

BIG RAPIDS AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2004 OCTOBER

ASK AND YOU SHALL RECEIVE

In the last Newsletter I asked if anyone could tell me how to print a zero with a slash through it. That turned up not one but three ways to accomplish it. Past President Tim Stoecklein, KCØMDC says to simply hold down the ALT key and type the numbers 0216 on the KEY PAD and you have Ø. I tried this on the keyboard row of numbers without success so you really need to do it on the keypad.

Another answer came from Rich Hawley, KL7WI hold down the CONTROL KEY and then hit the SLASH KEY. Let go of the CONTROL KEY and hit the CAPITAL LETTER O (not the number 0). That works well too.

A third answer came from Yens Rick, KC8OIV in an eyeball chat at the Meijer Store. Open INSERT on Word for Windows. Hit SYMBOL and then in the lower part of the SYMBOL BOX make sure you are in ASKII (decimal). In the upper part of the symbol box is SUBSET. In this, choose LATIN 1. Choose character code number 216 which is the Ø. Note that this is close to the same number used by Tim in his account. However if you try to eliminate the zero when using Tim's method, you will get this +.

Incidentally Yens uses this symbol which is a Finish alphabet letter when he writes to his friends in Finland. Cool, eh?

THE NEXT MONTHLY BREAKFAST: NOTE THIS CHANGE IN DATE FROM THE LAST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH TO SATURDAY OCTOBER 2ND! WE WILL MEET AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE MAIN JUNCTION RESTAURANT ON THE SOUTH EAST CORNER OF M66 AND US 10 EAST OF REED CITY. THIS IS ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE HUGE FLEA MARKET THAT OPERATES MOST SUMMER SATURDAYS BUT I DON'T KNOW IF THEY WILL BE OPEN THAT DAY.

AMATEUR RADIO.....

A NATIONAL RESOURCE.....

JOIN ARES AND/OR RACES NOW!

CLUB MEETING AND ELECTION RESULTS

The focus of the September club meeting was on the annual club elections of officers. The Nominating Committee reported on the slate of candidates and a request for additional nominations from the floor did not turn up any other candidates. Therefore the list of candidates was as reported in them August/September Newsletter. Paper ballots were passed out to those members present and the counted. Those elected were President, Don MacConnel, WA4FRJ; Vice President, Matthew Trombley, Kc8vj; Treasurer, Sue Behler, KC8IFP and Secretary, Jim Orlowski, N8PUG.

Before the meeting ended, Jerry Hemmye, KC8AW submitted a copy of a proposed amendment to the club Bylaws. You may remember that a copy of the Bylaws was printed in its entirety in the July/August issue of the Newsletter. The text of that proposed change is printed in this newsletter along with a rebuttal and alternate proposal by Sue Behler, KC8IFP and Tom Behler, KB8TYJ. These will be voted on at the October/November meeting. You may choose one of those choices or simply vote for no change.

BYLAWS COMMENTARY

BY JERRY HEMMYE, KC8AW

Recent events in club operations have drawn attention to a minor defect in the bylaws. T. W. Curry, a retired lead corporate lawyer made some interesting observations.

Corporations are supposedly democratic organizations usually operated by representation of the owners (stock holders) through a board of directors. Because it is impossible to meet frequently, much of the decision making is done by an elected board of directors who are therefore given extensive powers.

Our club is relatively small, meets at least once each month so that it is extremely rare that a major decision can not wait until a regular meeting. We have, none-the-less, given them considerable power to take action. The flaw in the scheme is that the decision making process is in the hands of appointed board members who were not democratically elected!

From a practical point of view, as the BOD has grown in size it has become unwieldy, and because the minutes do not report individual accountability the removal method of specific board members as stated is of little value.

The proposed amendment in effect reduces the voting on the BOG to the four elected officials, and only in the case of a tie vote will the immediate past president have a vote. All other members of the board are to be non-voting members, serving in an advisory capacity, appointed by the current executives. This proposed amendment involves ARTICLE II— BOARD OF DIRECTORS, which is shown in its modified form below. You may compare it with current bylaws.

Section 1: The voting members of the Board of Directors of this club shall consist of the President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and the immediate past President who may vote only to break a tie vote.

Section 2: unchanged

Section 3: unchanged

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

Section 5: Elected members of the Board of Directors will call a special election to fill any vacancies occurring during a term.

Section 6: unchanged

Section 7: A quorum of the Board of Directors is a majority of the elected, voting members

A REBUTTAL AND PROPOSED AMENDMENT TOM, KB8TYJ AND SUE BEHLER, KC8IFP

A proposal has been made by Jerry Hemmye to amend our Bylaws. The proposal stems from a belief that our system of governance and decision-making is undemocratic. We disagree. The Board members who are making the decisions for this club are CLUB MEMBERS. WE govern OURSELVES. We are MEMBERS of a voluntary organization. Anyone who wishes to be on a committee can be; and anyone who wishes to be a committee chairperson can be. Anyone can attend a Board meeting. If you want to be involved and have a say you can. The reason we separated the Board meeting from the General meeting was to make the General meeting shorter and more enjoyable. Having a separate, monthly Board meeting also guarantees the timely review and completion of club business.

Although we feel the amendment by Jerry Hemmye is incorrect and unnecessary, we do recognize the merit in different opinions. If it is the consensus of this club that our Bylaws need to be altered, we propose the following amendment instead of the one proposed by Jerry.

Current Bylaw, Article II, Section 4:

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

CHANGE TO BYLAW, ARTICLE II, SECTION 4, proposed by Tom and Sue Behler:

Additional members of the Board of Directors shall be elected for terms of one year by ballot of the members present at the first regular meeting of October in each year.

This amendment should alleviate any concerns about unelected members making Board decisions. It should also take into consideration the question as to longevity on the Board. Member of the Board of Directors would serve a one-year term just like officers.

Again, WE FEEL THIS AMENDMENT IS UNNECESSARY. However, if the club feels that an amendment is necessary, we propose the acceptance of this amendment.

ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC A SUCCESS SUE BEHLER, KC8IFP

The skies may not have been blue, but the mood was a happy one when 38 club members, family, and friends met for the Annual Club Picnic. Sunday, August 29, 2004 turned out to be a cloudy, breezy, cool day – just fine for our picnic. The sun did manage to break through later in the afternoon when many were enjoying the miniature golf course.

Russ Brittain again was an excellent host. This year he had hamburgers and corn on the cob, which he grilled to perfection. Two whole tables were full of delicious dishes to share. Meatballs, baked beans, macaroni and cheese, salads, meatloaf, fruit and vegetables, along with a wide assortment of yummy desserts tempted the picnic goers. There was plenty for everyone, including a number of visitors. Three hams from the Mt. Pleasant area joined us in the festivities. Another local gentleman who had been listening to our repeater with his scanner decided to come and put some faces to the voices he'd been hearing. Conversation and laughter could be heard throughout the afternoon.

After enjoying the delicious food, many tried their hand at a round of golf. Russ made sure everyone knew that the proceeds of the golf games would go to the club treasurer. When all was said and done, \$135.00 was the day's donation. Super fundraiser, Russ! Thank you for all your hard work and effort on behalf of our club. We're looking forward to next year and another great time together.

PHOTOS ON THE NEXT PAGE



Jerry Buskirk and Russ Brittain man the grill
Cathy Foster, Bill Stankey, and Sharon and



Bob Moody await the beginning of the meal



Billie Jo Strauss, Karen and Dale Colby, Pat
Pennock, and Phil Tighe enjoy the meal



Matthew Trombley, Jodi Harper and Tom Behler
enjoy their meal



The grandkids keep Marla Buskirk busy



The Foster family enjoys miniature golf

Due to low net participation over the past few months, our Monday evening CW practice net will be put on hold until the beginning of our next amateur license class.

OLABOR DAY DEMONSTRATION Sue Behler KC8IFP PIO

Practicing emergency setups is always a good idea. When that emergency setup can be accomplished in the middle of a Labor Day Arts and Crafts Fair you have the added benefit of demonstrating in front of 20,000 people. Such was the case of our Labor Day Demonstration on Monday, September 6, 2004. Our President, Don MacConnel, WA4FRJ worked to secure the perfect location for our demonstration. We were located in the middle of the Hemlock Park Pavilion, close to an electrical source, and right in the path of the milling participants and shoppers. Thanks Don, for your diligence in securing that great spot.

After a delicious early morning breakfast, Tom Behler KB8TYJ, Sue Behler KC8IFP, Matthew Trombley KC8VJR, Mike Foster KC8PZA, Cathy Foster KC8RBS, and their children Mikey and Tricia, headed over to the location at Hemlock Park. They were met at the location by Thom Durfee WI8W, Don MacConnel WA4FRJ, and Jerry Buskirk, KC8CII. Radio and antenna setup took little time. A G5RV was hoisted on a mast, lashed to the corner of the pavilion, and the ends were tied off in two nearby trees. Tom KB8TYJ quickly set up the ICOM 718 and was able to operate SSB and CW on 20 and 40 meters.

It wasn't long before the Club special event call sign of N8OE was heard on the airwaves. Tom KB8TYJ made 65 contacts in all during the 6 hours of operation. Of course, the main purpose of the event was not to make contacts – but rather to entice some of those 20,000 people to stop and learn more about amateur radio. We were somewhat successful in this effort. As with anything in life – you learn best from doing. And we learned what we would like to do differently next year. Our Club banner, and the beautiful wooden club sign were not enough to let people know what we were up to. We need to more actively pull people in and let them participate in our demonstration. Perhaps a balloon giveaway, or fundraiser item would draw more attention. No doubt, we will be discussing this issue before it comes along again next year.

Two other club members, John McDowell, KC8BAR and Jim Orlowski, N8PUG also participated in the event and helped log contacts. A special thanks to Mike Foster, KC8PZA for taking on the planning and coordination of the event. Mike surveyed the area earlier in the week and provided much of the manpower, muscle, and equipment to make the day a success. Great job, Mike, and all amateurs who volunteered your time!



Our club banner helped identify our Amateur Radio Demonstration.



Our setup under the pavilion. Tom Behler, KB8TYJ operates the ICOM 718 while Jerry Buskirk, KC8CII logs. Matthew Trombley KC8VJR is supervising in the background.

CONSTRUCTION DAY 2004

Saturday, September 18th was the day set for our recent construction event. Last month's newsletter described the Anderson power pole connections that would be the main item to be constructed on this day. That is just what a number of our club members did. Eleven of our club members showed up on Saturday morning to work with power supply cords and solder the needed connections to make the power pole. A lot of hard work on the part of Thom Durfee W18W made this possible. A soldering station with three different soldering irons was set up and the supplies were distributed. Then the group got to work. As always, a great time was had by all. Doughnuts were eaten, coffee and pop were available, and friends got together to help each other and to further the hobby of Amateur Radio. Thanks to Don MacConnel for securing the Masonic Lodge for the event. A big thanks to Thom Durfee for the idea, for the supply order, and for his manpower and guidance during construction. What a great time we all had.



Left, Thom Durfee W18W, George Rouman W8OWN, and Gordon Trute KC8WFX discuss the power pole configuration.



Right, Tom KB8TYJ and George W8OWN discuss the ICOM connector

Left, Bob Croaker WB8YPG and Walt Nalezty WB8GAO work on stripping wires and adding terminals.



Right, Don WA4FRJ works with his power pole supplies.

MORE PHOTOS FOLLOW:





Left, Jim Orlowski N8PUG and his son Adam look over their equipment and power pole connectors



Right, Walt WB8GAO, Bob WB8YPG, and Thom WI8W at work at the soldering station.



. Left, Thom WI8W works on soldering Tom Behler KB8TYJ's connectors.



Right, John McDowell KC8BAR and Don MacConnel WA4FRJ share a smile and a good time during the event.

AND NOW A NOTE OF THANKS FOR THE SUPER CONSTRUCTION DAY PROJECT:

As your new club President, I want to thank Thom Durfee and Sue Behler for making our power pole construction day event a wonderful success. Thom thought up and organized the event and made certain that we had the proper, heavy duty soldering tools available. He not only demonstrated how to assemble the connectors but did a fine job of soldering a number of them. Sue ordered and inventoried the connectors, sold the kits, took care of the refreshments and even took pictures. We couldn't have done it without this fine team.

Thank you folks, you are great!

Don Maconnel WA4FRJ

POWER POLES ARE AVAILABLE AT VERY REASONABLE COST FROM THE CLUB SUPPLY. CONTACT TREASURER SUE BEHLER, KC8IFP.

THE NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY 7:30 P.M. OCTOBER 7TH AT THE BIG RAPIDS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING, 435 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE IN BIG RAPIDS. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS AT 6:30 P.M. A VOTE WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON AMENDMENTS TO THE CLUB BYLAWS. PLEASE ATTEND TO CAST YOUR VOTE.

PROGRAM: THOM DURFEE, WI8W ASKS THAT YOU BRING IN SOME OF YOUR QSL CARDS FOR A "SHOW AND TELL" SESSION. PICK OUT CARDS FOR THEIR LOOKS, AGE, RARITY OR BECAUSE OF THE STORIES BEHIND THEM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A REMINDER: THE ARES NET WILL NOW MEET ON THE 2 METER REPEATER ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH.

AN EMERGENCY SET EXERCISE- IS BEING PLANNED FOR SATURDAY OCTOBER 2, 2004. IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON THAT DATE, PLEASE MONITOR THE 2 METER REPEATER AT APPROXIMATELY 10 A.M. TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS IMPORTANT EVENT. MORE INFORMATION WILL BE GIVEN ON THE CLUB NETS AS SOON AS THE DETAILS ARE KNOWN.



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PROPOSED BYLAW CHANGES INSIDE!

