

GM Net News

Volume I

Editor: Rick WØPC

December Issue – 2008

Life after the Firebirds: by Rick, WØPC

It's good to hear from our old Firebird friends that have retired recently. Here is Ken, KG9O.

2007 Experienced Massive Retirements:

Introducing Ken, KG9O



One of our recent retirees is Ken, KG9O. We are used to saying KG9O/mobile. Ken used to check in as he was going to work on 2nd shift. His mobile sure has a nice signal. Now that Ken has a little more time on his hands, his grand children are keeping him off his towers by sitting on him... not a bad job for a Grand Dad. Ken sent me some photos of his 2 towers 40 ft tall and his mounting the Icom AH-4 random wire tuners. One tuner is mounted on the side of the pole barn and the other is tower mounted. He sure has lots of wire antennas up there... dipoles, double



bazooka on 80, Delta-loop up at the 40 ft level with about 250 ft wire. Also, hidden from view, is a Butternut vertical. If the grandkids leave him alone for a little while, he says that he would like to get some beams up on the towers. Ken feeds all these antennas with an Icom IC-706 with only 100 watts output. Nice signal Ken and now I know why.

Jim, K8OMP Reports:

These photos are of the moving wall for the veteran's memorial. It came from Ohio to Jasper, Michigan. It was met there by 1,700 Bikers including me. We escorted the wall to Onstead, Michigan to the VFW hall there. What an honor to escort this wall in memories of our troops.



We enjoy traveling by R.V. We have a 5th wheel and Chevy Duramax pickup truck these Days equipped with a Kenwood tri-band and an Icom 706mk2gII for hamming. On the other end are a Tarheel screwdriver with and a tri-band Comet. Some of my other hobbies are fathering and grandfathering. My wife and I were married 40 years ago as kids almost/ha ha. My dad had 35 yrs at GM as a Skilled Trade General. He was a great guy my dad and friend too. I put 39 yrs in gm just

to out do my dad however I wore two hats...millwright and chaplain. I worked for GM Powertrain at the Willow Run plant in Ypsilanti, Michigan. One of my favorite ham radio activities is to join friends on the "old Firebird net" (now the GM Net) for a cool down and some R&R. I have worked 175 countries with a peanut whistle and a wire. My most treasured time on ham radio was a W.A.S. CW on 40 meters. I guess the other treasured times was when our 2 girls were growing up, they talked to Santa Clause on 40 meters, then years later, our oldest granddaughter talked to them and received a letter from Mrs. Clause.



God bless America and all of its ham operators and families. Remember to pray for our new President as well as all of our elected officials.

73 & 75 for now.... Jim, K8OMP

Sad News:

This past November 2nd we lost our oldest Firebird friend. Al, W8CHT passed away. Al was an active ham well into his 90's. His son called Verle to pass the news on to all of Al's Firebird friends. We will miss him on the nets.

December Net Control Calendar:

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 WB9YUR N8XLS	2 K8VW	3 K1RAY	4 KB9VF N9RLK	5 W8DCQ	6 KE8NP
7 N8XLS	8 WY8I WB8COG	9 OPEN	10 K8VW	11 WB9YUR	12 OPEN	13 KB9VF
14 N9RLK	15 WA8IHI W4MWZ	16 K1RAY	17 KE8NP	18 W8DCQ N8XLS	19 WB9YUR	20 OPEN
21 WA8IHI	22 K8VW WB8COG	23 OPEN	24 CHRISTMAS EVE NET	25 CHRISTMAS DAY NET	26 OPEN	27 KE8NP
28 N9RLK	29 K1RAY N8XLS	30 OPEN	31 NEW YEARS EVE NET			

Net Preamble by George, KB9VF

Preamble

This is (your call), today's net control. This net is composed of employees and retirees of the General Motors Corporation.

This net meets daily on this frequency for the purpose of getting better acquainted, expanding our knowledge, and improving our operating techniques. We promote friendship among participants in many locations who have many talents and have or have had a variety of work assignments. The General Motors nets are international in scope on some bands, and visitors are always welcome to check in. Please stay carefully tuned to net control at all times. This is (your call) (working for or retired from) (your) Division in (which city), (state). My home QTH is (where you live). My name is (your name) and we will now take check-ins, one at a time, please.

Net Closing

Are there any late check-ins for the net? (pause for late check-ins). Is there any further business for the net? (pause for any further business) Having no further business, we will close the net at this time. This net is composed of General Motors employees, retirees, and visitors. We meet each day, Monday through Saturday, on or about this frequency, at (1700z or 1800z). Thank you for your participation and please return often. This is (your call) now closing the net. 73 and Good Afternoon.

GM NET SCHEDULE:

<u>FREQ.MHZ</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME-UTC</u> <u>SUMMER</u>	<u>TIME-UTC</u> <u>WINTER</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
7.2775	Mon - Fri	1700	1800	
14.277**	Tuesday	1615	1615	+ or - 5 kHz for QRM (GM DX Net)
1.877±	Tuesday	None	0030	
3.977*	Thursday	2300	2300	
14.277*	Sunday	1200	1200	
3.977*	Sunday	2000	2000	
14.277*	Sunday	2100	2100	

* Indicates net is currently inactive, ** Indicates the Schedule with Walter, DF4IZ

It's about time to start up our 160 meter net again. The summer noise is settling down making a pleasure to get on "The Gentleman's Band." Anyone know of other nets that should be included in this schedule? Send me an email with any changes to the schedule and I'll update the list. I have a local ham club meeting once a month on Tuesday so will have to miss that evening.

If you don't see your call on the net schedule and want to get onboard, send George King, KB9VF an email (kb9vf@comcast.net). He is putting together the schedule and I'll print them here in this newsletter. Maybe someday, we will have a website...that's free, and be able to post some things like net control schedule and net times.

January 2009 - GM Net Schedule						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Notes: #####				1 Net Control - W0PC (RICK)	2 Net Control - KB9VF (GEORGE)	3 Net Control - K8VW (VERLE)
4	5 Net Control - WB9YUR (BILL)	6 Net Control - K1RAY (RAY)	7 Net Control - WD9AIH (BILL)	8 Net Control - KC8JLC (ART)	9 Net Control - WY8I (JIM)	10 Net Control - WB9YUR (BILL)
11	12 Net Control - W0PC (RICK)	13 Net Control - KC8JLC (ART)	14 Net Control - K1RAY (RAY)	15 Net Control - N8XLS (DENNY)	16 Net Control - K8VW (VERLE)	17 Net Control - K1RAY (RAY)
18	19 Net Control - KB9VF (GEORGE)	20 Net Control - KC8JLC (ART)	21 Net Control - WD9AIH (BILL)	22 Net Control - W8BHI (CHUCK)	23 Net Control - WY8I (JIM)	24 Net Control - W0PC (RICK)
25	26 Net Control - WB9YUR (BILL)	27 Net Control - N8XLS (DENNY)	28 Net Control - WD9AIH (BILL)	29 Net Control - KB9VF (GEORGE)	30 Net Control - K8VW (VERLE)	31 Net Control - WY8I (JIM)

How to read the net schedule: Rick, WØPC

Many thanks to George, KB9VF for putting together our net control schedule. We've had a bunch of volunteers to throw their hat in the ring and take on the net. When George and I started talking about how to put together a schedule, we looked for a good calendar program that you can write in the date blocks. I'm used to using Microsoft Office from my days at GM. Fortunately since I retired and went to work for St. Charles Community College as a part time teacher and consultant; I got to buy copies of "Office" at the College rate (cost of the media). Many new computers come with a trial version of MS-Office with hopes that you will like the program and buy it after the 90 day trial period runs out. An alternative to buying it, I suggest you download a copy of "OpenOffice" You can search for the download site via Google if you don't want to type in the following URL:

<http://download.openoffice.org/?intcmp=1193>. It's free and written by a very reputable company "Sun Microsystems". It's the same company that gives away "Java" that allows you to see action files on the Internet. "OpenOffice" is a complete suite of programs that range from a word processor, spreadsheet (accounting), presentation, database and more. It will read all the MS-Office files and also save to MS-Office format. Another nice part is that you can create or open a file in "OpenOffice" and then convert it to Adobe reader format...and it's all for free.

Once you have downloaded and installed either Microsoft Office or OpenOffice, your computer will automatically associate the files that George sends out with the correct program to open them. I'll use the February 2009 picture to help explain how to read the file and see other months. Notice how each month is a new tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet. Just click on it and the selected month schedule appears.

February 2009 - GM Net Schedule

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Net Control - WD9AIH	3 Net Control - K1RAY	4 Net Control - W8IHI	5 Net Control - KB9VF	6 Net Control - KC8JLC	7 Net Control - WB9YUR
8	9 Net Control - WØPC	10 Net Control - K8VW	11 Net Control - KB9VF	12 Net Control - N8XLS	13 Net Control - K1RAY	14 Net Control - KC8JLC
15	16 Net Control - WB9YUR	17 Net Control - WD9AIH	18 Net Control - W8IHI	19 Net Control - K8VW	20 Net Control - KB9VF	21 Net Control - WØPC
22	23 Net Control - KC8JLC	24 Net Control - K1RAY	25 Net Control - WB9YUR	26 Net Control - N8XLS	27 Net Control - WD9AIH	28 Net Control - K8VW
Notes: Schedule with DF4IZ (Walter), every Tuesday at 1615z on 14.277 + or - 5 kc. Sunday afternoon or Thursday evening nets, anymore.						No

Jan 09 Feb 09 Mar 09 Apr 09 May 09 Jun 09 Jul 09 Aug 09 Sep 09 Oct 09 Nov 09 Dec 09

Month Tab

Requests Ham's Technical Aid in Education on DTV:

We have received a request by the FCC for members of the ARRL to provide technical educational assistance to their communities during January and February in accomplishing the digital TV conversion. Clubs are being asked to develop and implement plans to provide information about the DTV conversion in their areas in ways they think best fits their community. Each community is a little different, so your plans may vary. Let your Section Manager know your group is willing to help out.

Hams should **not** make "house calls," sell any equipment or do actual installations -- the request is only to distribute technical information and their materials. As we all know, some folks just never get the message until too late. Materials for presentations, education and many other activities are available at <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html> . Beginning early January, FCC staff will contact Section Managers and leaders of interested clubs and, where possible, arrange to meet for sharing even more information, A/V and printed materials and training aids with the clubs in this effort.

We know the time is short and problematic, (not our choice) but your aid in this now will be appreciated.

In early January, Section Managers will be asked for the names and contact information of the volunteering groups. FCC staff will then make contact with them, learn their plans, and provide them with the media, brochures or other materials your group may need in this effort. Materials also can be downloaded from the web at <http://www.dtv.gov/outreach.html> . FCC regional staff may even come and visit with larger groups to aid in implementation of the group's plans.

"I really appreciate the willingness of the ARRL to actively participate in helping Americans with the transition to DTV and your helpful suggestions. The DTV transition will be an historic moment in the evolution of TV. Broadcast television stations can offer viewers improved picture and sound quality and new programming choices. All-digital broadcasting also will allow us to significantly improve public safety communications and will usher in a new era of advanced wireless services such as the widespread deployment of wireless broadband.

As we discussed, our goal is to engage on a cooperative basis the amateur community to help with the DTV outreach and educate consumers on how to install a converter box and how to set it up. We also discussed the possibility of amateur groups providing technical advice by telephone to consumers who may encounter difficulty with the installation and setting up of their converter box. Any assistance that you can arrange through the ARRL Section Managers will greatly help in the efforts of the FCC to ensure a smooth transition to DTV on February 17, 2009."

- George Dillon, FCC

Digital TV Continued:

The FCC will provide participating groups with news releases, audio clips (mp3 files) and announcement templates for them to use in local media in preparation of the activities. FCC will also provide clubs with educational video, PowerPoints and similar visual materials. As you plan, remember this is for technical educational help only. At no time should the hams enter someone else's home or be installers in this; nor should they broker or sell conversion boxes in any way. Clubs can provide such things as a call in telephone number for technical help, make presentations at meetings, demos at malls, talks to other groups -- whatever works in their community. Local over-the-air broadcasters should be most interested in this activity, making it easier to get TV publicity about it. Other non-profit, volunteer groups are also being asked to help out, so this is also a chance to do some organizational networking.

Some groups are already coming up with plans, such as:

"I think a simple class at the community senior citizens centers would be great! Those things are everywhere all over the country. A large number of seniors could be taught to go out into the community. Many of these people are looking for something to do. Nothing wrong with hams acting as consultants and getting some good press from it."

Or how about contacting the local coordinators for Meals on Wheels and teaching their delivery volunteers what to look for in shut-ins still needing conversion units? Or the local Visiting Nurses?

How about having an ARES drill in which your teams go looking for over-the-air TV antennas and note the addresses. Later you can hand out or send info to those locations.

One group is planning to be in their community auditorium with some converters and talk about how to hook them up.

Others are working with their weathermen/women, knowing that in a storm a lot of people look to TV for information.

Why not make a display with the FCC's materials -- but also be sure to have your local club info out too! You just might get some new prospects!

"Go on a talk-TV segment to demo creating a DIY antenna from coat hangars, to show what a 'paper tiger' the need for a spendy antenna is." And a similar comment, "Just letting everyone know that the DIGITAL READY antenna that the box stores sell for \$130 is the same as the old analog antenna that you can get for \$50, this lets people know that you are sincere in your presentation."

Each group is encouraged to think of ways to aid their community in this that work best in your own areas. If not with a store or call-in deal there, that's OK. These are just some starting suggestions. C'mon, Get creative!

Installing Coax Connectors?

PL-259 Connector Want a good video on installing a PI-259 Connector? This is a six minute video that can be shown at a club meeting. Installing a PL-259 on RG-213

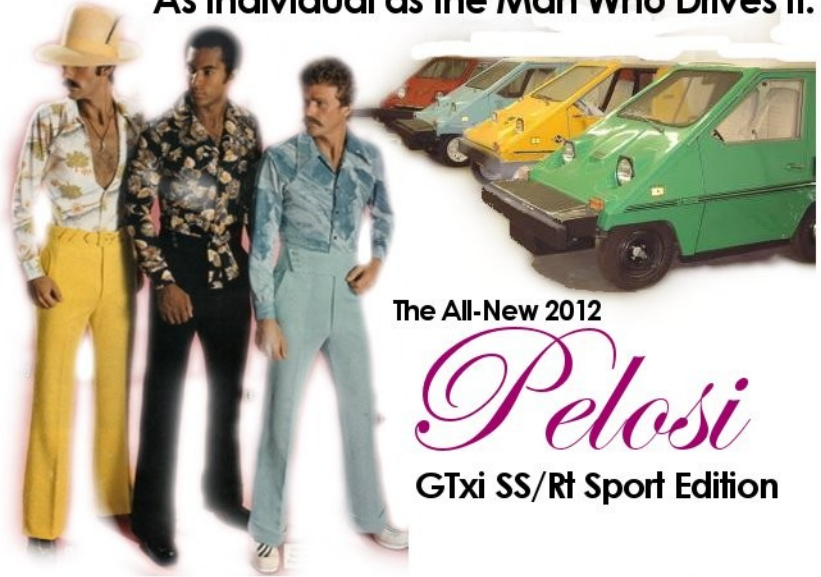
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1nabA6yMol>

Installing a PL-259 on RG8X <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzXXjzmA-IE&feature=related>

New from Congressional Motors:

It's in the way you dress. The way you boogie down. The way you sign your unemployment check. You're a man who likes to do things your own way. And on those special odd-numbered Saturdays when driving is permitted, you want it in your car. It's that special feeling of a zero-emissions wind at your back and a road ahead meandering with possibilities. The kind of feeling you get behind the wheel of the Pelosi GTxi SS/Rt Sport Edition from Congressional Motors.

As Individual as the Man Who Drives It.



Congressional
Motors



All new for 2012, the Pelosi GTxi SS/Rt Sport Edition is the mandatory American car so advanced it took \$100 billion and an entire Congress to design it. We started with same reliable 7-way hybrid ethanol-biodeisel-electric-clean coal-wind-solar-pedal power plant behind the base model Pelosi, but packed it with extra oomph and the sassy styling pizazz that tells the world that 1974 Detroit is back again -- with a vengeance.

We've subsidized the features you want and taxed away the rest. With its advanced Al Gore-designed V-3 under the hood pumping out 22.5 thumping, carbon-neutral ponies of Detroit muscle, you'll never be late for the Disco or the Day Labor Shelter.

Engage the pedal drive or strap on the optional jumbo mizzenmast, and the GTxi SS/Rt Sport Edition easily exceeds 2016 CAFE mileage standards. At an estimated 268 MPG, that's a savings of nearly \$1800 per week in fuel cost over the 2011 Pelosi.

Even with increased performance we didn't skimp on safety. With 11-point passenger racing harnesses, 15-way airbags, and mandatory hockey helmet, you'll have the security knowing that you could survive a 45 MPH collision even if the GTxi SS/Rt were capable of that kind of illegal speed.

But the changes don't stop there. Sporty mag-style hubcaps and an all-new aggressive wedge shape designed by CM's Chief Stylist Ted Kennedy slices through the wind like an omnibus spending bill. It even features an airtight undercarriage to keep you and a passenger afloat up to 15 minutes -- even in the choppy waters of Cape Cod inlet.

Available in a rainbow of color choices to match any wardrobe, from Harvest Avocado to French Mustard. A special high capacity hatchback holds up to 300 aluminum cans, meaning fewer trips to the redemption center. And the standard 3 speaker Fairness ActoPhonic FM low-band sound system means you'll never miss a segment of NPR again.

Best of all, the Pelosi GTxi SS/Rt is made right here in the U.S.A. by fully card-checked unionized workers and Detroit 's famous visionary jet-set managers. Even if you don't own one, you can enjoy the patriotic satisfaction that you're supporting the high wages, good benefits, and generous political donations that are once again making the American car industry the envy of the world.

But why not buy one anyway? With an MSRP starting at only \$629,999.99, it's affordable too. Don't forget to ask about dealer incentives, rebates, tax credits, and wealth redistribution plans for customers from dozens of qualifying special interest groups. Plus easy-pay financing programs from Fanny Mae.

So take the bus to your local CM dealer today and find out why the Pelosi GTxi SS/Rt Sport Edition is the only car endorsed by President Barack Obama. One test drive will convince you that you'd choose it over the import brands. Even if they were still legal.

George H. Floyd, Jr., aka 'Hashafisti Scratchi' WA4DGA (SK):

from CQ on November 25, 2008

George H. Floyd, Jr., aka 'Hashafisti Scratchi' WA4DGA (SK):
"Hashafisti Scratchi" a Silent Key

The man who wrote "Scratchi" for CQ magazine is a Silent Key. George H. Floyd, Jr., WA4DGA (ex-W2RYT), of Lynchburg, Virginia, entertained thousands of his fellow hams for more than two decades -- between 1947 and 1971 -- writing as a politically-incorrect (by today's standards) Japanese-American ham with fractured English and contorted spelling. He wrote from "Feenix, Ariz.," began each column with "Deer Hon. Ed.," and regularly skewered the pomposity and poor operating practices he encountered on the air. He passed away November 22 at the age of 91.

In real life, George Floyd was an engineer and executive with General Electric, working in Schenectady and Syracuse, New York, before moving to Lynchburg, Virginia in the late 1950s. GE alumni will also remember George -- pseudonymously as well -- as "Lighthouse Larry" in GE employee publications.

Scratchi first appeared in CQ in June, 1947. The column became a regular feature between 1948 and 1960, then returned from 1966 to 1971. For many CQ readers in that time period, Scratchi was the first item they read when the magazine arrived each month. CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, writing in the magazine's 50th anniversary issue in January, 1995, said: "For many years the name Hashafisti Scratchi has been almost synonymous with confusion and consternation in amateur radio. It seems, too, that whenever the unusual or impossible is happening, Scratchi is there helping it happen."

Upon receiving news of George's passing, Ross noted, "As saddened as I am to learn of George's death, the mere mention of his name brings a smile to my face, knowing how his good humor and wonderfully creative imagination entertained so many of us for so many years."

Floyd was pre-deceased by his wife, Miriam; and is survived by two daughters, two granddaughters and six great-grandchildren. The family asks that those interested in making donations in Floyd's memory contribute to the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals or the Humane Society of the United States.

Anyone got an cute storey's or pictures to put in the next issue?

If anyone has any good pictures or news articles or other stories, I'd be glad to put them in the next issue of the GM Net News. Our 40 meter group seems to hang in there during these rotten band conditions. Between Verle, K8VW and Ray, K1RAY, they keep the relays going to make sure everyone is picked up and put on the payroll. From my location in the middle, I often miss the Indiana and Kentucky guys. It's sure nice to have the guys on both ends that can relay me in. Many thanks go out to those who jump in when the band doesn't cooperate. The rumor is that it takes a contest to open up a dead band. Don't just wait for the good condition to finally arrive, someone will hear you. We like to hear what you are doing even if you can't check-in. Send me some email: w0pc@aol.com with "GM Net" or "GM Net News" in the subject line. I'm looking forward to hearing from you, besides, the weather is lousy so turn your radio on.

73 de WØPC (Rick)

Doctors' Opinions of The Financial Bailout Package:

The Allergists voted to scratch it.

The Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves.

The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it.

The Neurologists thought the administration had a lot of nerve.

The Obstetricians felt they were all laboring under a misconception.

The Ophthalmologists considered the idea shortsighted.

The Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!"

The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness.

The Radiologists could see right through it.

The Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing.

The Internists thought it was a bitter pill to swallow.

The Plastic Surgeons said, "This puts a whole new face on the matter."

The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists felt the scheme wouldn't hold water.

The Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and the Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say no.

In the end, the Proctologists decided the decision was best left up to the assholes in Washington.