



Branch Signals

BCARC Newsletter



November, 2002

WD8KAF Club Repeaters:

147.300 + 100 Hz PL
443.300 +

**November 19th 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
whkubiak@cbpu.com

Board of Directors

Tom Twite, K8CHS
517-278-1831
ttwite@privacyone.net

Arnold Hayward, NS8T
517-278-8507
ns8t@arrl.net

James Voss, W8SST
517-278-4636
w8sst@arrl.net

Emergency Coordinator

James Voss, W8SST
517-278-4636
w8sst@arrl.net

Meeting Notice

The November 2002 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 PM on November 19, 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.

Election Notice

At the November meeting we will have our annual election of Officers to determine who will lead the club in 2003. As outlined in the Club Constitution, only members in good standing are allowed to vote in this election. In order for a member to be in good standing, he or she must have paid their dues for the year in which the election is held. Dues for 2002 can be paid in arrears prior to the election to ensure eligibility.

Jim Voss, W8SST and Matt Godell, N8JWC have twisted arms and made other threats that have induced several people to indicate their willingness to run for office, so it appears that we will have all the bases covered. Nominations from the floor are also welcome, so if you are interested in helping out as an officer or board member, you can nominate yourself from the floor the night of the election or have a friend nominate you.

Positions open for election are: President and Secretary/Treasurer, and openings on the Board of Directors include a One Year Term and a Two Year Term. Jim and Matt will tell us at the meeting who has agreed to run for what position. Thanks for your help on this important task, fellows.

October Auction Results

At our annual auction we sold an amazing quantity of stuff and we earned \$89 for the club's treasury. Thanks to all who contributed to make this event a success.

Club CD

A compilation of various club documents, meeting minutes, newsletters, and photographs are available on CD for a nominal donation of \$5.00. So far we have been able to add \$45.00 to the club's treasury. You can order one from WB8R or purchase at a club meeting from Bill, KB8VWI.

Silent Key

It is with deep regret that we record the passing of a young Branch County Amateur. Aaron Savchuk, KB8JAY died October 19, 2002 in Minnesota.

Aaron had not been active of late, but was an enthusiastic new ham that particularly enjoyed Field Day. Aaron was licensed as KB8JAY in February 1990 at age 12.



Aaron making FD contacts in 1988.

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. Please email the details of any items you would like to sell to Larry at wb8r@arrl.net or to Steve at shadowman405@charter.net.

Arnie, NS8T has the following for sale:

Diawa All-Mode Audio Filter model AF606-K

Vectronics model VC-300M Antenna Tuner. This tuner is brand new and still in original box.

Arnie can be reached at 278-8507.



Jim Voss, W8SST

Emergency Coordinator's Column

In case you didn't receive my email, be advised that the multi-level ARES Card idea for Michigan has been rethought and discontinued. For now, your current card is valid until the expiration date and no further action is needed. You should be advised, however, that sometime in the future you will likely be required to undergo a background check to qualify for AREA and RACES cards. How thorough this check will be will depend on our county director of Emergency Service and his view of the situation. Just be aware that it has already taken place in several counties in the state, so don't be surprised when it happens here. In the unlikely event that you don't pass the check, you may qualify for a lower level ARES card, but that is only one possibility at the time of this writing. Watch for this situation to develop.

The recent incursion by FBI and other Federal Agents brings out the point that even though we are in the sticks, we may not be immune from Terrorist activity of some kind. All the better to get serious about your ARES commitment. This brings up our pathetic performance in the SET. If you don't think the SET is worth an hour or so of your time then I question your commitment to the program. Yes, I know a number of you spend a number of hours on severe weather activations during the summer months, but the real world test of our abilities as a group is found in the SET. If you had a valid reason for not participating that's one thing, but you can't tell me that all but four of us were busy that morning, especially with several months notice about the date. OK, I'll get off the soap box, but I expect next year to have a real crew out in the field for SET.

A reminder - THE MICHIGAN TRAINING NET QMN-TN IS OPERATING TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AT 730 PM ON 3663.

I would like to see a number of us active in the winter snow measuring network this year. Watch for details in next month's column.

Till next time. . . Jim Voss, W8SST

Upcoming Hamfests

December 1

L'Anse Creuse ARC; Harrison Twp, MI

Contact: Gregg Crump, KC8PXJ
PO Box 180072
Utica, MI 48318-0072
Phone: 586-463-0729
Email: kc8pxj@arrl.net

November 16-17

Indiana State Convention
Allen County AR Technical Society
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

Contact: Fort Wayne Hamfest & Computer Expo
PO Box 10342
Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0342
Phone: 260-484-1314
Email: kb9ih@arrl.net

January 12

Michiana Valley Hamfest Association
Goshen, IN

Contact: Bob Denniston, KA9WNR
21970 Kern Road
South Bend, IN 46614-9295
Phone: 574-291-0252 (7-11 PM EST)

DX on the Bands



GUINEA, 3X. A group of German amateurs are QRV as 3XY7C until November 13. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via DL7DF.

NIGER, 5U. 5U7JK has been QRV on 20 meters around 0000z, 10 meters around 1200 and 1500z and 15 meters around 2000z.

MALAWI, 7Q. Joe, G3MRC is active as 7Q7BP until early next year. QSL to home call.

NAURU, C2. Rex, VK8RH will be QRV as C21RH from November 4 to 22. Activity will be mostly on 6 meters, but with some HF as well. QSL via VK4AAR, direct only.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Ben, OZ5IPA is QRV as EA8/OZ5IPA from Tenerife, IOTA AF-004, until November 4. This includes an entry in the IPA Contest. QSL to home call.

AUSTRAL ISLANDS, FO. Tony, 3D2AG is QRV as FO5RK from Rapa Island, IOTA OC-051. Activity is on all bands, including 6 meters, using CW and SSB. He plans to use PSK31 and MFSK16 as well. QSL via operator's instructions.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Fred, F5IRO is QRV as FR5KH for the next four months. He also plans to visit Juan de Nova, IOTA AF-012, several times and activate it as FR5KH/J. QSL via F6FNU.

PANAMA, HP. Members of the Panama Radio Club are QRV with the special event call HP100RCP until November 30 in commemoration of the Centenary of the Republic Of Panama. Activity is on all bands and modes. QSL via bureau.

JAPAN, JA. Taka, JR3TVH/6 is QRV from Miyako Island, IOTA AS-079, until November 4. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters, including 17 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

JORDAN, JY. George, JY9QJ has been QRV on 160 meters around 0330z. QSL via DL5MBY.

ALASKA, KL7. John, WA2GO will be QRV as KL4A using QRP during the ARRL CW Sweepstakes from the new Frigid Contesters Club station in Wasilla.

ANTARCTICA. Jorge, LU1ZV is QRV at the Argentine Esperanza research station. He has been active on 15 meters between 2240 and 2315z. QSL via LU4DXU.

CANADA, VE. Look for Jay, VY1JA to be QRV from Whitehorse, Yukon Territory during the ARRL CW Sweepstakes.

MONTSERRAT, VP2M. K5AND, W5OZI and W5LXG are QRV as VP2MJD until November

8. Activity is mainly on 6 meters. QSL via W5OZI.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Oleg, UA1PBA is QRV as HL8KSJ from the South Korea's King Sejong Station. QSL via RK1PWA.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Dani, EA4ATI is QRV as XT2ATI for the next six months. QSL via EA4YK.

DX information Courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletin.

2002 Meeting Program Ranking

At the October meeting of the BCARC, those present were asked to rank the 2002 programs from best to worst. Here are the results:

1. Club Auction
2. Skywarn training
3. Liars Club
4. Michigan QRP Club Presentation
5. Personal Emergency Preparedness
6. Steuben County Storm Chasers
7. George Race, WB8BGY (ARRL)
8. Christmas dinner/Gift Exchange
9. Proper Soldering of Coax Connectors
10. Field Day
11. Dick Mondro, W8FQT (ARRL)
12. Annual Business Meeting

Thanks to all for your input

Random thoughts...

Handy Guide to Modern Science:

1. If it's green or it wiggles, it's biology.
2. If it stinks, it's chemistry.
3. If it doesn't work, it's physics.
4. If it's incomprehensible, it's mathematics.
5. If it doesn't make sense, it's either economics or psychology.

Law of the Perversity of Nature:

You cannot successfully determine beforehand which side of the bread to butter.

First Law of Laboratory Work:

Hot glass looks exactly the same as cold glass.

New Radio Web Site



Go to the neoamateur.org Web site to read the latest news regarding advances in Amateur Radio technology.

Chris Karpinsky, AA1VL, recently developed the neoamateur.org Web site. His goals for the site are to identify and encourage technological development in Amateur Radio. He wants the site to become a reference point for all the latest advances in the various ham radio niches including software-defined radios (SDRs), digital modes, networking, etc.

Chris commented, "A problem I have found in the past is that I've stumbled across (by accident) many great projects people have done..." So, he thought it would be a good thing to develop a Slashdot-type news site just for Amateur Radio technology scoop. (The Slashdot site bills itself as the Web site of "News for Nerds. Stuff that matters." I highly recommend that you check it out if you have not done so already.)

Like the Slashdot Web site, neoamateur features synopses of the latest news with links that permit you read the whole story. And like Slashdot, neoamateur is a good looking and well-designed site that is easy to navigate.

Chris is trying to make neoamateur a collaborative place where the site visitors develop much of the site content. Therefore, Chris encourages visitors to submit comments, news, links, etc.

Information courtesy of ARRL Web Site.