

Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

November 2007

PO Box 343 Paris MI 49338 Pres. Tom Bray Web Page: www.braarc.net Editor: Phil - phildolly@power-net.net

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Updated Club Announcements

1. Important upcoming events:

A. Next BRAARC club breakfast Saturday: October 27 at 8:30 a.m. at Sharon's (formerly Seasons) in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

B. November **BRAARC** monthly club meeting Thursday: November 1 at 7 p.m. at the Big Rapids Department Of Public Safety Building, located at 435 N. Michigan in Big Rapids. Program will be presented by Bill Kelso, N8NJA, and will involve a discussion of what it takes to put on a club ham fest.

C. Proposed BRAARC club Fall "pot luck" Saturday: November 3 at 4 p.m.—Location to be announced. Stay tuned to future nets for further details.

D. Next Emergency Committee meeting Thursday: November 8 at 7 p.m. at the Osceola County EOC.

2. Club nets:

A. 440 general net on 443.900 repeater Sunday evenings at 7:30 p.m.—to be resumed when 440 repeater is back in service.

B. 2-meter general net on 146.74 repeater Tuesday evenings at 9 p.m.

C. Local digital training/forum net on 146.74 2-meter repeater the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 8 p.m. (packet frequency to be used is 145.090).

D. Local **ARES/RACES** net on 146.74 2-meter repeater the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 9 p.m.

3. If you would like to serve as net control for one or more of the BRAARC club nets, contact Tom Behler: KB8TYJ).

4. A **BRAARC** e-mail listserve or users group has been established for all BRAARC members to use as a forum for exchanging thoughts, ideas, questions, and any other concerns related to our club or amateur radio in general. If you'd like to join this group, please contact our club web master, Jake Spence, KI8CK. Jake will get you signed up on the list, and will give you verification that your registration has been completed and accepted.

Next Club Meeting November 1,

Program:

Bill Kelso N8NJA will be doing a presentation at the November meeting about what it takes to start a club ham swap.

A Note From the President

I decided that with the new band plan that came out this year, getting 100KHz on 80m phone was finally enough justification for taking the Extra Class exam. After essentially ignoring it for most of the year, about a week ago I decided that I was going to just take the test, and I better find at least make some time to study for it. At the Kalamazoo Hamfest, I left the very interesting DStar forum early and went off to take the test.

Taking the test hasn't been an easy decision for me. First, I hold an Advanced class license which is now the only license class left that required passing the 13WPM code test. Second, I have had my Advanced ticket for a very long time, about 37 years give or take a few months. Finally, for most of the time I have had an amateur radio license, there has been the road block of having to pass a 20WPM code test, Morse Code and I have always had a troubled relationship. The last time I took an amateur radio exam was back in 1969. Back then you had to go to the FCC field office. Cleveland was the closest place for me to go, they held tests every quarter. The day I took the test, I got to skip out of school. I rode to work with my dad and met another ham friend there.

The 2 of us hopped on to the Shaker Rapid (a trolley car system that ran from University Heights through Shaker Heights to the Terminal Tower in the center of downtown Cleveland). It was an exciting day for two teenagers on their own in a big city. We took our tests, found our way back to the suburbs that afternoon. We then waited what seem like forever until a letter arrived from the FCC. As I recall you couldn't tell from the outside if you passed or not, but inside was my new license.

This came rushing back to me while I was sitting there waiting for the VE to grade my Extra test. Watching him, I knew that there were several questions that he was marking wrong but after a bit he looked up and smiled at me. I was pretty sure I had passed.

I am excited about being an Extra, taking that test has been sitting over my head for a very long time. At the same time I feel I have left an old friend behind, my Advanced license has served me well for all these years.

Tom
WB8COX

Items For Sale:



CleggXCVR - \$60 Make offer



Kenwood TS940S 10-160 Transceiver
Asking \$400

More items on last 2 pages.

Adjourn: 8:20 pm

October 4, 2007 BRAARC Meeting Minutes by Mike McKay, KD8DIB

Call to order: 7:04 pm by Tom, WB8COX

Guests: Jim Maike Jr., KB8IFE

Secretary's report: September 2007 minutes submitted by Mike, KD8DIB and approved.

Treasurer's report: October 2007 Financial Report submitted by Sue, KC8IFP and approved.

Announcements:

- Next Club Meeting Nov 1, 2007 at Big Rapids Department of Public Safety.
- We need net controls sign up with Tom, KB8TYJ
- SET Exercise October 6, 2007 starting at 9am - monitor 2 meter repeater
- Oct 14 Kalamazoo Hamfest
- Oct 20 Holland Hamfest
- 1st & 3rd Wednesdays – Digital Net on 2 meter repeater at 8pm
- 2nd & 4th Wednesdays – ARES / RACES Net
- Email Jakeaspence@charter.net to join the Club Listserve.
- See Jerry, KC8CII on sportsman raffle - Oct 20 drawing

Old Business:

- Repeater committee meeting scheduled for Oct 16 at the Behler's home at 7pm.
- Celebrity Serve \$258 tips& pies, \$111 for food sales – thank you to those who helped.
- Crop Walk – perfect weather this year! 73 walkers, 3 dogs, and 3 children in strollers. Very smooth net this year. Invited back for 2008. 10 participants. Next year possible simplex operation or 440 use.
- Red Cross training – Bob WB8YPG to set a date with Red Cross to conduct training for a Saturday in January.

- Reported that Don, WA4FRJ is continuing to investigate purchase of HF equipment for club.

New Business:

- Possible opportunity at Bob Evans Restaurant for a club dinner with a 20% discount – Bev, WD8PFC
- FSU demo – Wednesday, Oct 24 11-5pm Contact KD8DIB to sign up to help
- Construction day at a club meeting – interest expressed by members present
- Motion to obtain Club Calls for Mecosta & FSU EOC's – approved my members present
- Pot Luck Dinner – November 3, 2007 at 4pm Location to be announced
- Saving CD – Approximate value: \$1600 Flagstar rates about 4.64% for 12 months. Motion to continue with Flagstar CD approved by membership
- Corporate registration for clubs corporate status completed.
- 4H looking for leaders to start a Ham group with the Big Rapids 4H club – Contact KD8DIB
- There were 3 mid year membership dues paid during 2007, ½ of payment will be applied to next year's dues.

Program: Repeater Coordination by Jim Maike Jr, KB8IFE – Mi Area Repeater Council
www.miarc.com

50/50 winner: Alice Nunn, K4APN

Special drawing for Repeater Guide Donated by Jim Maike Jr., KB8IFE: Sue, KC8IFP

Newsletter: Articles to Phil, KC8QOV by October 17 (phildolly@power-net.net)

Club Breakfast: Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the Sharon's restaurant at 8:30am.

Refreshments: Steve, KD8DHZ

You're Club Officers for 2008



Tom Bray, President, WB8COX



Steve Cowan, VP, KD8DHZ



Mike McKay, Secretary, KD8DIB



Sue Behler, , Treasure, KC8IFP

Report On Another Successful Crop Walk from Tom Behler: KB8TYJ

On Sunday: September 30, a number of BRAARC club members and other local hams continued our tradition of conducting a communications net for the Mecosta County Area Crop Walk, which is held every fall. The purpose of the walk is to raise funds to combat the problem of hunger in our area. Our net ran for approximately 2 hours on the 146.740 2-meter repeater, and the combined help of all net participants made the activity a real pleasure.

First, I want to thank my better half, Sue Behler (KC8IFP), for the help she provided in terms of getting necessary information from the walk organizers, and keeping tallies on the number of walkers as they passed the various check-points along the route. I also want to thank the following operators, who were stationed at the designated check-point locations:

Bill Stankey (N8MZB), George Rouman (W8OWN), Don Macconel (WA4FRJ), David Huhtala (K8TEE), Mike Harvell (KG8LX), Mike McKay (KD8DIB), Patricia McKay (KD8GGD), Jerry Buskirk (KC8CII), and Tom Bray (WB8COX).

These hams were quite noticeable in their vehicles and emergency vests, and provided ongoing counts of the walkers as they passed by their designated station locations. They also were available for possible emergency assistance to anyone who needed it.

In all, about 70 walkers participated in the event. The walkers covered all age groups, from small children to elderly adults. A few strollers and pet dogs were even thrown in for good measure.

Our group was complimented several times on our skill in handling the communications, and our presence was certainly appreciated by all those in attendance. We already have been invited back to do it all over again next year.

Thanks to everyone for a job well done. You are what this thing called ham radio is really all about.



A fine group of satisfied customers for the Club Breakfast on September 29 at Crankers in Big Rapids.

Next BRAARC club breakfast Saturday:
October 27 at 8:30 a.m. at Sharon's (formerly Seasons) in Rogers Heights. Talk-in on the 146.740 2-meter repeater for anyone needing directions.

To the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club;

I just wanted to take this time to write a short note to the club. I want to thank you for your concern and care for us during the problem time we have been going through. It is not easy to leave a place that you have served for a number of years without some hurt. The biggest anxiety is not knowing where we are going or what we are doing. But God has been good in providing a place for us to stay for a while until we can find out which direction we should be going. We will do alright and go ahead in a new direction.

I am proud of the club. You are all a great bunch of people. Every time you do a special communications project or even in the Big Boy fundraiser, you always display a professional atmosphere that reflects greatly on the club. You always do an excellent job of representing the club and ham radio.

Sharon and I will be here for the next breakfast and the next club meeting in November, then we will be gone for a while. We are going to our son's place in Nebraska and Texas until after Christmas. We should be back in the area sometime in mid-January as plans go for right now. We wish you all a good holiday season.

73's from Bob-AB8NC and Sharon-KB8SKM

Brainteaser

The morse code puzzle was a little tough even for our members that are CW experts!

Remember that the puzzle was to decode a girl's name sent in morse code without any spacing between characters.

Here it is again.

“dit dah dah dah dit dah dit dah dit dit dit dit dit dah dit”

Break it up like this:

“dit dah dah dah” “dit” “dah dit” “dah dit” “dit dit” “dit dit dah dit” “dit” “dit dah dit”

J E N N I
F E R

(please excuse the arrangement but I think you can follow it.)

This month's puzzle.

Please pay close attention to the wording here!

Name four days that start with the letter “T.”

Tech Corner

This is just a little one but you can avoid a nasty surprise by knowing it. Most electrolytic capacitors are marked with a “+” and a “-“. If you apply voltage to one of these capacitors with the leads reversed it may cause it to fail and in some cases explode!

There are also “non-polar” electrolytic capacitors. These may be connected either way and in some cases are used on AC current. The start capacitor on an AC motor is a good example of a non-polar capacitor. Non-polar caps don't have a plus minus marking.

WA4FRJ

Items For Sale:



35' tower – price yet to be established

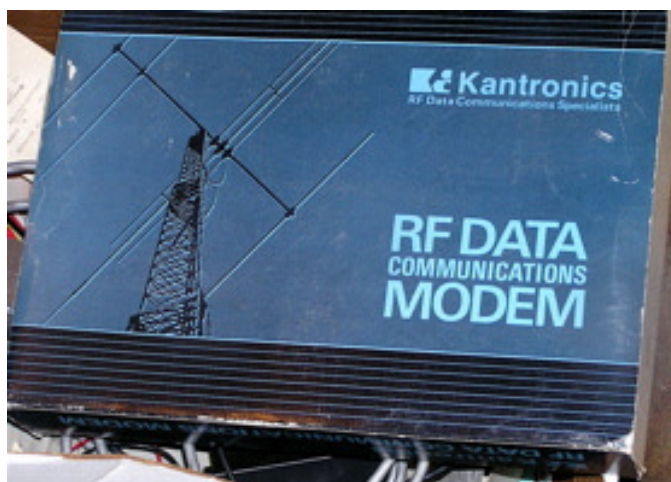


Kenwood SP940 Active Speaker
to go only with TS940S
Transceiver \$50



Kenwood Mike Active Mike console \$65

**Speak with Don, WA4FRJ,
about all items for sale
except the 5th wheel.**



Kantronics RF Modem \$40

FOR SALE:

2001 Salem 21RK 5th wheel. Used approx 20 weeks. Always stored. Like new. This size is no longer available anywhere. Raised 4" to clear Dodge Ram 2500 4x4. Asking \$6800. For more details call 989-561-5091. Phil Marcotte, KC8QOV (purchased new at just under \$15000)
Reason for sale: Purchased new (larger) Cherokee 255-S 5th wheel.



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