



# Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club

February, 2002

## WD8KAF Club Repeaters:

147.300 + 100 Hz PL  
443.300 +

## COMING EVENTS

February 19, 2002  
Club Meeting  
7:00 PM at 911 Center  
Basement Training Room

2-Meter Net  
Tuesdays 7:00 PM  
(Except meeting night)

## Club Officers 2002

### President

Larry Camp, WB8R  
517-278-0406

### Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI  
517-639-4390

### Board of Directors

Tom Twite, K8CHS  
517-278-1831

Arnold Hayward, KI8BN  
517-278-8507

James Voss, W8SST  
517-278-4636

### Emergency Coordinator

James Voss, W8SST  
517-278-4636



## Meeting Notice

The February meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held February 19, 2002 at 7:00 PM in the basement Training Room of the 911 Center on US 12 west of Coldwater near the airport. Be sure to bring a friend with you to meeting.

## Club Program

George Race, WB8BGY, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director will join us to give us the very latest update on what is happening in the world of Amateur radio. George is an old friend of our club and always presents a great program. Don't miss it!



George Race, WB8BGY

## 2002 Club Dues

It is that time of year again. The 2002 club dues are due and payable to the Secretary/Treasurer of the club, Bill, KB8VWI. The dues are \$10.00 per year and are payable by March 1 to remain in good standing. Family memberships are available for \$2.00 for each additional family member. Student membership at \$5.00 per year is available for those not qualified for family membership.

## Help Wanted

Wanted: Enthusiastic Club Member to write and publish a club newsletter. See WB8R for information or to volunteer.

## Club Interest Survey

Copies of the Club Interest Survey will be handed out at the February meeting for those that have not yet completed them. It is important for your Club Officers and Board Members to know something of your interests and operational capability in order to locate and plan programs that the membership is interested in seeing.

## March Meeting Program Notes

Steve Eddy, Meteorologist from the Weather Service office at North Webster will provide severe weather Skywarn training at our March meeting.

## Financial Report

At the January 15, 2002 club meeting, Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI reported that the club treasury contained \$683.36. This was after expenses of \$398.58 and income of \$314.00. A number of members paid their 2002 dues at the January meeting and that income will be reported in the financial report to be presented at the February meeting.

## Amateur Test Session

Testing for all classes of amateur radio licenses will be held February 21 at the Pleasant Lake Fire Station in Pleasant Lake, IN. Further information can be obtained by contacting Bill Brown, WD9DSN at 219-475-5897 or via email at [sharon.l.brown@gte.net](mailto:sharon.l.brown@gte.net).

## Elmer List

We recently compiled a list of local amateurs who are willing to act as Ham Radio Resources, or “Elmers” for new or less experienced hams. Please feel free to contact these individuals to get answers to your questions.

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Elmer</u>	<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>
			<u>E-mail</u>	
Antennas	WB9AEI, KI8BM, KI8BN, WB8R, K8CHS, W8SST, N8NG	WB9AEI	Dale Smith None	517-279-4787
Buying First Radio	KI8BM, KI8BN, WB8R, N8NG, W8SST	KI8BN	Randy Kruger <a href="mailto:kruger@cbpu.com">kruger@cbpu.com</a>	517-278-7292
Code Practice	K8CHS, WB8R, W8SST, KI8BN	KI8BN	Arnie Hayward <a href="mailto:haywardaw@cbpu.com">haywardaw@cbpu.com</a>	517-278-8507
Computers	KC8SOW, W8WU	WB8R	Larry Camp <a href="mailto:wb8r@arrl.net">wb8r@arrl.net</a>	517-278-0406
Contests, County Hunting	K8CHS	K8CHS	Tom Twite <a href="mailto:ttwite@privacyone.net">ttwite@privacyone.net</a>	517-278-1831
DXCC Awards	K8CHS			
DX (Long-Distance Contacts)	K8CHS, W8WU	W8SST	Jim Voss <a href="mailto:vossj@cbpu.com">vossj@cbpu.com</a>	517-278-4636
FM	WB9AEI, KI8BM			
Homebrew (Do It Yourself)	WA8LGO	KC8SOW	Jon Voss <a href="mailto:jondvoss@yahoo.com">jondvoss@yahoo.com</a>	517-278-4636
License Testing	KI8BN, K8CHS	W8WU	Warren Unterkircher <a href="mailto:wunterkir@charter.net">wunterkir@charter.net</a>	517-369-7351
Packet Radio	N8CTI, W8SST			
Public Service	W8SST, WB8R, N8CTI	N8CTI	Steve Williams <a href="mailto:shadowman405@charter.net">shadowman405@charter.net</a>	517-369-7194
Rag Chewers Club	WB8R, W8SST			
Technical Questions/Electronics	K8CHS, WB9AEI	N8NG	Jim Shaw <a href="mailto:jimn8ng@cbpu.com">jimn8ng@cbpu.com</a>	517-369-9042
Traffic (Message Handling)	WB8R, W8SST, N8CTI	WA8LGO	Amos Fleming	517-278-8063
Tube Type Radios	WA8LGO, WB9AEI		None	
WAS (Worked All States)	WB8R, W8SST			

**CQ**

The telegraph call CQ was born on the English Telegraph nearly a century ago as a signal meaning "All stations. A notification to all postal telegraph offices to receive the message." Its meaning was close to the present meanings of QNC and QST. Like many other telegraph terms which originated on the landlines, CQ was brought over into radio and used as a general call to all ships by the Marconi Company. Other companies used KA until the London Convention of 1912, which adopted CQ as the international general call or "attention" signal. CQ still means, literally, "attention" but in amateur radio its meaning is perhaps more accurately described by Thomas Raddell who compared it to yelling "Hey, Mac!" down a drain pipe.

## ARRL Board Adopts Modified Novice Band “Reforming” Plan

The ARRL Board of Directors has adopted a modified proposal to reform the Novice bands, now that the FCC no longer issues Novice licenses. The Board met January 18-19 in Fort Worth, Texas.

The ARRL Novice Spectrum Study Committee had proposed allowing Novice and Tech Plus (or Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to operate CW on General-class 80, 40, 15 and 10-meter CW segments at up to 200 W output. The panel recommended reforming the current Novice/Tech Plus CW subbands, in part to allow expansion of phone allocations on 80, 40 and 15 meters.

The Board approved a modified plan that would leave in place or slightly trim the amount of additional phone spectrum the committee had recommended for 75 and 15

meters. The amended plan would drop the US phone band to 3725 kHz on 75 meters but leave it at 21,200 kHz on 15 meters. The original plan called for dropping both by 25 kHz.

The 75-meter proposal would expand the phone band by 50 kHz for Generals over the present allocation and by 25 kHz for Advanced and Extra licensees. On 15 meters, Generals would get another 25 kHz of phone spectrum, but phone privileges for Advanced and Extra class operators would stay the same.

The Novice Spectrum Study Committee's original recommendations for 40 and 10 meters were accepted. The ARRL plans to propose the modified refarming plan to the FCC later this year along with other regulatory requests.

Courtesy of ARRL Letter, January 24, 2002

### The Wouff Hong



Every amateur should know and tremble at the history and origins of this fearsome instrument for the punishment of amateurs who cultivate bad operating habits and who nourish and culture their meaner instincts on the air.

It was invented--or at any rate, discovered-by "The Old Man" himself, just as amateurs were getting back on the air after World War One. "The Old Man" (who later turned out to be Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, co-founder and first president of ARRL) first heard the Wouff Hong described amid the howls and garble of QRM as he tuned across a band filled with signals which exemplified all the rotten operating practices then available to amateurs, considering the state of the art as they knew it. As

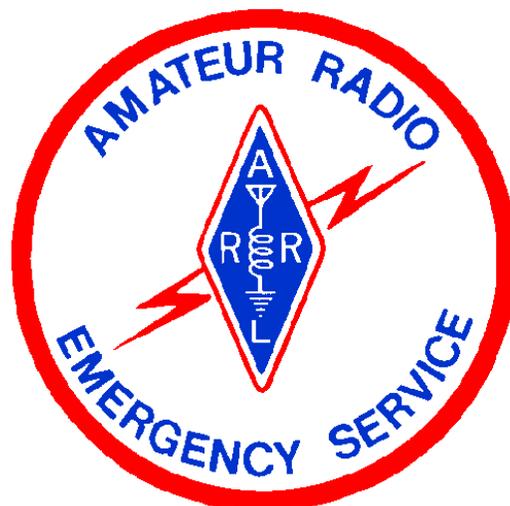
amateur technology and ingenuity have advanced, we have discovered many new and improved techniques of rotten operating, but we're ahead of our story.

As The Old Man heard it, the Wouff Hong was being used on some hapless offender so effectively that he investigated. After further effort, "T.O.M." was able to locate and identify a Wouff Hong. He wrote a number of QST articles about contemporary rotten operating practices and the use of the Wouff Hong to discipline the offenders.

Early in 1919, The Old Man wrote in QST "I am sending you a specimen of a real live Wouff Hong which came to light out here . . . Keep it in the editorial sanctum where you can lay hands on it quickly in an emergency." The "specimen of a real live Wouff Hong" was presented to a meeting of the ARRL Board and QST reported later that

"each face noticeably blanched when the awful Wouff Hong was . . . laid upon the table." The Board voted that the Wouff Hong be framed and hung in the office of the Secretary of the League and there it remains to this day, a sobering influence on every visitor to League Headquarters who has ever swooshed a carrier across a crowded band.

The Old Man never prescribed the exact manner in which the Wouff Hong was to be used, but amateurs need only a little imagination to surmise how painful punishments were inflicted on those who stoop to liddish behavior on the air.



DE W8SST...

I've been sitting here trying to remember how many years it's been since I've written a column like this. It has to have been around 20 years or so. I'll try to make this informative each month, but interesting as well.

One thing about it, most of the things we need to be concerned about, ARES wise, are the same as they were 20 years ago. Of course, severe weather, of all kinds probably tops the list. Hazardous spills, flooding, and a few other less likely scenarios fill out the list. We do fairly well so far as severe summer weather goes, but the past 24 hours point to a task we could be doing but don't, so far as I know. When the county encounters a winter storm, like we're experiencing today, the weather service will typically call for amateurs throughout the affected area to measure snowfall and note other significant happenings and forward the information to their office. This is done at prescribed times and freqs and in formal traffic form. It doesn't take much to participate – a board (commonly called a *snowboard*), a flat open area and a ruler. (Hopefully you won't need a yardstick!) Details of this whole operation and how to participate are located at <http://www.qsl.net/w8ihx/nws.html#snf> under the headings, "*Winter Weather Emergencies*", and "*Snowfall Reporting*". We're a bit late for this storm, but let's consider getting involved in the future.

Speaking of websites, I hope you frequent the Great Lakes  
Division homepage at:  
<http://www.mrrace.com/ARRL/index.htm> .

During the month of February I will be putting together my goals for the next year or two as Emergency Coordinator. I invite you to email me any concerns, ideas or gripes you have concerning the ARES operation. As you probably know, we are just a piece of coax away from having a two meter radio ready to roll in the dispatch room of the 911 Communications Center. The tower is up on the west end of the building and we'll be working on a list of equipment that would be useful in the club station at that end of the building. Ongoing, is the cleanup of the tribander to be used for that station and a search for a rotor for same.

Make sure you have March 19<sup>th</sup> marked on your calendar. Severe weather training from the National Weather Service, IWX Office, will take place that evening at 7:00 P. M. in the basement of the 911 building. I can't overemphasize the importance of this training, and keep in mind that your participation in ARES functions in the future may very well depend on your attendance at these training sessions.

Till next month.

**Jim Voss, W8SST**

Branch County Emergency Coordinator

## Marshall Hamfest March 16

Don't forget the Marshall Hamfest Mar. 16 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM at the Marshall High School. Tickets \$4.00 in advance, \$5.00 at the door. Jim Blackman, N8KNM has tickets. See him at 64 Sherman St. in Coldwater or call at 278-3234. Email at [jmblackman@cbpu.com](mailto:jmblackman@cbpu.com).

## CW Training Net Announced

Michigan Net (QMN), the oldest spot frequency net in the world (on 3663 Khz since 1935) will offer a slow speed training net on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 7:30 PM. The net will meet on 3663 Khz and will operate at approximately 10 WPM using standard ARRL CW net procedures. This is a good chance for beginners to learn how CW traffic nets work and is a stepping stone to the daily sessions of QMN which meet on 3663 Khz at 6:30 and 10:00 PM. Email questions to [k8sb@arrl.net](mailto:k8sb@arrl.net).

## ARRL DX Bulletin

QST de W1AW

DX Bulletin 5 ARLD005

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 31, 2002

To all radio amateurs

SB DX ARL ARLD005

ARLD005 DX news

This week's bulletin was made possible with information provided by Tedd, KB8NW, the OPDX Bulletin, The Daily DX, PY3FBI, W4TYU, 425DXnews, QRZ DX, DXNL and Contest Corral from QST. Thanks to all.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 3C. Mirek is QRV as 3C5/SP1NY from Bioco Island, IOTA AF-101. Activity has been on 30, 12 and 10 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

GEORGIA, 4L. Yuri, 4L6VV has been QRV on 80 meters using SSB around 1500z. QSL via UA6EZ.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Ricardo, CE9R is QRV from Julio Escudero Base on King George Island. He has been active in nets on 15 meters around 1700z. QSL via CE3HDI.

SAINT MARTIN, FS. W4LW and K4FMD will be QRV as FS/K4UP from February 2 to 8. Activity is mostly SSB on 80, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Activity will be mostly in the evening and early morning hours. QSL via K4UP.

WALLIS AND FUTUNA ISLANDS, FW. Guy, FW5ZL has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 0645z and 15 meters around 0830z.

GRENADA, J3. Bill, K4LTA and Ruby, K4UPS are QRV as J37BO and J37RO, respectively. Activity is on all bands, including the newer bands and 6 meters, using CW and SSB. During some of the upcoming contests, they will use J38A. QSL to home calls and J38A via K4LTA.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Norm, K8NI and John, W8LBY are QRV from the WP2Z-Windwood site until February 13. They are signing KP2/homecalls, with activity mostly on the newer bands and using PSK31. QSL to home calls.

NORTH KOREA, P5. Ed, P5/4L4LN is QRV as time permits. Activity has been on 15 meters just after 2300z. He may also be active on 10 meters. QSL via KK5DO.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, PJ2. Tony, N7BG is active as PJ2/N7BG from Curacao, IOTA SA-006, until February 4. He will participate in the FOC Marathon as PJ2T. QSL PJ2/N7BG to home call and PJ2T via KN7Y.

BRAZIL, PY. Special Event Station ZY3WSF is QRV on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB until February 5 from

Porto Alegre during the World Social Forum. QSL via PY3FBI.

SEYCHELLES, S7. Karesz, HA8EU is QRV as S79EU from Mahe Island, IOTA AF-024, until February 18. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and some SSB. QSL via HA2NM.

SOUTH GEORGIA. The VP8GEO team are QRV on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via VE3GCO.

CAMBODIA, XU. Jaak, ES1FB is QRV as XU7ACE. QSL to home call.

AFGHANISTAN, YA. Look for YA0USA and YA5T to be QRV as time permits. QSL YA0USA via K4YT and YA5T via KU9C.

IRAQ, YI. Peter, YI9OM has been QRV on 20 meters between 1830 and 1930z. QSL via OM6TX.

THIS WEEKEND ON THE RADIO.

The Vermont, New Hampshire, Delaware and Minnesota QSO Parties, Ten-Ten International Winter Phone QSO Party, North American Phone Sprint, XE International RTTY Contest and the FYBO Winter QRP CW Field Day will certainly keep contesters busy this weekend. Please see February QST, page 109 for details.

## President Bush on 75 Meters!

QST de W1AW

ARRL Bulletin 9 ARLB009

>From ARRL Headquarters

Newington CT January 31, 2002

To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB009

ARLB009 President Bush addresses Florida ARES net

President George W. Bush spoke January 31 via Amateur Radio to members of the Northern Florida Amateur Radio Emergency Service Net (NFAN). [The president was in Florida to spotlight five volunteer groups--among them the Volusia County Amateur Radio Emergency Service \(ARES\)--for their value to the new Office of Homeland Security.](#)

"I want to thank all the volunteers who help make sure that Florida is prepared for any kind of emergency," the president said in part, after checking in around 9:15 AM to a regular ARES net session. "I want to thank you all for helping your communities be prepared." Bush spoke on the net for about 30 seconds.

Northern Florida ARRL Section Manager Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP, said Bush spoke from a portable station set up at a Daytona Beach fire station. At the request of ARES Volusia County Emergency Coordinator Joette Barnett, KG4HPN, John Schmidt, AF4PU, and Clifford Fraser, KE4HIY, arranged to have the station ready as a demonstration of Amateur Radio's role in emergency preparedness and in the hope that Bush would be willing to address the 75-meter net.

ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said he was "extremely gratified" that President Bush recognized the valuable service Amateur Radio operators provide in times of emergencies. "I know that all hams in the United States stand ready to do their part in America's Homeland Security Program," Haynie commented. Haynie has said that defining Amateur Radio's role in homeland security would top his list of initiatives for his second term.

Hubbard said a copy of proposed expanded Amateur Radio (PRB-1) antenna legislation was given to the President and to the president's brother, Florida Gov Jeb Bush, for possible introduction in next year's Florida legislative session. "We Amateur Radio operators will volunteer however we're needed, and maybe it will be seen that we can greatly help the nation if we have the antennas we need," Hubbard commented. The proposed bill would seek to extend Florida's PRB-1 law to include private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions.



## Repeater News

The WD8KAF repeater is undergoing some exciting changes. The controller has been sent out for some major surgery in the form of a new, updated CPU and the addition of a voice chip which will enable the repeater to talk. Now it won't carry on a conversation with you and it won't give you signal reports or swap favorite recipes with you, but it will have the capability to identify itself using voice and may tell you that a club meeting is coming up soon. We are also investigating various repeater configurations so as to arrive at the best possible repeater within the confines of our budget. Stay tuned...