



Kent County

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

April 01, 2008
Volume 2, Issue 3

Kent County Sheriff Department, Emergency Management Division, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
www.kcraces.net 616-723-0833

Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles in April? Not quite. RACES is proud to announce that, courtesy of Shawmut Hills, two snowmobiles will be available for use this winter! Due to the "retirement" of some snowmobiles from the Law Enforcement Program, which loans snowmobiles to the sheriff's department, certain snowmobiles are available for a low purchase price. If there aren't any snowmobiles available for purchase, Shawmut Hills will furnish one to RACES at no cost! So say goodbye to trekking through deep snow and hello snowmobile.

Points of Interest

- HAM in a Day ... Page 2
- K9 Volunteers Needed ... Page 2
- Member Profile ... Page 3
- N8JSN Note ... Page 3
- Upcoming Events ... Page 3

Heated Communications

Richfield Trailer Supply is locating a used propane heater for the communications truck. After a few details are worked out on where and how to install it the truck will be warm and toasty in no time!

Cargo Trailer for Use

Big Moose RV Trailer and Equipment sales Cargo Trailer is looking for an enclosed cargo trailer to donate to RACES! The trailer, which would be approximately 6 x 8 could house antennas, equipment, or other material not housed in the communications truck. Another use for this trailer would be to gain greater antenna strength when communicating in low-lying areas.

Communications Truck

Caledonia Township Fire Chief Brian Vennett will allow RACES to store the communications truck inside a garage during those really cold winter months.

**RACES
Updates!**

Ham in a Day

On March 9th 22 people took the ham in the day class. All 22 passed the test! Congratulations! Including these 22 new people it puts us around 350 that have taken the class and passed since the beginning. Because of the overwhelming response we have set up another test for April 27th. If you know someone who is interested in getting their license please send them our way!

Get your Amateur Radio License in just one day! Sponsored by KCRACES. No techno-babble needed, this class is for anyone who wants their amateur radio license. Coffee and Treats will be provided! Dress comfortably class is from 1:30-7:30 pm, testing begins at 6:30. Pre-registration is required. Please bring ID; an adult must accompany anyone under the age of 16. This class uses memory retention, everyone learns differently. This class is not a guarantee to getting your license.

KCSAR K-9 Unit Volunteers Needed

KCSAR, K-9 Unit is looking for volunteers to come to trainings to learn to be a flanker for K-9 teams. Qualified non-dog handler flankers are needed for trailing and cadaver dog teams. Those potential flankers should be SAR members who are usually able to respond to activations. This need is especially important for bloodhound trailing K-9 teams due to urgency of "live find" searches so that the first bloodhound team on scene has this resource available.

Having a good flanker is a necessity for each dog handler team. A K-9 team running a search without a trained flanker is at a real disadvantage. The flanker needs to be able to watch and be able to "read" the dog almost as well as the handler. There are times when the handler may miss a subtle change in what the dog is communicating back to the handler. The dog's behavior, like a "head flip", can be missed while the handler is negotiating rough terrain. A good flanker also should be able to watch for clues along the trail or cadaver search as well as any dangers for the team like vehicle traffic, a loose, rogue dog, etc. If the handler should happen to get hurt the flanker should be well versed at pulling the dog off the search and getting the K-9 back to the vehicle and taking care of it until the handler is able to take over again.

Andy Schultz will be posting the MMWD training schedule for the next 3 months on the RACES calendar. Please feel free to come to any of the trainings and follow the dog teams. You will receive instruction on what to watch for and what to do with the K-9 if anything should happen. If you don't think that flanking is the job for you but you want to get out and get some exercise and fresh air, then feel free to show up and be a "victim". There is always a need for folks to "get lost".

Please contact Ron at 616-891-0145 or Jen at 616-835-7776 for any additional details on training locations, etc. or any additional questions you may have.



Daylight Saving Time

March 9th was the end of Daylight Saving Time, which means you needed to turn your clocks ahead one hour. Another task to do is to replace batteries in smoke alarms and emergency radios as well as review your home safety plan with your family!

According to the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, it is estimated that about 16 million homes in the US have smoke alarms that do not work. In most cases batteries are dead or missing. Many deaths and injuries can be prevented by having a working smoke alarm.

Keep your family, and your property protected, check your smoke alarm each spring and fall during Daylight Saving Time.

Member Profile – Paul A. Bodner KD8DLP

Paul became a Ham in 2006 doing the Ham in a Day and of course had to join RACES and SAR. While doing a SAR training at Townsend Park working with Mid-Michigan Working Dogs, he became interested in the cadaver dogs. He joined Mid-Michigan Working Dogs and bought a Border Collie named Zsa Zsa. He is a retired Police Officer from Kalamazoo and was a former Chief of Police in Barry Township. Working for the City of Kalamazoo, his duties included working as a Crime Scene Technician and Patrol Officer. He was a member of the Haz-Mat Team trained at the technician level. During the last few years of his career with the city, he drove Truck 6, Engine 6 and Engine 7 on the fire side. He also served as Captain on Kalamazoo Township Fire Department. He is trained as a Medical Examiner Investigator and was the Chief Medical Examiner Investigator for Van Buren County. He completed his Medical Examiner Investigator Training at St. Louis University Medical School. For one year he did autopsies at Blodgett Hospital. He has been a member of Region V Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Team, which is a Federal Mortuary Team that goes out to disasters and identifies, processes and caskets disaster victims.

Currently Paul is employed at Reyers North Valley Chapel Funeral Home. There he is responsible for making sure the 29 funeral homes in the State of Michigan meet federal requirements for the Sarbanes Oxley Act. Paul enjoys forensic anthropology and crime scene forensics. Every Sunday at 10:00 am you can join him for Cadaver dog training. If you are interested in observing us train feel free to contact him at 616-293-2874.



N8JSN Notes

Upcoming Events

- April 3: SAR Meeting, 7pm
- April 19: Riverbank Run Training Run
- April 27: HAM in a Day, 1:30pm
- April 24: RACES Meeting, 7pm

Welcome to April! With the nice weather here please remember that it can also bring the potential for severe weather. This year meteorologists are forecasting higher than normal risks for our area. This prediction could potentially mean more work for us. So take a few minutes and check your equipment, talk with your family about a preparedness plan, and in general, just get ready for what may happen. Hopefully it's a nice and quiet season and we can sit back and just enjoy the weather. As always, we could not do this without you! If you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member send them our way.

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

KCRACES
 701 Ball Ave. NE
 Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Phone:
 616-827-7601

Fax:
 616-632-6260

Web:
www.kcraces.net

DID YOU KNOW...

Modern Daylight Saving Time was first proposed by William Willet in 1907. Did you change your clocks on March 9th.