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HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S August 23 "TUESDAY TALK"
History with a View

July 27 — A duo of presenters will discuss the history of the Mount Baldhead Radar Tower for the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society "Tuesday Talk" on August 23 at the Old School House History Center, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Tuesday Talk admission is free for current SDHS members. Non-member guests are encouraged to attend with a donation of five dollars, or become new members with initial dues payment at the Talk. For all, limited space puts seating on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Chuck Gustafson, a semi-retired aerospace engineer, and Sam Fitzpatrick, recent graduate of Central Michigan University with a Bachelor's of Science degree in History and former intern for the SDHS, will explain the radar tower's roles in the Cold War. These roles included: how the radar installation worked, how it impacted the community and the technicians who kept it functioning year-round.

Gustafson said he has been interested in technical things since his earliest memories. He eventually became infatuated with computers. Gustafson's initial interest in the radar towers drove his continued curiosity and research. He said, "My specific interest in Mount Baldhead's Radar Tower springs from a trip across the northern states in the late '70s where I saw the most incredible radar in North Dakota."

Fitzpatrick explained he's always had a fascination with the Cold War era and the lengths each side went to listening to the enemy or defending themselves. He mentioned his interest in sharing with the public some of his research and something he has always been passionate about. He explained how he learned so much about the radar tower. "Last summer I heavily researched the military program Mount Baldhead was a part of – SAGE (Semi-Automatic Ground Environment) – and the website dedicated to the radar tower" he said. "I was introduced to a few like-minded people at the time called the Mount Baldhead Radar Preservation Group."

A summer tradition since 1996, Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into our community life weekly throughout July and August. This Tuesday Talk is sponsored by S-DHS President Steve Hutchins.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society, its Museum and Old School House History Center, or its activities planned for 2016, visit www.sdhistoricalsociety.org.

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The Mount Baldhead Radar Tower can be seen all over Saugatuck and Douglas.