

BIG RAPIDS AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



JULY 2004 AUGUST



FIELD DAY – THE ULTIMATE HAM EXPERIENCE!

As is usual for our club, this year's Field Day experience started out right with breakfast for the early birds who gathered at the Eastside Cafe to load up on the required nourishment to fortify them to set up the equipment and antennas. Nourishment consisted of everything from Farmer's Omelets to just coffee for those who couldn't wait and ate at home. This newsletter editor devoured a full stack of pancakes and a sizable slab of ham. Ahhhh.....

Leaving the cafe, some headed for the site next to the Big Rapids School Superintendent's Office while others went to collect the equipment or trailers to house the equipment. Our Field Day Committee led by Thom Durfee, WI8W and Tom Behler, KB8TYJ was well prepared and it wasn't long before poles and towers were being raised at the site to hold beams and other antennas. Fritz Pins' NI8E, mobile ham shack has a swing-up tower attached to it. A beam was mounted and raised in short order. It took considerably longer for the other tower to be installed with a beam at the 40



foot level. As you can see from the photos, Jeff Barstow, WD8DLK looks great hanging from the tower with the tri-bander in his lap. Dipoles were put up in record time by club members who also hooked up a generator and ground rod for each station. Our club banner was hung high over the entrance, the logo sign was located in plain view and WI8W's ARRL flag waved to all from a tall pole overlooking the site.

Sue Behler, KC8IFP, and her Food Committee provided sustenance for all who attended the Field Day activities. The potato salad prepared by Lillian Spence, KC8OMJ and Sue was delicious. Russ Brittain, AB8TA, provided his commercial stainless steel grill

handled expertly by Mike Foster, KC8PZA who prepared thick juicy burgers, a special hit with the hungry crew.

As you know Sue Behler also serves as our ARRL approved Public Information Officer (PIO) and she prepared the publicity booth and designed color brochures that are a knockout. Perhaps she can bring along a few to pass around at the next meeting to show those who did not attend just how good they really are!

The list on the next page does not include all those who showed up on site during the event, but is the list of all who signed the attendance roster or can be remembered. Sorry if we missed you!



FIELD DAY 2004 SIGN-IN LIST

Frank E. West - Deputy Director of Public
Safety

Tim Stoecklein KC0MDC

Kylie Stoecklein

Matthew Trombley KC8VJR

Sue Behler KC8IFP

Tom Behler KB8TYJ

Dan Behler KC8DNO

Justin Macauley KC8WGH

Bob Macauley WB8G

Deb Macauley W8SO

Thom Durfee WI8W

Mike Foster KC8PZA

Kathy Foster KC8RBS

Michael Foster (Mike's son)

Lillian Spence KC8OMJ

Philip "Nick" Tighe

Patricia Pennock W4NKL

Jim Orłowski N8PUG

Adam Orłowski

David Huhtala KC8WGA

Jack Weber WA8ICK

John McDowell KC8BAR

Jacob Spence KI8CK

Jerry Buskirk KC8CII

Joe Geneovese (Jerry's grandson)

Russell Brittain AB8TA

George Rouman W8OWN

John May KC8RBO

Connie May KC8RBP

Norman Peterson

Rick Thomas KC8OZX

Bob Carpenter W8YHJ

Gary Atteberry WB8WIA

Jerry Flessland KB8ZEP

Jeff Barstow WD8DLK

Thom Durfee devoted much time and effort as the crew leader before and during the event, but his effort did not stop there. It is he who gathered all the data from the stations, pieced it together and mailed the results to the ARRL. He plans to cover the details at the next meeting but has provided this much information now in time for our Newsletter. Therefore, as Thom said, "due to popular demand, here are the stats from Field Day".

Call Used; N8OE; GOTA Station: None; ARRL/RAC; Section: MI; Class: 4A; Participants (Operators): 15; Club/Group Name: Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club Inc.; Power Source: generator.

Power Multiplier: 2X

Bonus Points:

100% Emergency Power: 100 Points - Media Publicity: 100 Points - Set-Up in Public Place: 100 Points - Information Booth: 100 Points - NTS message to SM 100 Points - W1AW Field Day message 100 Points - Site Visited by elected official: 100 points - Site visit by invited served agency official: 100 points - Submitted via the website: 50 points

Total Bonus Points: 1150

Score Summary:

Total QSOs: CW: 586 Digital: 0 - Phone: 525 - Total points CW - 1172 Digital 0 - Phone 525; Total 1697 - Claimed score: Points X Multiplier (2) + Bonus points: 3394

Band Summaries:

80 meters CW: 0 Phone: 333 Digital: 0 40 meters CW: 391 Phone: 39 Digital: 0 20 meters CW: 195 Phone: 51 Digital: 0 15 meters CW: 0 Phone: 64 Digital: 0 10 meters CW: 0 Phone: 38 Digital: 0

Totals: CW 586 Phone: 525 - Digital: 0 Submitted via ARRL Website and by email

The next pages provide a view of a few of the activities at Field Day 2004. Hope you enjoyed it to the extreme and that if you weren't there, you will make it in 2005!





JOE TURNER ENTHRALLS THE CROWD AT THE JULY MEETING

SUE BEHLER KC8IFP PIO

If you were able to attend our July 1st club meeting you were lucky enough to experience an excellent presentation by Joe Turner, K8CQF, Section Traffic Manager (shown at left). Tom KB8TYJ and Sue KC8IFP Behler were very impressed with Joe's presentation earlier in the year at a training session in Lansing. Tom thought Joe's presentation would be very informative and entertaining for our club. And it certainly was.



Joe not only explained some of the critical points of the National Traffic System but did it while providing very interesting information about the history of wireless communication.

For example, did you know:

- 1911 First radio club in the US was formed
- 1913 Ohio State and University of Michigan students formed the first emergency communications network (How could those two school have worked together???)
- 1915 ARRL formed
- 1921 Commercial broadcast begins
- 1935 QMN and ARES established
- 1949 NTS created
- 1952 RACES established
- 1956 First voice communication by cable between US and

Europe

- 1960 SSB replaces AM on ham bands
- 1970 Repeaters become widespread

This history provided an interesting picture of how fast communications has changed. A quote by Bob Cooper, Telecommunications CEO expressed a thought provoking belief, "We have a saying in our industry – what was wired will become wireless and what was wireless will become wired." If you think about it, this is a very intriguing, true statement.

Joe Turner then went into a lengthy discussion of the National Traffic System. Some of the major points in Joe's presentation were:

- The need for standardization of message formats and modes.

Timing is important for traffic flow.
Standardized message forms and formats are the key to effective communication.
Interoperability and security are a must.
The availability of trained operators is critical.
There are many possible points of failure.



If you'd like to see the entire slideshow presentation, you can access it through the MI Section Web Site. The Web Site can be found at the following address:
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/MI.html>
Once on that site scroll down to the Section Traffic Manager portion. You will see a link for **NTS2003**. This link will take you to a zipped file which contains the entire slideshow program. In truth, Joe's presentation added a lot more interesting details and facts, but this link will show you the basics. Also, please keep in mind that Joe was gracious enough to allow us to tape his presentation. If you couldn't make the meeting, contact Tom or Sue to borrow the videotape.
We will close with the 1935 original radiotelegram, message number 9:

“May you live long and prosper.”

FCC SETS NEW VANITY FEE START DATE: AUGUST 6, 2004

The FCC has announced that the new Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee of \$20.80 for the 10-year license term will go into effect August 6.

Applicants for amateur vanity call signs will continue to pay the \$16.30 fee per vanity call sign application received by FCC until the new fee goes into effect. The FCC says it expects to collect close to \$162,000 from 7800 Amateur Radio vanity call sign applicants during Fiscal Year 2004. For details on their assessment and collection of regulatory fees for FY2004, see the FCC's annual Report and Order (Docket MD 04-73) on the Web at http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-04-146A1.doc.

via ARRL

THE MONTHLY CLUB BREAKFAST WILL BE AT A “SORT OF NEW” RESTAURANT. ROSIE’S RESTAURANT IN DOWNTOWN HERSEY IS NOT NEW TO US BUT HAS A NEW OWNER AND ACCORDING



TO THOSE WHO HAVE TRIED IT, A GOOD FOOD PLACE. SO ALL GET TOGETHER AROUND 8:30 A.M. ON SATURDAY JULY THE 31ST FOR AN INFORMAL GATHERING OF THE HAM RADIO GANG.

PREAMBLE AND BYLAWS OF THE BIG RAPIDS AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

PREAMBLE

The Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club has been founded by persons of similar interests in order to:

1. Develop the bonds of fellowship among those persons interested in all aspects of amateur radio (communication between Amateur stations solely with a personal aim and without pecuniary interest).
2. Facilitate the exchange of information and cooperation among members.
3. Promote radio knowledge by providing classes for the instruction of persons interested in becoming Amateur Radio Operators.
4. Serve the community as a communications and technical resource.
5. Supplement and expand the proficiency and knowledge of the members in electronics and communications techniques.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I--MEMBERSHIP

All persons interested in amateur radio shall be eligible for membership. Actual membership shall be recommended by the President and approved by the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall keep a list of current members.

ARTICLE II--BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors of this club shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and additional Directors, as appropriate.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall be licensed Radio Amateurs.

Section 3: The President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected for terms of one year by ballot of the members present at the first regular meeting of September in each year.

Section 4: The newly elected officers, at the beginning of their term shall appoint additional members to the Board of Directors, as necessary.

Section 5: Board of Director appointment shall fill vacancies occurring during a term.

Section 6: Board of Director members may be removed from office by a majority vote of the total membership.

Section 7: A quorum of the Board of Directors is a majority of its members.

ARTICLE III --DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors shall:

1. Appoint needed committees;
2. Facilitate the business of the club in order to minimize the club meeting time spent on business affairs;
3. Maintain full communication with the general membership, including monthly reports by the secretary and treasurer at regular meetings;
4. Promote and arrange for activities of general interest;
5. Be empowered to utilize up to 25% of the club treasury in the performance of its duties between any two consecutive regular meetings, and report that action at the next regular meeting of the club;
6. Perform a yearly audit on all financial records, and report the results of the audit promptly by mail to current members.

ARTICLE IV --REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings will be held at times decided by a vote of the Board of Directors. Special meetings may be called by the President. Ten members in attendance shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Robert's Rules of Order shall govern proceedings of the club. The attendance roster will be appended to the meeting minutes.

ARTICLE V -- DUES

The club shall establish membership dues and assessments by majority vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

ARTICLE VI--AMENDMENTS

The Bylaws of the club may be amended by a two thirds vote of the members present at a meeting. Proposals for amendments must be submitted in writing at a regular meeting. Notification regarding a proposed amendment shall be mailed to all members with normally adequate delivery time before the meeting for action on it.

AS ENACTED 5-6-99

CLUB MEETING: 7:30 P.M. THURSDAY AUGUST 5TH

LOCATION: BIG RAPIDS PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, 435 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE IN BIG RAPIDS.

TOM VANDERMEL, KB8VEE THE ARRL DISTRICT 6 EMERGENCY COORDINATOR WILL SPEAK TO CLUB MEMBERS ON THE SUBJECTS OF ARES, RACES AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS. HE IS TAKING HIS OWN TIME TO DRIVE FROM FRUITPORT TO PRESENT THIS PROGRAM SO LETS ALL MAKE A



POINT OF BEING AT THE MEETING TO WELCOME HIM AND TO HEAR AN IN DEPTH TALK ON THESE IMPORTANT SUBJECTS.

THIS MEETING IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT BECAUSE NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS FOR THE UPCOMING FISCAL CLUB YEAR WILL BE ON HAND. YOU MAY DECLARE YOUR DECISION TO RUN FOR AN OFFICE OR IF YOU CHOOSE TO NOMINATE SOMEONE, MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ASKED THEIR PERMISSION BEFORE DOING SO.

ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING SO PUT THAT MEETING ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW; THAT WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 2ND.

HAMFEST: GRAND RAPIDS AREA HAMFEST. GRAND RAPIDS, MI. SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 11TH AT FOREST HILLS NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL. LOCATION: 3801 LEONARD NE, CLOSE TO THE EXPRESSWAY AND EAST BELTLINE. TALK-IN 147.26+ AND 94.8Hz OR 146.52 SIMPLEX. INFORMATION ON

<http://www.w8dc.org./swap.htm>

MICHIGANDER BIKE TOUR COMES TO BIG RAPIDS

What could possibly

happen when a thousand people riding bicycles come to Big Rapids? The answer: Obviously a lot. And that is where our club comes in. The Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club provided communications and more to the Michigander Bike Tour during the weekend of July 17th and 18th, 2004. Our team of amateur operators was on the air and on the trail.

Starting in Evart on Saturday morning, the group of 500 bicycle riders followed the Pere Marquette Trail as it wound its way to Reed City. Bob Croaker, WB8YPG, was there during this first stage to provide whatever help was needed. Luckily, nothing more serious than a nasty spill

was reported to our Net Control Station, being staffed by Tom Behler, KB8TYJ, Sue Behler, KC8IFP, and Don Macconel, WA4FRJ, at the Big Rapids Middle School. From Reed City the cyclists turned south onto the White Pine Trail and headed for the day's destination in Big Rapids. Gary Atteberry, WB8WIA, provided assistance in the Reed City area. Just ask Gary about his favorite flavor of yogurt- I'm sure you'll get an interesting answer. Further along the trail, at the Paris Fish Hatchery, Mike Foster, KC8PZA, and his family caught up with the riders. Thanks to our loyal hams, we were able to deal with anything that came along. We were there into the evening making sure the needs of the riders were met as they straggled into camp at the Middle School. Photo at left: left, Don Macconel, seated is Tom Behler, center, Gary Atteberry and right, Mike Foster ready to start the day.



One story is worth retelling here. Our Control Station received word from the mobile net control that a cyclist had an unusual need. It seems the gentleman decided to take a dip in the Muskegon River at the end of the long, hot ride. Fortunately, he came out of the river at the end of his swim. Unfortunately, his glasses did not. This particular cyclist had traveled with his family in a large recreational vehicle, towing a trailer of wave runners, and was now unable to

see to drive. As luck would have it, no one else in his party was able to drive the RV. Where do you get glasses for an out-of-town visitor on a Saturday evening? The answer is a good Samaritan. A call to Dr. Fred Nista was all it took. Not only was Dr. Nista willing to prescribe and supply contact lenses for this man, he also drove to the Middle School in a heavy downpour and picked the man up. An hour later the man was returned to

the Middle School, seeing quite clearly again, and very grateful to the people of Big Rapids. If you see Dr. Nista, please tell him thanks. Yep, you heard it hear folks. There are still lots of good people in this world.

On Sunday an additional 500 riders joined the initial group. With the ranks now swelled to over a thousand, the staging area was full of bikes and anxious people. Note the "tent city" in the photo Sunday took them back up the White Pine Trail to Reed into two. Some riders turned east to return to their starting their fun weekend. The rest of the riders turned northwest Cadillac in order to complete the first leg of their 6 day riders would find themselves at Mackinaw City by Friday. for our ham operators on Sunday. Tom and Sue were found himself at Reed City once again, and Bob was in continued with the group north of Reed City. Kathy Leroy, while Mike went bicycle mobile and then did a great riders.

The organizers of the Michigander Bike Tour were and assistance. They were happy to know we were there Don Macconnel, WA4FRJ, Mike Foster KC8PZA, Kathy WB8YPG, Gary Atteberry WB8WIA, Tom Behler KB8TYJ, volunteered during the two day event. What a successful radio operators.



at right. Their journey on City. Here the large group split point at Evert and the end of and headed up the trail to journey. Ultimately, this group of New assignments were in place stationed at the Paris Park. Gary Evert. Mike and Kathy Foster monitored at the rest area in job with transporting injured or ill

very appreciative of our flexibility when needed. Thanks again to Foster KC8RBS, Bob Croaker and Sue Behler KC8IFP who weekend for cyclists and ham

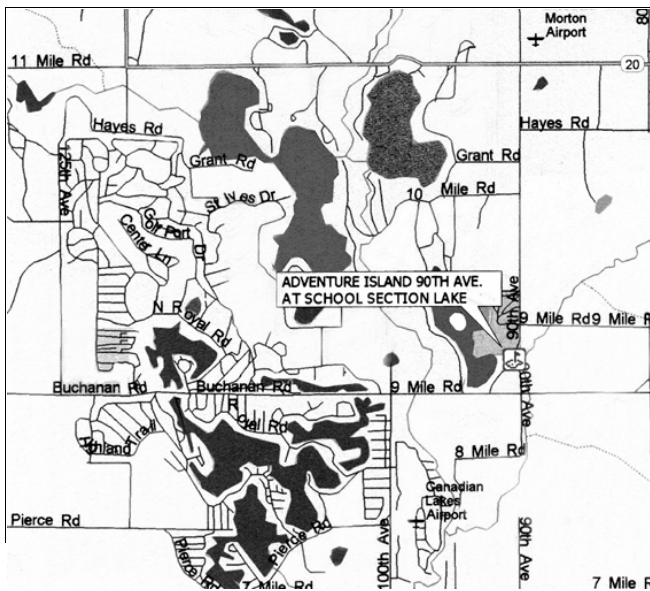
ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC PLANNED FOR AUGUST 29, 2004 AT ADVENTURE ISLAND

Russ Brittain, AB8TA will again be host of this year's club picnic which will be held at the site of his Scoops Restaurant and Adventure Island located just south of the entrance to the School Section Lake Campgrounds in the

Canadian Lakes area. That's exactly at 8701 90th Avenue. The festivities and pot luck will begin at 1 p.m. so bring a dish to pass, your own table service and a beverage: no alcoholic beverages please.

Our host has a large grill on which will be cooked hot dogs and hamburgers for everyone. If you have special diet needs but would like something else grilled, Russ advises that you bring it along and it can be put on the grill for you. There will be

picnic tables available in a shaded area for all. In case of rain we can move inside. Russ' Adventure Island also includes an exceptional and lavish miniature golf course that you really should see even if you cannot make this event! It is complete with scenic waterfalls and with pools surrounding the greens.

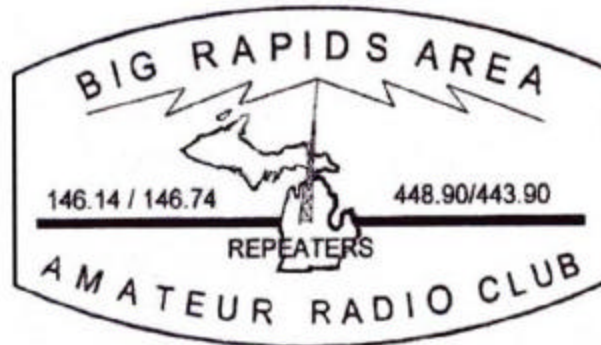


It will be available for all to enjoy so bring the children and grandchildren. Cost to play is \$4.75 each for 18 holes with all proceeds going to the BRAARC treasury.

To arrive there follow the map above from wherever you may be starting out. If you need additional directions, a call-in station will be operating on the Big Rapids 2-meter 146.740 repeater.



FIELD DAY REPORT INSIDE



P.O. BOX 343, PARIS, MI 49338