



Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

June 2002

WD8KAF Club Repeaters:

147.300 + 100 Hz PL
443.300 +

COMING EVENTS

**June 18th 2002 (3rd Tuesday)
Club Meeting
7:00 PM 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
wb8r@arrl.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI
517-639-4390

Board of Directors

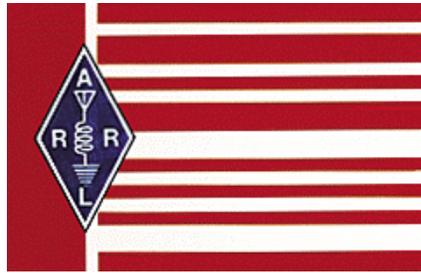
Tom Twite, K8CHS
517-278-1831

Arnold Hayward, NS8T
517-278-8507

James Voss, W8SST
517-278-4636

Emergency Coordinator

James Voss, W8SST
517-278-4636



Meeting Notice

The June 2002 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 PM in the basement Training Room of the 911 Center on US 12 west of Coldwater near the airport on June 18th 2002. Be sure to bring a friend with you to the meeting.

June Program Notes

The June Meeting program will consist of a presentation by Dale Smith, WB9AEI will be presenting the program at the June club meeting. His topic will be an instructional discussion of the proper methods to prepare feed-lines and how to attach various types of connectors to them. This should be a very informative program that will appeal to rookie and veteran alike. Be sure to join us.

July Meeting

We are negotiating with our local storm chasers from Steuben County (Steve Ferree, KB9YGP and Fred Kissinger) to spend an evening with us and tell us all about big-time storm chasing out west. Both of these gentlemen spend a good amount of time each year in Tornado Alley searching out the worst storms they can find as part of their personal quests to learn everything they can about severe weather. Each has a vehicle that is full of sophisticated weather tracking equipment that they will have available for show and tell as part of the program.

August Meeting

We are planning to have the Senior members of the Michigan QRP Club on hand to tell us all the reasons why working the world with less than 5 watts is the most fun since sliced bread. Details are still being worked out at this time, but this one looks like a good program that will be enjoyed by all.

Field Day

Our FD Chairman, Paul Sygnecki is hard at work on the details of this year's Field Day. At last word he was still working out the details of where we will be operating from and the number and type of stations that we will be putting on the air. Be sure to check into the club VHF net on every Tuesday evening (except club meeting night) at 7:00 PM for the latest details.



CONGRATULATIONS!

A hearty round of applause for Dan Sprow, KC8RYF on his recent upgrade to Extra Class! Great job, Dan. We knew you could do it!!



Landmark bill could provide amateurs relief from restrictive Covenants.

A bill introduced in Congress May 14 could provide relief to amateurs prevented by private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&R's) from installing outdoor antennas. Rep Steve Israel (D-NY) has introduced the "Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act." The measure is aimed at preventing private land-use rules from "unreasonably interfering with" the installation and use of "appropriate antenna structures" for amateurs. Rep Greg Walden, WB7OCE (R-OR)--the only Amateur Radio operator in Congress--and Rep Pete Sessions (R-TX) have signed on as original co-sponsors.

The measure contains but one sentence: "For purposes of the Federal Communications Commission's regulation relating to station antenna structures in the Amateur Radio Service (47 CFR 97.15), any private land use rules applicable to such structures shall be treated as a state or local regulation and shall be subject to the same requirements and limitations as a state or local regulation."

The bill, which does not yet have a number, is expected to be assigned to the Telecommunications and Internet Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

After the ARRL ran into a brick wall trying to convince the FCC to include CC&R's under the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1, the League's Board of Directors agreed to pursue a congressional remedy. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and other League officials met with Israel, Walden, Sessions and others on Capitol Hill earlier this year to discuss the prospect of such a bill and how it should be worded. With the proposal now in the legislative hopper, Haynie says the "really hard work" is up to the amateur community, League members or not.

"It becomes important for all of us to write your congressman, call your congressman and voice your support," Haynie said. "This will have to be a grassroots effort, and we're going to pull out all the stops."

Israel, whose father, Howard, is K2JCC, said in a statement read into the Congressional Record that his bill seeks to ensure the continued viability of a volunteer public service resource. "My bill would provide Amateur Radio licensees with the ability to negotiate reasonable accommodation provisions with homeowners'

associations," Israel said, "just as they do now with Governmental and-use regulators, to ensure that our nation is not left with areas devoid of the public safety services amateurs can provide."

Visit the US House of Representatives "Write Your Representative Service" Web page <http://www.house.gov/writerep/> for information on how to contact your representative.

Thanks to the ARRL Letter May 2002

This just in from Dick Mondro, W8FQT, ARRL Michigan Section Manager:

To all Michigan Clubs:

It has come to my attention that recently in a club was conducting a foxhunt and left the fox near a public shopping mall. Although it was a totally innocent act, someone not familiar with the box the fox was contained in notified authorities and created a problem.

I strongly suggest that any club conducting foxhunts, notify public safety officials that a foxhunt is taking place in their community and where the fox is located. It would be very easy for any public safety official to consider the fox to be a "Device" and treat it accordingly. A photograph was included with the memo and there is no question in my mind that a person, not knowing what the fox is, would consider it to be a radio-controlled bomb.

Recent events have considerably heightened public awareness of anything that looks suspicious. Many times, the fox is hidden in strange locations and this further complicates the problem. A simple notification made to the local public safety officials may eliminate a major public safety response and prevent our noble hobby from receiving any bad publicity.

Dick Mondro, W8FQT
ARRL Michigan Section Manager
Please visit our website at:
<http://www.arrl.org/sections/MI.html>

Emergency Coordinator's Column By Jim Voss, W8SST



Well friends, I was sitting here this evening, planning for a few days travel beginning in the morning, when I realized that I hadn't written the E.C. column for this month. DUH. So, before I bail out, here are my words for those who choose to read them.

First, a heads up about a monthly publication from National Weather Service, North Webster (NWS IWX). You'll need the right software to open it, but each month I find there is at least one article worth reading. Here's the URL: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/iwx/publications/newsletter/index.shtml> This month's issue was no exception and you may be interested in the following excerpt.

"Quadrant 4 of Indiana-Michigan-Ohio (IMO) Skywarn is in the early planning stages of hosting an Advanced Weather Spotter Course. Advanced spotter courses are designed to enhance the knowledge of experienced spotters who desire more knowledge about severe thunderstorm structure and spotting. The course will be a daylong training session featuring multiple speakers on a variety of subjects, all related to spotting and reporting severe weather. Dr. Charles Doswell, a senior research scientist at the Cooperative Institute for Mesoscale Meteorological Studies at the University of Oklahoma, will be a featured speaker. Dr. Dave Arnold, assistant professor of climate and forecasting at Ball State University, is also tentatively scheduled to appear.

The course is planned to be held at Elkhart Central High School on Saturday, March 15, 2003. The pre-registration cost is expected to be \$25, and the fee at the door will likely be \$30. The fee will include a mid-morning snack break, as well as lunch at Nelson's (a local favorite). Proceeds from the registration fees will go toward funding IMO Skywarn. By early June advertisements for the course will appear on

our website. We plan to have an electronic registration from at the website, as well as a regular mailing address. We hope to see you there!"

I'm sure there are a number of you who would be interested in attending and we should plan to carpool our way to Elkhart. I'll keep you posted as I hear more.

We've certainly had our share of luck with severe weather this spring. Nothing more enjoyable than expecting bad stuff and watching it split and go north and south of us, or having it die out just before reaching us.

Another item which helps me sleep soundly on evenings when there's bad stuff out there is a weather radio with the SAME warning system. If you don't have one of these little gems yet, you might consider one. You are able to tell it exactly which counties you want to have on your watch/warning notification list. That way, you don't get zapped out of bed every time there's something moving into a county a hundred miles away.

It appears that we are one step away from replacing the antenna at the Sheriff's Department site. The antenna is assembled and ready to go. After that step, we'll see how things are operating before we make any further changes.

I hate to keep harping on this, but do you have your jump kit ready to go?

Until next month,

Jim Voss, W8SST
Emergency Coordinator

Do You Have Your New Plate Yet?



Show off Amateur Radio everywhere you go!

If you need the form, please contact wb8r@arrl.net and I will be happy to send you one.