuated from the hospital.

Several RACES, CERT, and MRC members acted as victims for Wyoming Fire, Grandville Fire, and Byron Center Fire, along with Life EMS. They all found out how much "fun" it can be to evacuate patients from the second floor of the hospital

The responders were able to test various tools and techniques while evacuating the patients to the ambulances waiting outside. Overall, the exercise went very well and some issues were identified for improvement. We do hope this scenario never happens.

## Points of Interest

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## Jr. RACES/RACES Cadets Update

Last week three more of our colleagues stepped up to the plate and hit a homerun for our organization. A special thanks goes to Bob Sacha, Ron Lindblom, and Gerben Kranenborg for being willing to support our group effort of developing a teen's division of KC RACES. I also need to formally recognize the generous help of Jim Allore and Jeff Nawrot for keeping this on the front burner the past few months! Kudos to everyone.

In the coming month several things will need to be done as we continue the process of setting up a group of this type. All of the ideas below are tentative and a simple draft at best. Firm timelines and procedure will take shape as soon as we can get together.

1. We will affirm a 6-8 month commitment of the founding adult members (mentor group).
2. Casually define roles and responsibilities of the mentor group.
3. Decide whether the group will take shape as an explorer or venture post.
4. Formally name new group and its mission statement. Jr. RACES member, RACES cadet, RACES explorer/venturer, other?
5. Identify preferred participants for new group and begin recruitment of 5-6 candidates.
6. Create a charter with sponsor group -- GRF Boy Scouts of America.
7. Document process toward group formation.
8. Review draft by laws and standard operating procedure for groups function.
9. Report progress to the leadership group and relay pertinent data to membership during upcoming meetings as needed.
10. Set first meeting date for group membership under new charter, SOP'S, by laws.

So, that is it for now. I will be contacting my colleagues soon to set up an informational meeting to get the ball rolling. Frankly, after that meeting we will see what we see...Thank you very much for your patience to date. I hope shortly you will see the positive fruits of our labor and be proud to share this with the community we serve. If you have any comments or questions call me anytime at 616-890-7103 or email at [tom@platinumed.com](mailto:tom@platinumed.com).

Thomas Gottschalk, KD8EAU

PS. I regret not being able to attend the last two meeting. I have been plagued with Thursday evening commitment lately working EMS. I am sorry I could not deliver this positive message personally. I hope to see you all socially soon!

## SAR Staging Equipment

I think I will be removing the back seats to the Jeep this weekend. Kathy pointed out that I have added so much equipment in the last year that the seats are useless anyway. Hopefully it is a good thing and all usable stuff.

I now am carrying a canopy, bull horn, chair, table, white board, flood lighting, traffic cones, mast, and antenna. The mast and antenna are just in case the truck doesn't make it to the scene or we have two searches at the same time. I will also be doing some experiments with cross band repeat distance using the mast and antenna this weekend after I get the seats out.

Accountability scanning equipment is being developed that will transmit from staging to the command post data on who is signed in and their team assignment. I suggested carbon paper and a runner but I think Andy wants to stretch my brain by making us learning the "laptop way."

Dave Johnson's Jeep is also getting more equipment week by week. We have matching tables and he also has cross band repeater. Dave is also experimenting with a portable repeater. He even has a military mast and antenna that will "snag" low flying air craft.

The next ops SAR training will be a good time for us to "show and tell" or better yet a search. Bro. Bob

## SAR Net Control

Kathy added a 2007 mapping program to her desktop computer in case the internet is down during a search. She normally uses Map Quest. She also has hard copy maps but we found they fell short when we got invited to go out of the county.

It is hard to get her to holler "Uncle", but I think we just about maxed her out this week when we had a call out after a SAR training meeting. Half of our crew was instantly available from "restaurant staging". Great job Kathy thanks for hanging in there!!!

## Official Record Traffic

While most hams don't care for it, Official Record Traffic (NTS) is the glue that will hold us together in a disaster and while we hardly ever use it, most traffic is "Tactical" in nature we still should be aware of the role it will play in a disaster.

You should know to know how to formulate and send correctly an NTS radiogram. There are tools to help you become knowledgeable -- the ARRL web site has many useful tools for your tool box such as downloadable NTS forms.

The WMTN Net (Western Michigan Traffic Net) is the place to hear how it is done. Net sessions are every Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9pm on the Link Repeater System W8VG, 147.160. Those of you that can get on HF check out the Michigan Section MITN Net that meets every night on 39.52 KHZ USB at 7pm.

Not knowing how to send a radiogram and what a complete one looks like is an invitation to a disaster if we ever need it. When disaster strikes it is too late. The time is now to become used to NTS traffic. As usual, I will be glad to answer any questions and to mentor anyone that wants help with it. DE WD8USA

## RACES Hospital Communications Nets

Great News ! Our feed line, power supplies, and antennas are in and we will start bringing the ambulance services into our program. Thank you to all who did the paperwork and communications to make it happen.

As we add the Michigan Community Blood Center and ambulance services it will be important to have more communicators to man the positions during net tests and actual call outs when the "balloon goes up." Please let me know if you can train on the different locations during the first Wednesday of the month nets at 7PM. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

For the "Old Timers" you will have to come back and visit Blodgett. Blodgett has completely moved to a new incident command center in the Guild Room. At St. Mary's, the good news is that a new table and wall mount SO-239 means no more climbing into the ceiling with a ladder to get the feed line down.

D-Chat seems to be working for us. If you have a laptop computer please get D-chat installed so it will hook up to the ID-800 digital transceivers that we draw from KCSD. It would be good to have it installed in advance should a major event happen. Send me an e-mail request at dennis49544@comcast.net and I will send you the information for a free download.

Thank you to all who took part in the August test net ! We had good results and learned that doing cross band repeat from inside the Michigan Community Blood Center with the HT on UHF high power sets off their alarms... oops...guess who did that...it was I. Bob Dennis, RACES HosCom Program Leader, AKA Bro. Bob.

## Member Profile -- Gerben Kranenborg

Gerben was born and raised in the Netherlands, where he spent the first 30 years of his life. He went to college there and got a BS in electronics, electrical engineering, and computer science. His professional career started in the computer software industry, and keeps him there today. His jobs varied over the years and brought him all over the world. In 1992 he made his first trip to the U.S., and ever since that trip he wanted to move to the U.S.

In 1994 he moved to Seattle, and then to Grand Rapids, which is where his company actually was located. Today he still works in the computer software industry, and is responsible for customer support for the North American region, again working for a Dutch company. This enables him to frequently travel back to Europe, which gives him a chance to visit relatives and friends.

Technology has always held his interest, which is why he got interested in Amateur Radio. He had a license while in Europe, but did not have enough time for the hobby while traveling. Now that he's in the U.S., he has more time, and picked it up again. His call sign (KB8OCA) used to be in the family from my wife's side, her grandfather (SK) used to have it. He recently got an Amateur Extra license, and is also a VE. As far as RACES is concerned, he wanted to assist where possible, and this way a hobby can be combined with a good cause for the community.

Gerben, his wife Ann, sons Anthony and Joshua and daughter Sarah now live in Alto, just southeast of the GR airport, where they enjoy the quiet environment away from the busy lives they have.



## N8JSN Notes

### Upcoming Events

August 2: SAR Meeting, 7pm

August 9-12: MMWD K-9 Seminar, time varies

August 23: RACES Meeting, 7pm

Wow, this month has just gone by so quickly. So quick I realized I didn't even have a chance to sit and write this article until today (the first). So many things have happened through August; most of these are behind the scene and most are things that are constant programs we're always working on. So to fill everyone in on a few items: The equipment requested in early 2007 for equipping medical locations with a base antenna has shown up (special thank you to Bob and Kathy for spending the day driving to ComDaC to pick this all up).

Several improvements to the back end of KCVRM have happened to make managing all of our programs much easier and of course lots of things have been added to the kcraces.net website and to kentcountysar.org.

We sent several members to Muskegon to take Anthony's Crew leader training, see the article in this newsletter. We even had time to respond to 5 SAR callout's in July and officially have surpassed 2006s requests for service.

I just want to thank all of our members for playing a part, no matter how big or small, in our organization. I know sometimes you do not get the recognition you deserve for your work. So thank you!

Jeffrey Nawrot N8JSN  
Kent County RACES Coordinator/Search and Rescue Director

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### DID YOU KNOW...

On average, it takes a person two hours of nonstop walking to burn off the calories and sugar from a 12 oz. can of pop! Stay healthy and active during the summer months.