



# Kent County

## Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service

June 01, 2008  
Volume 2, Issue 4

Kent County Sheriff Department, Emergency Management Division, Grand Rapids, MI 49503  
[www.kcraces.net](http://www.kcraces.net) 616-827-7601

## 5/3 Riverbank Run 2008

Wow, I'm sure I didn't get a chance to thank everyone on race day, so here's the chance now, THANK YOU from the entire race safety committee. Everyone did an awesome job. Thank's to electronic means this year, race officials have been receiving comments from people who were running in the race. We received several "thank you" and "good job" emails from participants in the race thanking us for what we did. The one that made me feel the best about all the hard work and the lack of sleep is from a runner who became very ill during the run. Our volunteers were instrumental in getting him help. We received many emails like this and all I can say is awesome job everyone! Year to year this event always gets bigger and bigger and it always amazes me with the job we do. We hope to see everyone next year!

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

## Points of Interest

K9 Flankers Needed ... Page 2

Are you Prepared ... Page 2

Member Profile ... Page 4

N8JSN Notes ... Page 4

Upcoming Events ... Page 4

## Newsletter Update

Do you love the RACES Newsletter? Let us know at [newsletter@kcraces.net](mailto:newsletter@kcraces.net), in the meantime, please look forward to reading the newsletter on a quarterly basis. If you have an article idea or would like to be our featured member, please email it to the above address. Thank you.



## SAR K9 Unit Flankers/Trail Layers Needed

Our K9 unit coordinator has expressed the need for people to help out during trainings with members of the K9 units. If you are willing to come out and help they could really use you. Training will be provided to you and you'll be helping the handlers to train. You can contact Ron at [rlindblom@kentcountysar.org](mailto:rlindblom@kentcountysar.org) - Note you can also check the training schedule for the k9 unit on the calendar at [www.kentcountysar.org](http://www.kentcountysar.org)



## Are you Prepared?

Take time to Prepare yourself and your families! As everyone has noticed over the last couple weeks the severe weather potential is heightened. I spent some time talking with my family and neighbors this weekend about being prepared for the aftermath of storms. An hour of preparedness will make you much more comfortable and much happier if / when something bad happens in your neighborhood. You should be prepared for at least 3 days without major support. Some things to think about:

- One gallon of drinkable water per person per day
- Non-perishable food (things that can be prepared without a lot of cooking)
- A good working flashlight, preferably something that is LED instead of halogen (with spare batteries)
- AM / FM radio
- Deck of playing cards

There are a lot more things that you can do to make your family more prepared. Visit <http://www.ready.gov/> for more information or do an Internet search for "emergency preparedness".

## Member Profile – Kim Veldheer

Kim is originally from the Jackson area where she has worn many “volunteer hats” over the years. As her children were growing up she was active in PTA and various school functions. That evolved into Soccer-Track-Football and 4-H Mom. While working as a Respiratory Therapist, she also assisted with a teenage smoking cessation program, and helped start educational programs for asthmatics in the public schools. As a Medical First Responder she served for seven years on a rural volunteer fire department in northern Jackson County. “We had to be much more resourceful as first responders way out in the country. It was an all-volunteer department, but the camaraderie and level of commitment to the community is one of the best experiences I’ve had”.

Kim’s love of dogs led her to an obedience facility in the Eaton Rapids area where she was beginning search work with her Labrador, Pepsi. It was there that she met her husband, Craig, who also had an interest in K-9 disaster search training. They got married three years ago, and settled in the Hastings area with their “blended” family of 5 dogs. Kim and Craig are both members of K-9 ONE Search & Rescue, as well as KCRACES/SAR. Craig is now the primary handler with Pepsi, and Kim’s search partner is her yellow Labrador, Tigger, who is trained in area/wilderness search work.



## Upcoming Events

June 26: RACES Meeting, 7pm

June 29: HAM in a Day, 1pm

July 10: SAR Meeting, 7pm

July 24: RACES Meeting, 7pm

August 7: SAR Meeting, 7pm

August 28: RACES Meeting, 7pm

## N8JSN Notes

I wasn't kidding when I said May is our busiest month of the season. I think May might have some competition though since June has been just as busy so far when it comes to operations and events, we've really been hopping around here. May ended with 3,489 man hours, which is a lot. So far for the month of June we are at 1,325 man hours; I bet we beat the May amount easily. I wish I had the time to pat everyone on the back and thank you individually for being who you are and doing what you do. So take a moment to pat yourself on the back! Thanks Everyone!

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](http://www.kcraces.net)

## DID YOU KNOW...

No sunscreen is truly waterproof, so keep plenty on hand and reapply often.