

# Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club

November 2009

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## President's note

The cooler weather is upon us and the trees are giving up their green for the yellow, orange

and reds of fall. I hope you are taking this opportunity to capture these days Mother Nature has arranged for us. Our last meeting and program focused on Geocaching and was enjoyed by those who attended. It's a great excuse to get outside and have some fun. I hope you didn't miss out.

There are many events on our calendar. I hope you will join us for some of them. Don't forget to check the details out on the club web site and in this newsletter. The Club breakfast is October 31 this month and will be followed by the monthly meeting on November 5. This month we will be discussing the Amateur Radio Echolink Software, how you can install it on your computer and talk around the world with only a Technician license. Currently, we have a committee looking at how the Club can participate in the "Festival of Lights" parade on November 21. I'm sure we will have many

more details about this event at the Club meeting.

Thank you to the volunteers who made both the CROP Walk for Hunger and the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air great successes. Nearly 100 walkers participated in the CROP Walk this year to help fight hunger in our area and across the country. Our volunteers helped keep the walkers safe and track their progress through the route. The Jamboree on the Air is a mini Scout Field Day and the Scouts were able to make eleven contacts across the United States and even one in England. The youth are the key to the continuation of our great hobby and we should encourage them when ever we can by opening our stations to their eager voices.

The Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio will be sponsoring a food drive again this year. We will be collecting non-perishable food at the December Club meeting. Last year we contributed about 10 pounds of food to Project Starburst. This year the need is greater than ever. I am hearing reports from the local food pantries that they are seeing those who were regular donors in the past needing to





BREAKFAST AT SHARON'S  
Rogers Heights  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2009, 9:00am  
COME ENJOY A GREAT BUFFET BREAKFAST  
AND SOME GOOD HAM . . . . . TALK!!



Those at the Sept breakfast:  
Calvin(KD8KQC),  
Patricia(KD8GGD), and  
Mike(KD8DIB),  
David(KC8WGA),  
Phil(KC8QOV),  
Ted(KC8WGG),  
John(KC8BAR), Helen,  
George(W8OWN), and  
photos by Don(WA4FRJ).



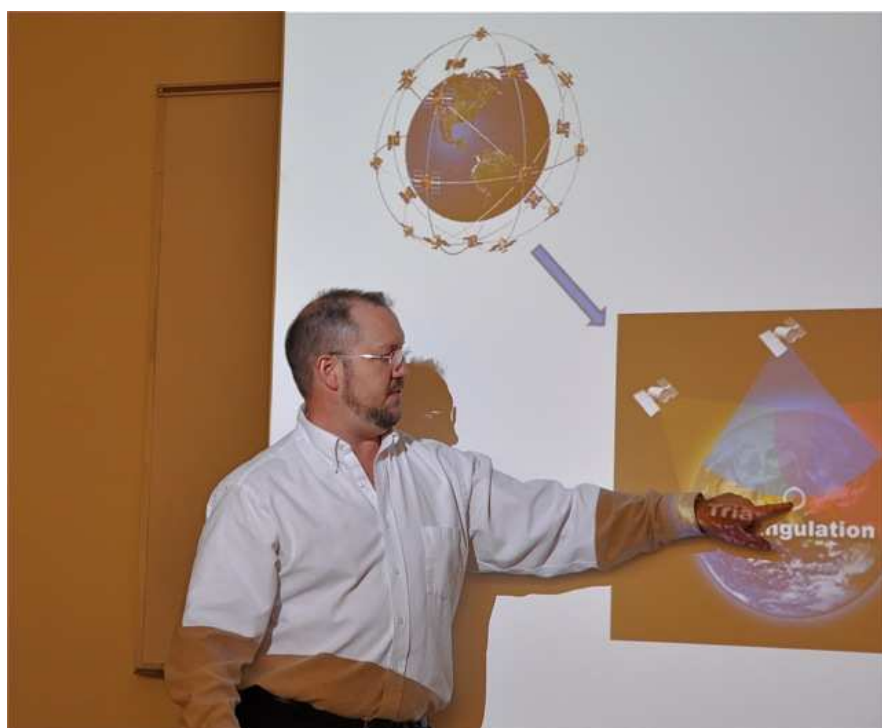
**LET'S HAVE A GREAT CROWD FOR BREAKFAST THIS MONTH – BRING A FRIEND OR TWO!!!**

THE OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM WAS A VERY INTERESTING TALK ON GEOCACHING PRESENTED BY SCOTT THEDE AND RANDY SHANKS OF FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY. FSU HAS A MULTIPLE LOCATION GEOCACHE TO HELP CELEBRATE THE 125<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF FSU. VISIT [WWW.FERRIS.EDU/125/GEOCACHING](http://WWW.FERRIS.EDU/125/GEOCACHING) TO LEARN MORE.



Scott Thede explaining what geocaching is.

Randy Shanks explains how GPS works with satellites.



## BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE ON THE AIR



Photo: (left to Right) George, W8OWN; David, KC8WGA; Scouts: Nick, Louis,& Andrew. George and David instruct local Scouts during the "Jamboree on the Air" Event on the operation of the BRAARC club station donated by Ralph LeRoy, WA8WVI. Photo by Mike, KD8DIB



### 2009 CROP WALK

On 10-11-2009, these members of the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club assisted with the Crop Walk. Mike KD8DIB, Patricia KD8GGD, Calvin KD8KQC, Don WA4FRJ, David Kc8WGA, Gary WB8WIA, Jens KC8OIV, George W8OWN, Bill N8MZB, Bruce WB8TVD, and Jim N8PUG served as net control. It was a brisk Day with high temperatures only in the low forties. There were 100 walkers and a couple of baby strollers. I was thanked many times by the organizers and also the walkers for our help.

Many thanks to all who helped during this event.

### The Way We Hear It

Crystal oscillators, an old technology, are holding their own against newer devices such as microelectromechanical systems (MEMS) oscillators. Quartz crystals are inexpensive, stable and rugged. They came into wide use in the 1920's and still provide the frequency control in virtually all ham and commercial radio equipment.



**CLUB CALENDAR** – See the web site [www.braarc.net](http://www.braarc.net) for most up to date information

**October 2009**

Club Meeting Topic: Geo Caching – FSU 125 celebration

Events: CROP Walk (Oct 11), Jamboree on the Air (Oct 17), SET Exercise (Oct 3)

**November 2009**

Club Meeting Topic: How to get on the air with Echolink software and your home computer

Events: Min Swap (Nov 7), Antenna Bonanza (Nov 14), Festival of Lights Parade (Nov 21)

**December 2009**

Club Meeting Topic: Holiday Social Event – Personal Preparedness

Events: Food Drive (Dec 3)

**January 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: Become a VE and help license new hams / Contesting

Events: Kids Day (Jan 3), Winter Field Day (Jan 23)

**February 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: Kit / Project Night

Events: Construction (Feb 13), SKYWARN (Coordinated with County)

**March 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: APRS – Where am I!?!?

Events: Construction (Mar 13)

**April 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: Acoustics/audio Simplified

Events: MI QSO Party (Apr 24), Ham in a Day (Apr 10), Radio Day (Apr 17)

**May 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: Band and antenna characteristics

VHF/UHF skip and ducting etc.

HF skip and night and day

**Events: Club Dinner (May 13), Girls on the Run (May 29), Foxhunt (May 15), Trail Mixer (May 1)**

**June 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: Field Day – Portable Stations

Events: Kids Day (Jun 19), Field Day (Jun 26-27)

**July 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: Radio Direction Finding – Fox Hunting

Events: Club Summer Camp (Jul 24), Michigander Bike Tour (Jul 10-16)

**August 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: ARES / RACES – Emergency Communications

Events: Club Picnic (Aug 21), Fox Hunt (Aug 21)

**September 2010**

Club Meeting Topic: Personal Wellness – Batteries

Events: Officer Elections (Sep 2), Big Bad Wolf Adventure Race (Sep 4)

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DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS SUNDAY, NOV 1, AT 2AM. REMEMBER, SPRING FORWARD, FALL BACK. IF YOU FORGET, YOU'LL BE EARLY FOR CHURCH!!!

**Brain Teaser Solution:** After changing the XI to IX while eating pies how can Phil eat more pies and change the IX to reflect the new number of pies left?? Put an S in front of the IX. Who'd a thunk it???

**November 2009**  
**POBox 343 Paris MI 49338**

