

# BIG RAPIDS AREA

September 2006

# AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



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## NEW RACES REQUIREMENTS

Remember that the new RACES requirements go into effect on October 1. By then, all RACES applicants should have taken and passed IS700 and IS100. By October 1 of 2007, RACES members will also be required to have taken and passed the IS200 and IS800 FEMA courses.

What's more, new RACES cards are now being issued. In order to qualify for a new card, you must at least have done IS700 and IS100, and should be working to complete IS200 and IS800 as well. In addition, new RACES cards will not be given out until the applicant has successfully undergone an updated criminal background check. (see your County EC for the background check authorization form). Getting a new RACES card asap is essential, since the old cards will expire at the end of this year--i.e. December 31, 2006.

## SET EXERCISE 2006

This year's Michigan ARRL section SET exercise will occur on Saturday: October 7 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. In the weeks to come, I'll be looking for volunteers to help with various aspects of the exercise. Since one of our goals will likely be testing the functioning and inter-operability of both the Mecosta and Osceola County EOC set-ups, we'll need several people to be available on that day. We'll need people to possibly monitor frequencies or even pass messages from their homes to the EOC's, and we'll need folks at each EOC facility.

We will discuss the SET exercise on this Wednesday's ARES/RACES net at 9 p.m. on our local 2-meter repeater. I'd like some thoughts from the group as to what you'd like to see attempted during the exercise, and I'd like some volunteers to help put the exercise together as well.

After the ARES/RACES net, I may want to hold a more structured planning meeting for the SET, probably toward the end of September. Any help in all of this would be appreciated. Our upcoming SET exercise on Saturday: October 7 will be held at the Osceola County EOC.

Thanks, and 73 from Tom Behler: KB8TYJ,  
Mecosta County EC/RO

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## CLUB NETS

440 NET Sundays at 7:30 PM

### 2 Meter Net Tuesdays at 9:00 PM

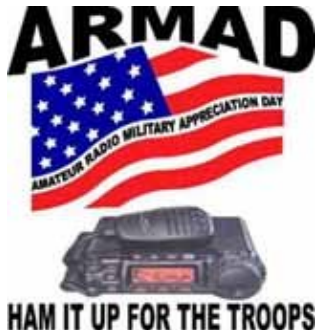
ARES/RACES Net 2nd and 4th Wednesday at  
9:00 PM on the 2 Meter repeater.

If you want to be the net control station, for 2 meter or 440 nets, contact Tom Behler KB8TYJ  
email: [kb8tyj@arrl.net](mailto:kb8tyj@arrl.net) or phone 231-592-9854

There is a new 440 repeater in the area. It is located in White Cloud, The frequency is 444.975 With a +offset. eventually it will have a pl of 94.8. It is owned and maintained by KB8IFE, Jim Maike.

The next Club Breakfast will be at  
Chuck wagon in Reed City  
September 30 Saturday at 0830

## Info for us Hams



[www.armac.net](http://www.armac.net)



<http://www.asc.army.mil/mars/>

MARS is a Department of Defense sponsored program, established as a separately managed and operated program by the [Army](#), [Navy](#), and [Air Force](#). The program consists of licensed amateur radio operators who are interested in military communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications.

MARS has a long and proud [history](#) of providing world-wide auxiliary emergency communications during times of need. The combined three service MARS programs (Army, Air Force, and Navy-Marine Corps) volunteer force of over 5,000 dedicated and skilled amateur radio operators is the backbone of the MARS program. The [benefit](#) of MARS membership is enjoying an amateur radio hobby through the ever-expanding horizon of MARS. Our affiliate members' continued unselfish support of our [mission](#) keeps Army MARS Proud, Professional, and Ready.

### September Meeting Minutes by Jim Orlowski N8PUG

Meeting called to order by Sue KC8IFP at 7:03 pm,

At the BRPS Conference Room. Guests: Shane Willholt KD8EAW, From Howard City, And Dave Fowler Undersheriff of Osceola Co. Mr. Fowler spoke to the Club about A non profit group he is starting called cops helping Cops. To learn more about this group you can go to [copshelpingcops.com](http://copshelpingcops.com).

Secretary's report was read by Jim N8PUG and approved.

Treasurers Report was given By John KC8BAR and approved.

Election of club officers was held: President BoB Moody AB8NC, Vice President Kevin Streiter KC8ZRT, Secretary Michael McKay and treasurer Sue Behler Kc8IFP.

Program was by Tom Bray WB8COX on the D Star digital repeater system.

50/50 winner was Tom BrayWB8COX.

Next club breakfast september 30th at the chuckwagon in Reed City.

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm.

## BRAARC CLUB PIN SALE

The picture of my pin shows you the detail. The cost for the pin is \$6.00 plus any donation you might want to make to the club. This is a ONE TIME offer which must be ordered by the October 5<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Please place your order at either the September or October club meeting OR by calling Sue Behler, 592-9854. All pins must be paid for before the order is placed. You will need to stipulate whether you want first name only, last name and first name, and your call sign. Also indicate which type of back you prefer - strong magnet, standard pin, or collar clip on style. The pin is approximately a 2 inch square. Once this order is placed, we will not order pins again until next year. So get them while you can.



### Board of Directors List

Bob Moody AB8NC President

[drwmoody@juno.com](mailto:drwmoody@juno.com)

Kevin Streiter KC8ZRT Vice President

[stri13@fsuimail.ferris.edu](mailto:stri13@fsuimail.ferris.edu)

Michael McKay KD8DIB Secretary

[michaelMcKay@ferris.edu](mailto:michaelMcKay@ferris.edu)

Sue Behler KC8IFP Treasurer and  
Publicity Committee Chair

[suebehler@yahoo.com](mailto:suebehler@yahoo.com)

Tom Behler - past president,  
EC/RO Mecosta County

[kb8tyj@arrl.net](mailto:kb8tyj@arrl.net)

Gary Atteberry- past president,  
EC/RO Osceola County

[c\\_gatteberry@charter.net](mailto:c_gatteberry@charter.net)

Bev Callewaert Emergency  
Committee Chair

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Fritz Pins, Past president,  
Repeater Committee Chair

[fpins@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpins@sbcglobal.net)

George Rouman, Past president

[w8own@arrl.net](mailto:w8own@arrl.net)

Don MacConnel Past president

[don@omnitrack.com](mailto:don@omnitrack.com)

Jake Spence Webmaster

[jakeaspence@charter.net](mailto:jakeaspence@charter.net)



# A Note From The President & September 2006

In the last newsletter our past president, Sue Behler said her goodbyes in writing her last notes. She effectively passed the baton on to a new person. I am not sure that I can fulfill the role as well as others have done in the past.

First, I want to say a hearty thank you to the officers who served for the past year. We have almost an entire new slate of officers for the coming year. The only holdover is our Vice President, Kevin Streiter, KC8ZRT. Well Sue, KC8IFP is sort of a holdover. She is our Treasurer again replacing John McDowell, KC8BAR. Mike McKay, KD8DIB is our new Secretary, replacing Jim Orłowski, N8PUG. The past officers did a terrific job of leading the club. We need to applaud them for their great jobs. When you see them next time, say “thank you.”

I am looking forward to the coming year. I have missed so much activity with the club for the past year or so because of working second shift. I am hoping to be able to be involved in more activities with the club and in other things. I ask for your help in leading this club because I need it. It is an awesome task to lead such a great group of people as we have in our club. I look forward to the ham radio portion of our activities as well as the eating of which we are so famous.

If you have any ideas for activities and programs for the club meetings please let me or Kevin know about them. We are always looking for those ideas of which you are interested and programs you would like to have. My friends enjoy our hobby.

73's

Bob Moody, AB8NC

## BRAARC Club Net Preamble

This is \_\_\_\_\_ requesting the use of the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club repeater for the purpose of operating a communication net for all appropriately licensed amateur radio operators in the repeater area in West Michigan.

This net operates every \_\_\_\_\_ evening at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. for the purposes of fellowship, passing on club news, and items of interest to the amateur radio community. This is a directed net, with all calls being directed to the net operator, unless instructed otherwise.

Is there anyone listening who needs to use the repeater for another purpose, such as auto-patch or priority traffic? If so, please feel free to do so at this time. This is \_\_\_\_\_ net control.

Hearing no response, this is \_\_\_\_\_, the name is \_\_\_\_\_, and I'll be serving as your net control operator for this evening's net. To begin the net, let me ask if there are any mobile check-ins, or others who need to check in and out quickly because of time constraints? When you do check in, please give your call-sign twice, slowly and clearly, second time phonetically, and please also give your first name.

(As net control, list the calls you have received. Ask if there are any corrections to the list of mobile and/or short-time check-ins? )

Now, we'll move to regular check-ins. If you'd like to join us as a regular check-in, please call \_\_\_\_\_.

(As net control, give list of regular check-ins received. Ask for announcements and/or topic ideas for the net. Follow this with Q and A segment—Any questions about the club, amateur radio-related issues or technical concerns, etc.? Check for additional check-ins approximately every 15 minutes after you've started down the list.)

( Re-announce the announcements, or at least state that if anyone has questions on announcements, you will help out as best as you can.)

(Conclude the net as follows:) I'd like to thank everyone for checking into this evening's net. We had a total of \_\_\_\_\_ check-ins, \_\_\_\_\_ participants including myself as net control.

(Sign off with:) At this time, I will return this repeater to its normal operation. This is \_\_\_\_\_ clear of repeater net operations. 73 and good evening.

### REMINDER FOR PHONE AUTO PATCH

**To make phone call, announce that you are using the repeater for a phone patch.  
Then send \* 796555 and at end # to hang up.**

**For emergency calls use \*911**

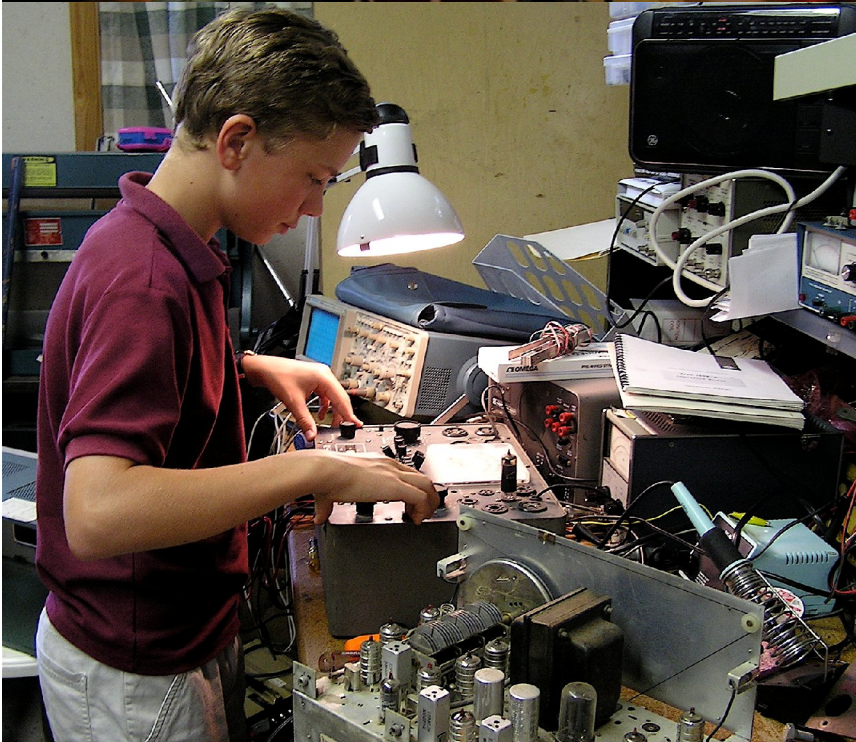


**Checkerboard  
Breakfast 2nd September**

Phil Marcotte  
David Huhtala  
George Rouman  
Helen Rouman  
Bob Moody  
Sharon Moody  
Elizabeth Stankey



Steve Cowan  
Mrs. Cowan  
Pat Pennock  
Phil Tighe



**Here' an unusal picture.**

David Huhtala KC8WGA working on a 14 tube VHF receiver that he got at the IRA swap.

He's making goo progress and having a lot of fun.



## LEAGUE PLEDGES TO PURSUE BPL INTERFERENCE COMPLAINTS, MULLING APPEAL

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 22, 2006 -- The League has vowed to maintain pressure on FCC to act on complaints of broadband over power line (BPL) interference to Amateur Radio. The FCC's unanimous adoption August 3 of a *Memorandum Opinion MO&O*) in response to 15 petitions for reconsideration of the Commission's BPL

rules triggered the ARRL response. The *MO&O* goes into effect today.

"We will aggressively pursue enforcement in BPL interference cases," promised ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Those deploying BPL systems that cause harmful interference to Amateur Radio will regret it." An ARRL delegation met with FCC Enforcement Bureau and Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) staffers August 16 to discuss the Commission's response to BPL interference complaints.

The *MO&O* denied most requests that the FCC reconsider portions of its October 2004 *Order* adopting rules to govern BPL systems. Several petitions -- including [one from ARRL](#) -- called on the Commission to strengthen rules aimed at protecting licensed radio systems from BPL interference. Instead, in a new rule revealed when the FCC made the *MO&O* public, the FCC drew a line in the sand regarding how much interference protection *mobile* operators deserve from BPL systems.

§15.611(c)(1)(iii) provides that BPL operators do not have to reduce emission levels below established FCC permissible limits by any more than 20 dB below 30 MHz and 10 dB above 30 MHz to resolve harmful interference complaints. The FCC called these levels "modestly above the noise level."

ARRL Laboratory Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI, points out these levels would be some 25 dB higher than the *median* values for man-made noise in residential areas and up to 40 dB higher than the minimum values hams use for reliable communication. The new rule does not apply to fixed stations.

"Egregious" was the word Sumner used to describe the action in his "It Seems to Us" editorial appearing in October *QST*. "Simply stated, this new rule is intolerable, and we do not accept it," Sumner wrote. "It is contrary to the FCC's obligations under the international Radio Regulations as well as the Communications Act, to protect radiocommunication services from harmful interference." The FCC "has no authority to define away these obligations," Sumner stressed in his editorial. "Harmful interference is harmful interference."

Supported by Aeronautical Radio Inc (ARINC), the ARRL had wanted the FCC to apply a 20 dB per decade extrapolation factor to measurements taken at 30 MHz and lower. The *Order* also turned down requests by licensed users, including Amateur Radio operators, to exclude the use certain frequencies for BPL operations.

The League is weighing the possibility of a judicial appeal of the FCC's action to adopt the *MO&O*.

The Commission denied a BPL industry request to extend the effective date to meet equipment certification requirements, but it did give BPL systems another year to continue installing or replacing equipment that otherwise meets the Part 15 rules in present coverage areas.

The *MO&O* also denied the BPL industry's request to drop the 30-day advance notification requirement for the public BPL database. The advance notification rule is aimed at alerting licensed spectrum to new BPL deployments in their areas before operations begin.

**BRAARC Web Site**

The secure web page for members only is [bigrapidsarc.net](http://bigrapidsarc.net)

Jake Spence in the new Webmaster for our web page.

. You may use this page to view/read/print future newsletters online. This will have color pictures and will be easy to read. Your user name will be your call sign. Please send Jake Spence KI8CK, the password that you want to use so that he can add you to the list. Contact him at :  
[jakeaspence@charter.net](mailto:jakeaspence@charter.net)

Those who no longer wish to receive a paper copy should let the Editor know and provide him with an email address so he can send out a reminder when the newsletter is posted to the website.

Contact Gordon at :  
[gordon-kc8wfx@usa.net](mailto:gordon-kc8wfx@usa.net)

**Hamfests Michigan -****Kalamazoo Hamfest 8 October**

Kalamazoo County Fair Grounds. "Exhibition Hall E"  
2900 Lake Street

<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com/>

**Talk-In:** 147.640/147.040 (PL 94.8)

Contact: Jim Simons, N8IJH

**Great Lakeshore Super Swap 21 October**

Holland, MI

Harbor Lights South Campus 3600 152nd Avenue

<http://www.hollandarc.org>

**Talk-In:** 147.060 (PL 94.8)

Contact: Sue Seidelman, KC8RQS

Email: [swap@hollandarc.org](mailto:swap@hollandarc.org)

**Next BRAARC monthly meeting**

**Thursday October 5 at 7 p.m.**

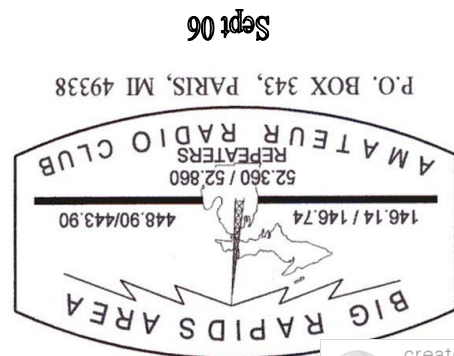
**In the classroom of the  
Department Of Public Safety  
building 435 North Michigan  
Ave in down town Big Rapids.**



**ARES/RACES Training** – go to <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWep/IS/is22.asp>

**Next Emergency committee meeting 9 November 2006.**

**HF test net – This is statewide, on the 2nd Tuesday each month at 7pm on 3.932 MHZ on LSB.**



Sept 06

P.O. BOX 343, PARIS, MI 49338