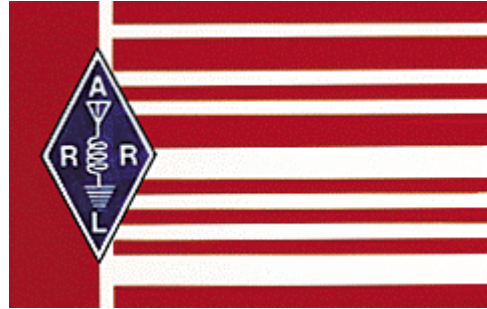




Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961



February, 2003

WD8KAF Club Repeaters:

147.300 + 100 Hz PL
443.300 +

**Club Meeting on the 3rd
Tuesday of each month at
7:00 PM 911 Center, Basement
Training Room**

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

Club Officers 2003

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 February 2003 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 PM on February 18, 2003 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.

February Meeting Program

Larry Wheeler, W9QR will present the February program. He will tell us all about feedlines: how they guide energy, how they transform impedance, differences between tuned and untuned lines, how to calculate losses, how they work as delay lines and phasing elements etc. Larry is a very knowledgeable ham and we will all learn something from this program. Be sure to spread the word to your friends and bring them to the meeting with you. The best way to show a guest that you appreciate the effort that they have made to present a program to your club is to pack the house and make it a point to tell them how much you enjoyed their presentation and that you are glad that they visited us.

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New Members

We would like to welcome 4 new members to the BCARC as of the January meeting. Joining the club were:

Jim King, KC8UGV and his son Aaron from Coldwater. We hope to see Aaron with his own callsign soon!

Mike Jepson, KC8VFI, from Coldwater Lake

Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK, from the Burlington/Union City area.

We are very happy to have you as BCARC members and welcome your participation in our club activities. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact any club Officer or Board member for assistance.

FOXY!!!



We have a Fox Hunt (Hidden Transmitter Hunt) scheduled as the program for the June meeting. In order to get ready for the Fox Hunt, it is recommended that all those who would like to participate begin their education early. We recommend that up to 4 individuals (a carload) join together as a team to learn about fox hunting procedures and equipment and to develop their own plans for the hunt. At least one team has been formed and antennas have been built and they seem to work very well. Work has also begun on various attenuator projects.

The following are some of the Fox Hunting Web Sites that are available on the Internet:

<http://www.qarc.on.ca/foxhunt.htm>
<http://www.qsl.net/nz0i/mainlinks.htm>
<http://www.qsl.net/n8def/>
<http://www.ardf.ch/>
<http://home.cinci.rr.com/w8eh/fox.html>
<http://www.stuorg.iastate.edu/radioclub/foxhunt/2mquad.html>

http://www.dxzone.com/catalog/Reference/Radio_Direction_Finding/
http://www.radiokatalog.al.ru/drugie_web_ringi.htm
<http://home.att.net/~jleggio/projects/rdf/rdf.htm>
<http://www.hvdfa.webhop.net/>
<http://www.qarc.on.ca/article1.htm>

There are usually several links on these websites that will take you to additional information or web sites. There are many more sites out there that will give you information on Fox Hunting and the equipment that goes along with it. Just fire up your favorite search engine and search for "fox hunt". Be careful when you open the web sites as sometimes the word "Fox" is used as an acronym for a young lady and you can get away from G-rated web sites quickly if you are not careful. More information will be published in coming newsletters.

It's (Still) That Time Again...

No, it's not income tax time (yet) but it is time to pay your club dues for 2003. Annual dues are \$10.00 per year and need to be paid prior to March 1 in order to remain in good standing and participate in the various procedural votes taken at each club meeting. For those with multiple hams in their family the cost for all members beyond the original member is \$2.00 per year. This is a good low-cost way to increase our membership numbers. Full time students that are not eligible for family membership can renew their membership for \$5.00 per year. See Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI and he will happily take your money. We completed 2002 with 35 members and we would like to increase that number to 40 plus for 2003. Spread the word and bring your friends to the meetings.



Ham Radio Classes Announced

The **Hillsdale County Amateur Radio Club (HCARC)** will be offering introductory (Technician Class) ham radio instruction on Wednesday evenings in Room 131 of the Hillsdale High School from February 12-March 5 at 7 p.m. **THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS CLASS!**

There will be a testing session offered on March 8 at the Litchfield Congregational Church at 10a.m. Just pass the 35-question Technician exam, get your callsign, and you're on the air.

If you've ever considered entering the wonderful world of ham radio, **NOW'S THE TIME!**

The Technician Question Pool will be expanded as of July 1, 2003; download the current Pool from: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/pools.html>

For those interested in upgrading to General Class, Morse code classes continue to be offered at the Litchfield Congregational Church on Thursday evenings at 7 p.m.

For further information, contact: Dan Sprow, KC8RYF 437-1410, dspro@voyager.net or Peter Cromwell, KC8PMA 283-2223, cromwells@dmci.net

Marshall Hamfest Tickets to be Ruffled Off at February Meeting

The S.M.A.R.S. group from Battle Creek has sent us a pair of tickets for the Marshall Hamfest on March 15. These tickets will be raffled off as part of the usual 50/50 raffle that we have at each club meeting. These tickets are worth \$5.00 at the door. Be sure to bring an extra dollar with you so you can take a shot at winning half the proceeds of the raffle or a ticket to the Hamfest. Three individuals will go home happy that night. It could be you!

Repeater Committee Formed

Three club members have volunteered their time to serve on the newly formed Repeater Committee. They are: Mike Jepson, KC8VFI,

Mike Murray, KC8PMG, and Don Cook, KC8PRM.

They will serve on this committee with our repeater magician, Dale Smith, W9LKI, the repeater trustee, Arnie Hayward, and the balance of the club Officers and Board of Directors. The committee is interested in input from the club members and all suggestions will be given consideration.

Thank you for stepping forward to serve, fellows.

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 or to Steve at shadowman405@charter.net.



For Sale

Mike Jepson, KC8VFI has ten brand new Vertex (Yaesu) VX2000 commercial 440 Mhz transceivers available for sale. They are slightly different from the picture above in that there is no digital display. These are 4 channel 5W/25W rigs that are very rugged as they were designed for commercial service. They are computer programmable for the 4 frequencies of your choice and come complete with the necessary sub-audible tones. Mike has the programming software and will program the frequencies of your choice for you.

These rigs work very well in either a mobile or a base setting, have great audio characteristics and

are solid as a rock. The transceiver is 6 ¼ X 1 ½ X 4 ¼ inches and weighs 1.9 lbs.

Mike has offered them to us for \$130 each (plus tax). Contact Mike at jepsonmc@cbpu.com.

Emergency Coordinator's Comments



Jim Voss, W8SST

Mid-winter greetings to everyone. Just a few thoughts from my warm spot here at the computer tonight.

I want to thank Mike and Don for jumping in to take control of the two meter net the last two times. It sounds as though we've had a fair turnout for the net and I plan on being around for the next one. Hope you will too!

There's still time to sign up for the Advanced Spotter Training coming up on March 15th. Of course you'll have to miss the Marshall Hamfest to attend, but hey, how often do you have the opportunity to get this advanced training? Online forms are downloadable at www.imoskywarn.org.

We've been fortunate to have avoided pulling out the snowboards and rulers this winter. I doubt this will continue, so keep your ears open for winter storm watches and warnings.

Another friendly reminder to work on that "jump kit" to use for next spring's severe weather net activations. Spring is only 40 days away!

See you on the net.

Jim, W8SST

Branch County Emergency Coordinator



2003 Meeting Programs

The following programs are planned for the 2003 club meetings:

January: Ft. Wayne DX Association

February: Larry Wheeler, W9QR, Transmission lines – all you ever wanted to know about 'em.

March: Skywarn Training courtesy of NWS North Webster.

April: ARRL Section Manager Debbie Kirkbride, KA8YKK.

May: Carl and Vicky from the Ft. Wayne DX Association will visit again to tell us all about their DX-pedition to Syria.

June: Fox Hunt (Direction Finding exercise/contest).

July: TBD

August: Liars Club (?)

September: ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT.

October: Club Auction

November: Annual Business meeting.

December: Christmas dinner and gift exchange.

Please note that there may be last minute changes due to bad weather during the winter months.



DX On the Bands



SENEGAL, 6W. Norbert, F6AXX is QRV as 6W7/F6AXX until February 7. He is using CW on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

SIERRA LEONE, 9L. Zbig, SP7BTB is QRV as 9L1BTB. Lately he has been QRV on 160, 80, 20, 12 and 6 meters. QSL to home call.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Nodir, EY8MM has been QRV on 80 meters around 0200 and 1300z. He has also been active on 160 meters around 1700 to 2200z.

HAITI, HH. Hans, DL7CM and Sid, DM2AYO are active as HH6/DL7CM and HH6/DM2AYO, respectively, from Ile a Vache, IOTA NA-149, until February 15. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home calls.

SVALBARD, JW. JW0HU is active on 160 to 15 meters, including the newer bands, at various times of the day. QSL via SP3WVL.

MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0. JN1MYM and JO1UTG are QRV from Saipan as KH0/JN1MYM and KH2DI/KH0, respectively, until February 3. Activity is on all the HF bands and 6 meters. QSL to home calls.

JOHNSTON ISLAND, KH3. A group of DXers are QRV as AH3D until February 4. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via OH2BH.

BRAZIL, PY. The Scout Association Baependi are QRV as ZX3S until February 19 to celebrate the World Social Forum taking place in Porto Alegre. QSL via PY3CQ.

MOUNT ATHOS, SV/A. Monk Apollo has been QRV on 40 meters CW around 1900z and 20 meter CW around 1000z.

CENTRAL KIRIBATI, T31. Mike, KM9D is QRV as T31MY from Canton Island, IOTA OC-043, until late February. QSL via OM2SA.

ANTIGUA, V2. Wicky, W4LW and Fred, K4FMD will be QRV as V2/K4UP from February 2 to 8. This is a casual operation, with activity on 20, 17, 15, 12 and 10 meters using SSB. QSL via K4UP.

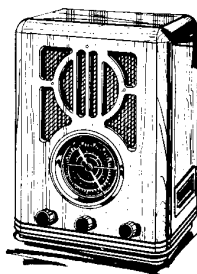
TURK AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5. Chrissy, KB9VAL and Gary, K9SG are active as VP5/KB9VAL and VP5/K9SG, respectively, from Providenciales, IOTA NA-002, until February 3. QSL both calls via K9SG.

PITCAIRN ISLAND, VP6. Ed, W2SN is scheduled to be QRV as VP6EM on February 4 from 1700 to 2359z on 20, 15 and 10 meters SSB, depending on propagation. QSL to home call.

FALKLAND ISLANDS, VP8. Mark, VP8CSA is QRV until February 11. QSL via DL1SDN.

BURKINA FASO, XT. Dani, XT2ATI has been QRV on 40 meters around 2000z and 20 meters around 2200z. QSL via EA4YK.

DX information courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletin.



SWL News

By Gerald Barnes, KC8QNS

As part of the amateur radio hobby, I enjoy listening to broadcast stations from other parts of the world. This is called being a SWL or Short Wave Listener. Here is some information about some Short Wave Stations that broadcast from the United States.

Voice of America. English to the Caribbean and Latin America at 0100 to 0130 UTC on 5.995, 6.130, 7.405, 9.455, 9.775, and 13.790 Mhz. Broadcast from Washington, DC.

WYFR (Family Radio) Christian broadcast to Canada and US on 6.065 Mhz from 0100 to 0445 UTC. Also try 6.085 Mhz from 0000 to 0100 UTC. Broadcasts from Florida.

WRMI Christian broadcast to the US in English from 1300 to 1600 UTC on 15.725 Mhz from Miami, FL

As of June, 2001, the BBC has discontinued all shortwave broadcasts to the US, but there are still broadcasts to the Caribbean, which can still be heard in Michigan when conditions are good. I will have more information in next month's column.



Win This Yaesu FT-90R!!!

The club has applied to the State of Michigan for a license to raffle off a Yaesu FT90R Dual Band 2M – 440 MHz Mobile rig as part of our club fund raising activities.

This radio is a miniature mobile rig that is only 3.9 X 1.2 X 5.4 inches and weighs 1.4 lbs. The radio face can be removed and mounted on the dash while the radio itself is placed under the front seat or elsewhere. Power output is 50 W on 2M and 35 W on 440. It has 186 memories and extended receive capabilities. It is a very nice rig.

Specifications for this rig can be found at www.yaesu.com.

Raffle tickets will be \$5.00 each and the drawing will be held at the May 20, 2003 club meeting. We will depend on members to spread the word and sell the tickets. In the event that enough tickets are not sold to cover expenses, the raffle will revert to a 50/50 drawing. We are confident that we will be able to sell more than enough tickets. Tickets should be available for distribution to those wanting to buy tickets for themselves or to sell to others approximately the first week of March. We plan to sell tickets at the Marshall Hamfest as well as at our club meetings in March, April and May and at the SMARS club meeting in Battle Creek and at the Hillsdale Club meeting as well.

If this raffle works as well as we think it will, we will consider periodically holding additional raffles. It all depends on the response that we get from the ham community.

Upcoming Hamfests

February 8

Cherryland ARC, Traverse City, MI

February 16

Livonia ARC, Farmington Hills, MI

February 22

La Porte ARC, La Porte, IN

March 15

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI
Contact: John Malinowski, N8BGM
Email: n8bgm@aol.com

March 16

Toledo Mobile Radio Association, Maumee, OH

March 22

Michigan City ARC, Michigan City, IN

April 5

Milford ARC, Milford, MI

May 3

Wexaukee ARC, Cadillac, MI

May 16-18

Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH

Random Thoughts

Rule of Accuracy: When working toward the solution of a problem, it always helps if you know the answer. Inside every small problem is a large problem struggling to get out.

Zymurgy's Law of Volunteer Labor: People are always available for work in the past tense.

Albert Einstein Segal's Law: A man with a watch knows what time it is. A man with two watches is never sure.

Cole's Axiom: The sum of the intelligence on the planet is a constant; the population is growing.