



Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter



September, 2002

WD8KAF Club Repeaters:

147.300 + 100 Hz PL
443.300 +

COMING EVENTS

**September 17th 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 September, 2002 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 PM on September 17, 2002 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 the meeting.

September Meeting

We have once again invited Dick Mondro, W8FQT, to join us at our September meeting. Dick has recently been appointed to a position as ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice-Director.

Dick and his wife Sandy, KG8HM, who is the Affiliated Club Coordinator for the Michigan Section are becoming regular visitors at our club meetings. They will both bring us up to date on the challenges that we as amateurs face in general and in Michigan in particular 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 we highly recommend that you attend this meeting to learn what is going on in the radio world.

October Meeting

The program for the October club meeting will be the ever-popular Club Auction. Start saving your spare change now and dust off those "Golden Goodies" that you have in your shack and junk box. Our auctioneer will be our own Jim Voss, W8SST unless he can talk a real auctioneer into conducting the auction. Complete rules and information will be published in the Newsletter, as we get closer to auction time.

Coming Soon

The Branch County Amateur Radio Club was first organized on January 14, 1960 with Paul Herman, K8AXN as its' first President. In the years since the club was established, there have been many documents relating to the activities and members of the club that have suffered the ravages of time and many have been lost. There have been at least two fires at the homes of Club Secretaries and we have lost considerable amounts of documents in those disasters. In order to preserve our heritage and history, the club documents that were able to be located have been scanned and placed on CD for safekeeping. Now, through the miracles of modern science, these documents will be made available to club members. We are asking for a \$5.00 donation to defray the cost of the CD. The donations will go into the general fund to be used for various club projects. Please contact WB8R to order your copy.



**Jim Voss, W8SST
Branch County
Emergency Coordinator**

**EC Column
September 2002**

As I sit here this Saturday morning, the sun is shining and it's a most beautiful day. Makes a person think of fall weather, raking leaves and football games. However, come the weekend of October 5th and 6th beware, something is going to happen, something bad, really bad is going to happen! I hope you're ready for it, 'cause it's gonna be a catastrophe! It's gonna be a real mess. How do I know, because the first weekend of October always brings catastrophe to the ham community. No we're not losing a bunch of frequencies to the short-wave broadcasters, and we're not going to shut down the repeater, and they didn't cancel the Fort Wayne Hamfest. It's the Simulated Emergency Test! (SET)

I know a number of you have never been involved in the SET and I hope we can change that this year. Yes, it might involve doing a little work on your traffic handling skills or finally putting together that jump kit I've been harping on for the last year. But regardless of the little bit of work involved, it's gonna be a time to find out how well we Branch County amateurs can work together in the case that something might actually happen that would call us into the real thing. And, believe it or not, it's FUN!

In preparation for the SET I'll be providing traffic handling tips and instruction after the Tuesday evening net during the month of September. All you'll need to participate are a few things from the ARRL website at: <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/forms/>

For certain you'll need Radiogram forms (ARRL Radiogram Form) and it wouldn't hurt to have FSD218 (Amateur Message Forms) and FSD3 (ARRL Numbered Radiograms) around as well. Take a look at them before we get together on Tuesday night after the net. We'll briefly go over how to put together a message and how to send and

receive one. We'll also be covering some common traffic net procedures.

For in-depth traffic handling training, plan to attend our next ARES meeting on Saturday morning, September 21st, at 9:00 A.M. at the 911 center. At this session we'll cover all you need to know to participate in the SET and hopefully answer any and all questions about the test.

In the meantime, the best thing you can to prepare is to check out our Michigan traffic nets. If you're a phone kind of guy (or gal) try the Michigan Traffic Net each evening at 7:00 P.M. local time on 3952. If you've not been on a traffic net before spend a couple evenings just listening before checking in for the first time. If you're one of those "daring", CW kind of people, you'll want to try QMN, which is on every evening at 6:30 and 10:00 P.M. on 3663 or 7068 depending on propagation. This time of year I believe they should be back on 3663. The CW nets are the most expeditious method of passing traffic; so if you're at all interested in CW check this net out. You might get hooked! Here's their home page, which has a great primer CW net procedures and lots of other good stuff: <http://www.qsl.net/w8ihx/procedur.html>

Well, that pretty well covers the subject of upcoming SET training. I'm open to any of your suggestions at w8sst@arrl.net.

For those of you who missed it, the ARES Summer meeting on the 24th was pretty well attended with 12 members present. We walked through the net sessions we'd had recently and shared coffee and doughnuts, suggestions and ideas.

Till next time . . . Jim Voss, W8SST



DX On the Bands

ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2. Stephane, J28VS is active as 3D2VS/p on all bands until September 5. Afterwards he will go to Suva. QSL via F6KHM.

ANDORRA, C3. Archie, C31BO has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1700, 1900 and 2000z.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Jon, DU9/N0NM has been QRV on 1828.3 kHz around 1000z and then around 1300z. QSL via W4DR.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Rakhim, EY7AD is QRV from Khudjand, and has been active on 15 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

THAILAND, HS. Wam, E20KIR has been QRV on 15 meters around 0130 and 0340z.

ITALY, I. IA5/DL5SAX is active from the Tuscany Island Group, IOTA EU-028, until September 4. QSL to home call.

WAKE ISLAND, KH9. Jake, N6XIV/KH9 continues to be QRV around 14265 kHz between 0700 to 0730z daily. He is here until mid September. QSL via K2FF.

MARKET REEF, OJ0. The QLF DX Team of LA5UKA, LA6YEA, LA8SDA, LA9VDA and LB1NE will be QRV as OJ0LA, OJ0RJ and OJ0/LB1NE from August 31 to September 7. Activity will be mainly on 160 meters and the lowbands using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL OJ0LA via LA9VDA, OJ0RJ via OH0RJ and OJ0/LB1NE via home call.

DENMARK, OZ. Five operators from the South Flanders DX Activity Group are active as OZ/ON6JUN/p from Aro Island, IOTA EU-172, until September 7. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, with special attention to the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL via ON4AFU.

POLAND, SP. To celebrate the holiday in the town of Tarnowskie Gori, radio club SP9KDU will be QRV as SN9TG from September 1 to 8. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB and FM. QSL via SP9KDU.

CORSICA, TK. Rainer, TK/DL2RVL is active using QRP until September 14. QSL to home call.

UZBEKISTAN, UJ. Special event station UM9AA is active until September 5 to celebrate Uzbekistan's 11 years of independence. September 1st is the Independence Day of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Activity is on all bands. QSL via UK9AA.

CANADA, VE. Michael, VE3WMB will be QRV as VE3WMB/VE9 and activating five lighthouses on the Island of Grand Manan, New Brunswick from September 1 to 6. Activity will be around 14071 kHz using only PSK31 QRP. QSL to home call.

MEXICO, XE. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Mexico's IARU Society, FMRE, amateurs here are allowed to use three special prefixes through December 31. Look for 6J1 for XE1 stations, 6J2 for XE2 stations and 6J3 for XE3 stations.

INDONESIA, YB. A group of Indonesian amateurs are active as YE2R from Karimunjawa, IOTA OC-186, until September 3. Activity is on 15 and 10 meters and possibly 17 meters, using CW and SSB. Three stations are QRV at the same time and activity for 12 to 18 hours a day is expected. QSL via YB2MTA.

IRAQ, YI. Peter, YI9OM has been QRV on 15 meters from 1730 to 1800z. QSL via OM6TX.

Ham-Mart

This is a new feature for the [Branch Signals](#) newsletter and is intended to be a place for locals to list any equipment that they might have for sale as well as a place to list any equipment that they are interested in purchasing.

As you might expect, the Branch County Amateur Radio Club bears no responsibility whatsoever in regard to any equipment, statements or representations made by owners or purchasers of any items listed in this column.

FOR SALE

[Mosley TA53 M HF 4 Element Beam](#). Covers 10, 12, 15, 17 and 20-meter bands using 14 ft Boom with a turning radius of just under 15 ft. Weighs 55 lbs. Excellent gain and F/B ratios. Only 6.7 sq. ft wind load. Excellent condition-was in the air only three years. This is a first class antenna!

[Rohn HDBX40 Tower](#) Heavy duty 40 ft Rohn self-supporting tower. 18 Sq. ft load. Excellent condition.

I now live in an area that does not allow towers and need to part with this great DX antenna and tower. Contact WB8R

at 278-0406 or email at WB8R@arrl.net. Photos available for emailing. Larry, WB8R



"Good Amateur Practice is a hard thing to define. I'd have to say it's operating with the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid. You have to realize that more people listen than ever before, especially since the events on 11 September, and our rights end where another person's begins."

"It means giving a little ground even if you have a right not to, in order to help preserve Amateur Radio and not cause it to get a bad name or hasten the day when it becomes obsolete."

"It means not using that one Kenwood rig on 6kHz bandwidth when there are lots of people on the band."

"It means not acting like an idiot just because you were stepped on. It means being aware that we all love Amateur Radio, and why damage it just to save face?"

"It means cutting a net or a contester a break even if you don't have to and even if you have no interest whatsoever in nets or contesting."

"It means being nice, because one thing we don't need more of are idiots in the radio world. Now this doesn't touch on a lot of technical issues such as using 1,500 watts when your signal report received is 20 over 9."

"It just means a lot of things that can't be qualified, such as respecting a band plan because it makes it possible for every mode to have a chance."

"It means operating so that if a neighbor, niece or nephew or news reporter hears you, that person is impressed with Amateur Radio."

"It means realizing that every right carries responsibilities, and just because you may have a right to do certain things doesn't mean it's right to do them in every circumstance."

"It means just because you haven't done a creative thing in Amateur Radio in 25 years, and have been on the same frequency every morning for 135 years shooting the breeze with Harry, who's 200 miles away, doesn't mean you own the frequency."

"It also means NOT operating so whoever hears you becomes sorry as hell they ever got into Amateur Radio in the first place."

Riley Hollingsworth