



# Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

**December, 2002**

**WD8KAF Club Repeaters:**

147.300 + 100 Hz PL  
443.300 +

**December 17<sup>th</sup> 2002 (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday)  
Club Meeting  
6:30 PM Coldwater Country Club  
Christmas Dinner/Gift Exchange**

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

## Club Officers 2002

**President**

Larry Camp, WB8R  
517-278-0406  
[wb8r@arrl.net](mailto:wb8r@arrl.net)

**Secretary/Treasurer**

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI  
517-639-4390  
[whkubiak@cbpu.com](mailto:whkubiak@cbpu.com)

**Board of Directors**

Tom Twite, K8CHS  
517-278-1831  
[ttwite@privacyone.net](mailto:ttwite@privacyone.net)

Arnold Hayward, NS8T  
517-278-8507  
[ns8t@arrl.net](mailto:ns8t@arrl.net)

James Voss, W8SST  
517-278-4636  
[w8sst@arrl.net](mailto:w8sst@arrl.net)

**Emergency Coordinator**

James Voss, W8SST  
517-278-4636  
[w8sst@arrl.net](mailto:w8sst@arrl.net)



## Christmas Dinner/Gift Exchange

The December 2002 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 6:30 PM on December 17, 2002 at the Coldwater Country Club, 42 Narrows Road north of Coldwater. There will be no business meeting this month, as our emphasis will be on fellowship and our world famous gift exchange. The cost for dinner will be \$15.00 per person. Members and guests are welcome. The menu is located elsewhere in this issue along with the gift exchange rules.

## 2003 Officers and Board Members Selected

At the November meeting of the BCARC, the membership re-elected the current President and Secretary/Treasurer. Tom Twite, K8CHS was elected to a one-year term as Director and Jim Voss, W8SST was elected to a two-year term as Director. Effectively, this means that the Club officers are unchanged from 2002. The names, calls, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses are located in the column to the left of this article.

Your editors would like to thank Jim Voss, W8SST and Matt Godell, N8JWC for their efforts as a nominating committee.



## Holiday Wishes

The Officers and Board of Director members wish all who read this a most joyous holiday season and best wishes for the coming year.

## Ham Mart

This is the place to list any equipment that you might have for sale as well as a place to list any equipment that you might be 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](mailto:wb8r@arrl.net) or to Steve at [shadowman405@charter.net](mailto: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.

Amos Fleming, WA8LGO has the following for sale:

**Heathkit HW-5400 HF Transceiver with matching HW-5401 Power supply** and two microphones. The receiver is microprocessor controlled.

Amos can be reached at 278-8063.



## New Ham in Town

Congratulations are in order for Mike Jepson, KC8VFI of Coldwater who recently received his first call from the FCC. Mike has already been heard on the Coldwater 2 meter repeater and we expect to see him at a club meeting soon. If you hear Mike on the air, please give him a call and welcome him to the ham bands.



**Jim Voss, W8SST**

## Emergency Coordinator's Column

As promised last month, this column will contain information about the QMN Rain Gauge Network, specifically addressing snow measurement details. Much of the information, which follows, would apply to the operator who actually takes the information to QMN, but I included it so you can be aware of exactly how the information is transmitted. From the QMN Net manual:

### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:**

#### ***Winter Weather Emergencies:***

*When severe winter weather is anticipated for a portion of Michigan, special QMN net sessions may be scheduled to facilitate the reporting of either 3 or 6 hour snowfall amounts to the National Weather Service. The reporting period will depend on the severity of the event and will be at the discretion of the QMN General Manager upon consultation with the National Weather Service. The types of winter weather warnings for which QMN may be activated include:*

**Snow Advisory:** *A low-pressure system which produces snow (average of forecast range) greater than 3 inches, but less than Winter Storm Warning criteria*

**Winter Storm Warning:** *A winter storm capable of producing the following snowfall amounts is imminent:*

*Lower Michigan: 6 or more inches in 12 hours or 8 or more inches in 24 hours.*

*Upper Michigan: 8 or more inches in 12 hours or 10 or more inches in 24 hours*

**Blizzard Warning:** *Sustained wind or frequent gusts to 35 mph or more producing considerable falling and/or blowing snow-reducing visibility*

frequently to less than ¼ mile. Duration of the event will be 3 hours or longer.

During these situations, the following procedures will apply:

If possible, the schedule of net sessions will be announced in advance through a "QNC" bulletin during a routine net session. This bulletin will also be posted to the W8IHX-1 BBS on the QMN-Packet Radio System. If this is not possible, net members may be notified via telephone, pager, e-mail or similar method.

Net members are encouraged to purchase a NWS "Weather Alert" radio which automatically sounds an alarm when a severe weather event is imminent. When severe winter weather is forecast for your area, monitor upcoming QMN sessions for appropriate bulletins.

If heavy snowfall has already begun in your area, and you have knowledge that a winter storm alert has been issued, please take the following steps:

Monitor the primary QMN frequency (3663 kHz) for five minutes at the top of each hour for an emergency activation or bulletins.

If conditions are such that the primary frequency is unusable, monitor the secondary QMN frequency (7063 or 1812 KHz) for five minutes at the bottom of each hour for an emergency activation or appropriate bulletins.

Snowfall measurements will be requested for either 3 or 6-hour periods, depending on the severity of the winter storm event. The amount transmitted to the NWS during each time-period should reflect the amount of snow, which, has fallen during that time period and the total amount of snow which has fallen since the storm commenced (not the total since 630 PM (2330Z).

Message format will be similar to that of the standard snowfall report. It will indicate the County, the fact that the report is either a 3 or 6-hour update, the amount of snow, which has fallen during that period and the total accumulation since the storm began. Because of the urgent nature of the message, the precedence of "priority" will be indicated in the preamble. For example:

221 P W8IHX 5 WAYNE MI 1400Z NOV 26  
NWS-DTX

WAYNE 3 HOUR SNOW 420 / 625

MEYER

(4.20 inches has fallen in the past three hours;  
6.25 inches since the storm began)

229 P WX8Y 5 BERRIEN SPRINGS MI 1700Z  
JAN 27

NWS-IWX

BERRIEN 6 HOUR SNOW 575 / 900

WX8Y

(5.75 inches has fallen in the past six hours;  
9.00 inches since the storm began)

Routine 24-hour reports will still be transmitted on the early net session per standard operating procedures, even if an emergency activation is still in effect.

Snowfall depth is typically measured at several locations using a yardstick or ruler. Choose locations that are generally free of drifting and appear somewhat consistent with respect to snow depth. As in the case of the rain gauge, areas shielded from wind tend to be most suitable. When new snow falls upon previously accumulated snow, it is typically measured on a moveable surface, or a surface that can be cleaned-off since the last precipitation event. Examples include picnic tables, cars, or a snowboard built specifically for that purpose.

#### **How to Measure Snow:**

Snow Depth is measured by taking three to five samples of snow depth and deriving the average value. Use this value when reporting snowfall via QMN. For example:

6.5 inches  
5.5  
6.0  
+ 5.0  
23.0 divided by 4 = 5.75 inches (or  
"575" on your message form)

If snow is already on the ground, place a piece of plywood or clear off a suitable surface at which new snowfall can be measured. Be certain to mark its location in such a way that you can find it after new snow has fallen.

Measure both the new snow which has fallen as well as the total amount of snow on the ground at the time of measurement. For example: If 6 inches of new snow falls atop 10 inches, which

were on the ground due to previous snowfalls, the message form would read 600/1600 or "6 inches of snow in the past 24 hours, a total of 16 inches currently on the ground."

### **Accuracy**

Snow can typically be measured to the nearest quarter inch, however, if possible, please try to measure snow to one tenth of an inch for greater accuracy.

OK, that's the excerpt from the manual. Now here's what we should be doing. When a winter weather emergency is announced get your snow board ready. I searched high and low on the internet for specifications on this board and could find no reference, so I'm going to say a piece of 3' x 3' plywood will do. You'll want to place this in a spot which is clear of obstructions and would accumulate the average amount of snow during a storm. As you have read above, start with a clean board and about 15 minutes before net time take your measurement. Just push a ruler down into the snow (keeping it vertical) and read to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup> of an inch if possible. Do this in three or four spots on the board and then take the average. (If you're like me you'll want to write these down as my memory always fades between the board and the door.) Don't forget to clear off the board after taking your measurement. About 5 minutes 'till net time I'll call for reports and those three or four reports, which I receive, will be averaged as well to give us a countywide average. Don't forget to give the amount since the last measurement and the total storm measurement in hundredths of an inch. In other words: half an inch would be 050, two inches would be 200 and so on. I'd like to have about 4 stations willing to take on this project this winter, and it would be best to have one station in each corner of the county. Let me know if you're interested, and be listening on the weekly net where I will be discussing the subject.

See you at the Christmas dinner!  
Jim Voss, W8SST  
E.C., Branch County



## **Advanced Weather Spotter Training 2003**

Indiana-Michigan-Ohio Skywarn and the National Weather Service of Northern Indiana will sponsor Advanced Weather Spotter Training 2003 on March 15, 2003 at Elkhart Central high School, Elkhart, IN.

Registration begins at 8:00 AM and class is from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Costs are \$25 until Feb. 15 and \$30 thereafter. Lunch and snacks are included.

See the IMO website at [www.imoskywarn.org](http://www.imoskywarn.org) for details and registration form. Only 500 seats are available and will be first come first serve. Hurry, as these seats will go quickly.

### **Upcoming Hamfests**

#### **January 4**

Lowell AR Youth Club, Lowell, MI

Contact: Al Eckman, WW8WW  
11700 Vergennes  
Lowell, MI 49331  
Phone: 616-897-4125  
Email: [AEckman@lowell.k12.mi.us](mailto:AEckman@lowell.k12.mi.us)

#### **January 12**

South Bend Regional Hamfest, Goshen, IN

Contact: Denny Denniston, KA9WNR  
21970 Kern Road  
South Bend, IN 46614-9295  
Phone: 574-291-0252 (7-10 PM EST)

#### **January 18**

Amateur Radio and Youth Club, Flushing, MI

Contact: Clay Hewitt, KF8UI  
PO Box 7136  
Flint, MI 48507  
Phone: 810-233-7889  
Email: [kf8ui@arrl.net](mailto:kf8ui@arrl.net)

## **January 19**

Hazel Park ARC, Hazel Park, MI  
<http://www.qsl.net/w8hp>

Contact: Jeff Albrecht, N8WR  
PO Box 368  
Hazel Park, MI 48030  
Phone: 248-642-3608  
Email: [n8wr@arrl.net](mailto:n8wr@arrl.net)

## **February 8**

Cherryland ARC, Traverse City, MI

Contact: Joe Novak, W8TVT  
Phone: 231-947-8555  
Email: [w8tvt@arrl.net](mailto:w8tvt@arrl.net)

## **March 15**

Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI

# On the Bands



MAURITANIA, 5T. Look for JA1CPS, JA1PBV, JA6RQ and JA8RUZ to be QRV as 5T5CPS, 5T5PBV, 5T5RQ and 5T5RUZ, respectively, from November 29 to December 7. Activity is on all bands, especially on 160 and 30 meters. QSL to home calls.

CROATIA, 9A. Dusan, 9A/S52DG/p will be QRV from Hvar Island, IOTA EU-016, from November 29 to December 2. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

NEPAL, 9N. Hugo, LA5YJ is QRV as 9N7YJ from Kathmandu. Of late, he has been active on 30 meters just before 1900z and on 40 meters around 2100z. QSL to home call.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. Ali, A61AJ has been QRV on 80 meters around 1345z and 40 meters around 1400z. QSL via N4QB.

IRAN, EP. Moshen, EP3SMH has been QRV on 12 meters between 1310 and 1345z. QSL to home call.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Special event station LX0LT will be active on all bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31 from November 30 to December 8, for 24 hours a day. QSL via LX1RQ.

ARUBA, P4. Ken, K6TA and Kay, K6KO plan to be QRV from December 3 to 17 as P40TA and P40K, respectively. Activity will be mainly on the newer bands and 6 meters. They will operate in the upcoming ARRL single band contests. QSL via WM6A.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS. Alex is QRV as R1ANF and has been active on 20 meters using RTTY around 0200z. QSL via RK1PWA.

SUDAN, ST. Marco, ST1MN is active from here until the end of June 2003. QSL via IV3OWC.

GABON, TR. Alain, TR8CA has been QRV on 30 meters just after 0430z and on 12 meters around 1730z using RTTY. QSL via F6CBC.

MALI, TZ. Mac, TZ6JA is visiting Bamako until December 10. Outside his work hours he will be QRV using SSB on 40 to 10 meters, including 17 and 12 meters. QSL via JA3EMU.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7. Bruce, AC4G is active as V73CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL via AC4G.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. Pete, N2LM is active as ZF2PD until December 1. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

ANTARCTICA. Anton, ZS7/ZS4AGA is QRV from E-Base on the Fimbul Ice Shelf, IOTA AN-016, for about one week. He may be active on the Antarctica Net on 15 meters. QSL via operator's instructions.

DX information Courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletin.





## 2002 Christmas Gift Exchange Rules

The Branch County Amateur Radio Club will hold its annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange on December 17 at 6:30 pm at the Coldwater Country Club on Narrows Rd. north of Coldwater.

The gift exchange is open to all members and guests. In order to receive a gift, one must bring a gift. A gift can come from your junk box or can be purchased. The gift should be radio or computer related and can be of any value from your junk box or a recommended maximum value of \$10 if you choose to purchase a gift. Gifts should be wrapped in Christmas paper and need not have "to" or "from" tags or other identification on them. Bringing a gift for your spouse and/or children will maximize your "take" from the exchange and may enable you to take home that "prize" gift that everyone covets.

Those that bring gifts will be asked to draw a number, which will determine the order of gift selection and opening.

The gift opening will proceed as follows:

- Number 1 chooses a gift from the gift table, opens it, and shows it to everyone present.
- Number 2 can choose a gift from the table or he can take Number 1's gift if he thinks that is a better gift than he could find amongst the unopened gifts. If number 2 chooses a gift from the table, he opens it and shows it to everyone present.
- If Number 2 takes the gift from Number 1, then Number 1 goes back to the gift table and selects another gift, opens it and shows it to everyone.

- Number 3 can choose a gift from the table, Number 1, or Number 2. and follows the same procedures listed above.
- Number 4 can select a gift from the table or may take a gift belonging to number 1, 2, or 3.

This same procedure is followed until the final person selects the last gift.

The third owner of a gift gets to keep it.

Gifts must be able to be carried by one person.

Gifts cannot consist of spouses or children.

After all gifts have been opened, it is acceptable to trade your gift to anyone who is willing to trade with you.

Be creative in the selection and packaging of your gift. This event is fun so feel free to "ham it up" a bit to add some humor to the evening. Feel free to take pictures of the event and the haggling and conniving that will undoubtedly go on. A map showing the location of the Country Club will be sent under separate cover prior to the event.

## Christmas Dinner Menu

Swiss Steak (or) Chicken Breast (Baked or Barbecued)

Mashed Potatoes

California Blend

Coffee or Iced Tea

Desert

There will be a cash bar available for those that are so inclined.

