



Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

July 2002

WD8KAF Club Repeaters:

147.300 + 100 Hz PL
443.300 +

COMING EVENTS

**July 16th 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 July 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 July 16th 2002. Be sure to bring a friend with you to the meeting.

July Program Notes

The July Meeting program will consist of a presentation by Steve Ferree, KB9YPG, and Fred Kissinger from Steuben County, Indiana. Their topic will be a video and pictorial presentation about their recent adventures in Texas chasing tornadoes. Both of these gentlemen have vehicles that are outfitted with lots of sophisticated WX gear. There will be a vehicle show and tell as part of the program. You don't want to miss this one!

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.

September Meeting

We have once again invited our ARRL Michigan Section Manager, Dick Mondro, W8FQT to join us at our September meeting. This is becoming an annual visit for Dick and his wife Sandy, KG8HM, who is the Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Michigan Section. They will bring us up to date on the challenges that we as amateurs face in Michigan and will tell us about current happenings in the world of the ARRL and amateur radio. Dick and Sandy are always informative and entertaining and I highly recommend that you attend this meeting.

Field Day

Field Day was held on June 22-23 this year at the Branch County 4H Fairgrounds in Coldwater. FD Chairman, Paul KG8WI and his crew put together two stations in the Schlubatis Hall at the southwest corner of the fairgrounds using wire antennas. The word is that we had about 350 contacts. Look for a complete update at the meeting on Tuesday.



CONGRATULATIONS!

A hearty round of applause for Pete Cromwell, KC8PMA on his recent upgrade to Extra Class! Great job, Pete. We knew you could do it!!

Emergency Coordinator's Column

July 2002



Jim Voss, W8SST

The deadline for this column has a way of sneaking up on me, and this month is no exception. That thought has given me a bit of inspiration for this month.

I have to admit that I'm extremely disappointed in our weekly Emergency Net. (It's more like a weakly Emergency Net!) Last week we had a net control, but no check-ins. I've run the net a number of times with less than 5 check-ins. We've also had several weeks when no operator stepped forward to start the net. That's a pretty pathetic showing for the ham population we have in Branch County! We've asked for suggestions of other nights or times to make it easier to check in, but you folks seem to be satisfied with the current setup. So what's the deal? We should easily be having 20 checking into the net each week. We've tried to make it interesting by having a topic of discussion. We've had training sessions for prospective net controls. And by the way, I appreciate those of you who have stepped up and taken a shot at net control duties.

One of these days Branch County ARES is going to be called upon to provide communications in an emergency. It's inevitable. Buy how the heck are we gonna be prepared when we can't even support a reliable weekly net? It's gonna sneak up on us, mark my words. As you've heard from a number of speakers over the past year, preparedness comes from experience. We all need to be comfortable with net procedures, and at least the majority of us need to be able to take NCS duties and be able to originate and pass written traffic. I don't see us making any progress in these areas. Consequently, I'll be re-assessing how I can get the majority of you involved in the weekly net. I'd like each person who reads this to send me an email in the next 10 days telling me what would be necessary to get

you into the habit of being involved in the weekly net. Send your email to: W8SST@arrl.net. Those ARES members who I don't hear from I will be calling. Let's make this an active group – we can do it together. I'm open to all input, negative or positive; don't be afraid to speak out.

I said this last month, and I'll say it again. We've been extremely lucky with severe weather this year. Same deal – don't let it sneak up on you. Get that jump kit ready and be ready to hit the ground running.

Don't miss the BCARC meeting this month. We'll have a great program from two gentlemen who have had plenty of first hand experience storm chasing out on the plains, and if you miss seeing their vehicle you'll be sorry.

Jim Voss, W8SST
Branch County Emergency Coordinator

Editors note: While I don't have a lot of room to talk (I miss my share of nets and club meetings), I would like to urge everyone to try and make an effort to check in to the net or take net control. As a former E.C. and Asst. E.C. the importance of this exercise can't be stressed enough. When something does happen sure, we have lots of hams crawl out of the woodwork wanting to help. That's the main problem, with little or no training or practice on net procedures, and reporting criteria the people that check in are many times more of a hindrance than help. In order to maintain some degree of readiness we NEED practice!! I urge everyone to make an effort to check into the Tuesday evening nets even if it's to check in and out.

Soapbox mode set to off. Steve (N8CTI)

Old friends

Today (7-12-02) several of us got together at Bob Evans to meet up with an old friend. Ray Gardner, WD8IBY is in town. Some of you may remember Ray; he has been out of the area for about 15 years living in Florida. Jim Voss, W8SST, Jon Voss, K8SST, Dennis Jaques, WD8OUO, John Sistanich, KE8LV, Chris Pavka, N8JHE, and myself, Steve, N8CTI met with Ray and had a great time telling stories, sniffing handhelds and just generally enjoyed ourselves. We hope Ray can come to the meeting Tuesday so all the rest can meet and greet him also.

AMATEUR FLOOD RESPONSE, RELIEF SUPPORT CONTINUES IN TEXAS

More than 150 Texas amateurs--most of them working through the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)--this week have been supporting flood response and relief efforts in flood-ravaged areas of Texas. ARRL South Texas Section Manager Ray Taylor, N5NAV, reports that ARES teams are assisting the American Red Cross, the Baptist Men's Kitchen and The Salvation Army in their efforts to feed, clothe and shelter flood victims and to provide them with household essentials as they begin the massive cleanup

"We're in real trouble down here and it could get worse," Taylor said, noting that flood runoff now headed for the Gulf of Mexico could raise river levels in eastern and east-central Texas. Emergency responders were keeping an eye on the weather forecast for additional rainfall.

Although an FCC-declared communications emergency for 7285 and 3873 kHz has been terminated, responding agencies did make use of HF for both health-and-welfare and tactical communications, Taylor said. By week's end, most amateur communication related to the flood emergency had migrated to VHF and UHF, but HF nets remained active as needed. Repeater linking systems have been activated to reduce or eliminate reliance on HF, Taylor said. Earlier in the week, however, Taylor said amateur HF had provided the only reliable communication in and out of some flood-stricken communities. Telephone and cellular telephone service remains erratic in a few spots, he said.

Taylor, who lives in New Braunfels--just northeast of San Antonio--said his own house suffered some damage to the pier and beam support structure as a result of nonstop rain between June 30 and July 6. The rainfall, which generated some of the worst flooding in 100 years, caused the cancellation of Independence Day activities in many communities and forced thousands to flee their homes. Some areas of central Texas--which had been suffering drought conditions--got nearly three feet of rain.

(From the ARRL Letter July 12, 2002)

HIGHER AMATEUR VANITY CALL SIGN FEE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 9

The FCC has officially set \$14.50 as the cost to apply for, renew or reinstate an Amateur Radio vanity call sign. According to a Report and Order adopted July 3, the new fee will become effective for applications received on or after September 9. The current vanity fee is \$12 for the 10-year license term. The FCC had proposed the new, higher fee in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MD Docket No. 02-64) released March 27 to set Fiscal Year 2002 fees.

(From the ARRL Letter, July 12, 2002)

Michigan Section News

Did you know that the Michigan Section now has 126 Affiliated Clubs serving us with programs, license classes, volunteer testing, contesting and many other ways to enjoy amateur radio. You can find a club near you by going to the Clubs Search page at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/club/clubsearch.phtml> Please support your local clubs and stay "radio-active."

If you are looking for a program for your club, please contact me and we can set up a visit to your club to let you know what is happening in the Michigan Section.

I would like to thank Diane Scalzi, WI8K for her many years of service as Net Manager for the Southeastern Michigan Traffic Net (SEMTN), a Michigan Section Net of the National Traffic System (NTS). Diane has provided leadership and training to the net which now enjoys its' largest participation and handles an average of 250 or more pieces of message traffic each month. Diane is resigning her offered to appointment to continue her job related education. Please send Diane a message on the traffic nets thanking her for her dedication to this fine NTS Net. I know she will be happy to hear from you. Please join me in welcoming Frank Cunningham, K8JN who has take on responsibility as Net Manager for the SEMTN. Frank had been active on the net for many years and is a very dedicated and capable traffic handler. You may visit the SEMTN on 145.330 in the Detroit Area daily at 10:15 PM.

73,Dick (W8FQT, ARRL MI Section Mgr.)

20 Years ago....(approximately)

BRANCH

JUNE 1982

SIGNALS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRANCH COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
P.O. Box 525, Coldwater, Michigan 49036

The regular meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at the Coldwater State Police Post on June 10th at 7:30 p.m.. One of the things that will be going on at the meeting will be a QFL contest. For those of you who are not familiar with it, it consists of sending CW with your left foot! So for those of you who are not to proficient, will want to start practicing right away!

***** CONTESTS *****

JUN 12-13 ARRL VHF QSO Party
JUN 12-13 Worldwide S. America CW cont.
JUNE 19-20 Summer SMIRK Party
JUN 26-27 ARRL FIELD DAY
JUL 1 CARF Canada Day Contest
JUL 10-11 IARU Radiosport
JUL 17-18 International QRP Contest
JUL 17-18 A5 Magazine Worldwide SSV DX Contest
JUL 24-26 CW County Hunters Contest
AUG 7-8 ARRL UHF Contest
AUG 14-15 European DX contest-CW
AUG 21-22 SARTG Worldwide RTTY Con.
AUG 21-22 A5 Magazine PSTV UHF Con.
SEP 11-12 ARRL VHF QSO Party
SEP 11-12 European DX Contest-Phone
SEP 18-20 Washington State QSO Party

As you can tell, I have included all of Sept.. Other than the summer get-together at Bob's place, this will be the last meeting until Sept., so I thought I would include all of the events and such that will be happening until we meet again in Sept.. Hopefully though, you will still continue to get a newsletter even though there will not be any meeting's.

***** PLACES TO GO *****

JUNE 12-Midland, MI-Talk-in on 146.67/.07 and 146.52.
JUNE 13-Saginaw, MI-Talk-in on 147.24 and 146.52.
JUNE 13-Monroe, MI-Talk-in on 146.13/.73 and 146.52.
JUNE 13-Akron, OH-Talk-in on 146.04/.64.

JULY 11-Indianapolis, IN-Talk-in on ??????(editor's note: I didn't notice that they did not give a freq. until after I had typed it! Sorry!)

JULY 25-Centreville, MI-Talk-in on 146.52.

AUG 1-Angola, IN-Talk-in on 146.52 and 147.81/.21.

SEP 26-Adrian, MI-Talk-in on 146.31/.91.

***** SUMMER PARTY *****

The following is a conversation between Homer, WD8DQP, and Bob, WD9RKT, that was intercepted on a very discrete frequency!

WD8DQP; Oh Bob! Did I ever tell you we are having a picnic at YOUR QTH on July 11th?

WD9RKT; Oh!! Sure hope I'm going to be home that day between 2 & 5 p.m.. DQP; What's for chow?

RKT; Well Homer, after checking with the XYL, thought it would be best for everyone to bring their own.

DQP; You bet. Lets set this up so we don't have to do any work, OK?

RKT; Yep, good idea. They can also bring their own drinks, table service, dish (full) to pass, spouses and harmonics. Good idea to bring lawn chairs, etc..

DQP; Are you going to borrow your neighbors grill again if someone brings hotdogs and hamburgers?

RKT; Don't have to borrow it, still have it from field day, so will have it hot and ready to go.

DQP; How about a talk in freq.? There may be someone that doesn't know where you live.

RKT; Let's use 147.30/.90 and 146.52 simplex. That should handle the pile up. Also let's draw a map.

I wasn't able to get too much more after that due to a lot of QRM. Beside's, it was time to go in and watch That's Incredible!!