



Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

Volume II, Number 3

An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961



March, 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

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Emergency Coordinator

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Notice – March Meeting Place Change

The March 2003 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 PM on March 18, 2003 in room 164 of the Branch Area Careers Center. This will be our annual **Skywarn Training** and will be in conjunction with Emergency Preparedness and First Responder personnel from Branch County. **There will be no business meeting in March.**

New Members

We would like to welcome 2 new members to the BCARC as of the February meeting. Joining the club were:

Dick Schlueter, KA8OLT from Quincy

Dee Schlueter, N8WOF from Quincy (XYL of Dick)

Jan Kubiak, KC8ATC (XYL of Bill, KB8VWI)

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. Also thanks to all who renewed their membership. For those who have not paid your dues yet, there is a chance that you will all turn into toads on March 1st!

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Moved and Seconded...

At the February meeting, the membership voted to allow the monthly meeting minutes to be distributed electronically approximately one week prior to the meeting, rather than to spend time reading them at each meeting prior to approval. A hard copy will be available for review at each meeting by those members that do not have email access.



New Logo on Masthead

Did you notice the new Special Service Club logo on page 1 of our newsletter? It is there because we were able to successfully meet the requirements to renew our status as one of the best of the best ARRL affiliated radio clubs. This distinction makes our club one of only 14 in the Michigan Section. This gives us some benefits and some responsibilities which we will talk about at the April Meeting.



Rig Raffle Update

Our raffle tickets have arrived! They will soon be available for sale from various club members. If you would like to take a block of tickets to sell, please contact NS8T or WB8R and we can fix you up. The tickets are \$5.00 each and are intended for sale to hams only. The drawing date is 8:00 PM May 20, 2003 at our regular club meeting at the 911 Center. Remember, if we do well on this raffle, we can raffle off other rigs. This may be the best \$5.00 you ever spent!

Ham Classes Announced

The BCARC will conduct a No-Code Technician license class at the Branch Area Career Center. There will be an organizational meeting on March 13 at 7:00 PM in Room 144. The cost for the class will be \$20.00 to cover the cost of the study book (ARRL "Now You're Talking"), shipping, and other class materials. Prospective students are asked to pay for their books at the organizational meeting so we can order enough books for class.

The class will be taught by WB8R, W8SST, and NS8T.

The class itself will meet on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00 PM from March 27 through April 24. The testing session will take place on May 1 or May 3. (Date to be finalized later). The test fee is \$12.65 and is to be paid on the day of the test.





Jim Voss, W8SST

I'm sure Mr. Camp is still recovering from the surprise of receiving this column without having to threaten the author with some sort of Wouff Hongish retribution. Surprise is good for the soul!

I wanted to put some thoughts down while they were still fresh in my mind after attending the Michigan State ARPSC meeting in Lansing last week. The get together was well attended with E. C.'s coming from as far away as the U. P. It was another of those unique ham radio opportunities to put faces with calls and names.

The majority of the time was spent being updated on the most recent ideas on how to bring about statewide RACES standardization. This presentation was put together by our SEC, Jim Wades, WB8SIW, and well put together, by the way. Jim covered such topics as: Homeland Security – Preparing ARES/RACES; Roadblocks to Standardization; Solutions; Training Initiatives; Security Checks for RACES Members; Drills and Exercises; Baseline Capabilities; Mutual Aid and District Emergency Communications Response Teams. Much work needs to be done here in Branch County on all the aforementioned areas, but with your help we can accomplish it.

Also, coming up in the not too distant future will be multi-district workshops on Digital Communications, Field Deployment and Introduction To Disaster Telecommunications. Be advised that RACES members will have to complete a number of additional steps to obtain their cards next time and some of these classes will be required. Details will follow, as they are available.

Ed Summers, KC8LBZ, is looking for a dedicated VHF packet station on 145.76 in each county of Michigan to relay ARES/RACES traffic to the Statewide HF PACTOR system.

This system will pull traffic from all over the state to the State EOC in Lansing. If that's anything you might be capable of and interested in, please contact me.



I'd like to thank Don, **KC8PRM** for stepping forward to a position as Assistant E.C. in charge of our VHF Network. Don will be searching out those of you willing to volunteer as net control stations for the weekly two-meter net. As time goes along, we will be adding a short training session to each net and Don will be assisting in that as well. Thanks, Don, for stepping forward to fill this position.

Also, receiving his official appointment as an AEC in our county ARES organization is Jon, **K8SST**. Jon provides eyes, and more importantly, ears, during Skywarn season, monitoring several frequencies during the workday and checking the Internet and commercial TV radars for incoming nasty stuff. Look for Jon to be out in the thick of it as his driver's license and severe weather season come together this spring. (Gads!)



Jon Voss

Dare I say it again? Keep putting that Jump Kit together. It'll be needed before you know it. And, maybe like me, you should check the gear in that bag out before the bad weather arrives. I took my H.T., power cord, mike and antenna to the meeting on Saturday and found that something was not working. Get your stuff out in the next couple weeks and put it to the test so that it's gonna work when the heat is on.

A plug for Severe Weather Training on Tuesday, March 18th at 7 P.M. at the Branch Area Careers Center. When you're out there with the storm bearing down on you, you'll be glad you went to training back in March. See you there!



DX On the Bands



BARBADOS, 8P. Tom, W2SC will be QRV as 8P5A as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via NT1N.

MALTA, 9H. Alex, DL5SDK plans to be QRV as 9H3AS from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, from March 3 to 10. Look for activity on 20, 15 and 10 meters. QSL to home call.

CHILE, CE. Ferdy, CE4FXV will participate in the ARRL DX Phone contest as CE4Y on 10 meters using high power. QSL to home call.

MOROCCO, CN. Look for W7EJ to be active as CN2R in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL to home call.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8. Look for EA8/OH6XX and EA8/OH9MM to be active in the ARRL DX Phone contest as Single Op entries on 15 and 20 meters, respectively. QSL to home calls. Meanwhile, Martti, OH2BH will be QRV as EA8BH as an All Band entry. QSL to home call.

FRENCH GUINEA, FY. Look for F6FVY, F1HAR, F5HRY, F5MZN and FY5FY to be QRV as FY5KE in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via FY5KE.

ITALY, I. Look for IR4X to be QRV in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via IK4QJH.

JAPAN, JA. Operators JS6QVQ, JS6QVP and JI5RPT/6 will be QRV from the Daito Islands, IOTA AS-047, from March 4 to 11. They plan activity on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL JS6QVQ via JI5RPT, JS6QVP via JI5USJ and JI5RPT/6 to home call.

U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Tony, N2TK will be QRV from WP2Z for the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via KU9C. Before and after the contest he is active as N2TK/NP2. QSL to home call.

LUXEMBOURG, LX. Robert, LX1RQ plans to be QRV as LX5A in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Single Op/Single Band entry on 20 meters. QSL to home call.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0. Toni, OH2JTE will be QRV from the OH0B station during the ARRL DX Phone contest. He will be a Single Op/All Band entry with a SO2R setup. QSL via operator's instructions.

NETHERLAND ANTILLES, PJ2. AE9B, NW0L and WB9Z will be QRV as PJ2T from Curacao in the ARRL DX Phone contest. Before and after the contest they are active using their homecalls/PJ6 until March 6. Activity is on the newer bands and possibly on RTTY. Look for them on 6 meters on either 50110 or 50125 kHz. QSL via operators' instructions.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2. Robert, W5AJ will be QRV as V26P as a Single Op/All Band entry in the ARRL DX Phone contest. QSL via WJ5DX.

BELIZE, V3. Charlotte, KQ1F and Paul, K1XM are QRV as V31QQ from Turneffe Island, IOTA NA-123, until March 5. This includes activity in the ARRL DX Phone contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via KQ1F.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF. John, K0DQ will participate in the ARRL DX Phone contest as ZF2DQ as a Single Op/All Band/High Power entry. Prior to the contest, he plans on being QRV on 17 and 12 meters. QSL to home call.

DX Information courtesy of ARRL DX Report

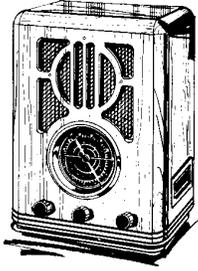
Random Thoughts

Law of Research: Enough research will tend to support your theory.

Maier's Law: If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be disposed of.

Peers Law: The solution to the problem changes the problem.





SWL News

By Gerald Barnes, KC8QNS

GOT BBC?

The British Broadcasting Corp. has been one of the most listened to shortwave stations around the world for the last 70 years, and also had a super program to the United States. But as of June 2001, the BBC stopped all transmissions to the United States due to a "lack" of interest, but the BBC still transmits to the Caribbean, which is very strong to the U.S.!

Here is there Caribbean schedule:

1100-1700UTC.....	15.190 MHz
1200-1500UTC.....	9.740 MHz*
2100-0300UTC.....	12.095 MHz
2300-0500UTC.....	5.975 MHz
0100-0400UTC.....	9.525 MHz
0400-0600UTC.....	6.135 MHz

* Carries programs from East Asia schedule



Field Day 2003

This year's FD will be held June 28 & 29. There have been some significant changes to the FD rules that will allow us to operate from the 911 Center (County Emergency Operating Center) using the Club's antennas that will have been already installed by then. For FD, this means that we will not have to erect antennas on site, which will significantly reduce the effort required and

improve our signal. We will also be able to use the commercial power from the 911 Center and still be able to claim use of emergency power if the 911 Director will test the facility's generators during the FD weekend. We will most likely work from shelters outside because the EOC is a secure facility and can't be left open all night for us to come and go. More details later.

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



Heathkit SB200 Linear Amplifier

10 thru 80 meters. New capacitors (less than 20 minutes running time) One extra set of power tubes (572B) All manuals and assembly books 600 watts output. Extra good condition

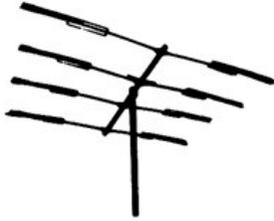
Call Arnie, 278-8507



Vertex VX2000 4 Channel UHF

Don't forget that Mike Jepson has a few of these available for sale for \$130 plus tax. These are 4 channel 5W/25W commercial rigs that would

work nicely at home or in the car. Vertex is the commercial name for Yaesu products. See Mike Jepson.



Antenna Party Planned

On March 22, the skies will clear and the temperatures will go up and the 911 Center will have antennas installed by the end of the day. We are going to install the Tribander and other antennas on the 22nd and run the feedlines into the Club Station in the basement of the 911 Center. This will pave the way for our club station to become operational. We certainly can use some help getting things done. Jim Voss, W8SST has more details.

Michigan QSO Party

What in the world is a QSO Party? Why is Michigan having a party in this age of red ink in the budget? Don't we have better things to spend the state's money on? Well, it doesn't cost the state anything so we can proceed without fear of reprisals from Ms. Granholm.

A QSO Party is an opportunity for hams in Michigan to call attention to our state on the airwaves. It is a contest on the HF bands similar to Field Day in that individuals or groups in Michigan contact as many stations as possible during a 12 hour period from noon to midnight on April 19. There are a number of different categories so participants compete with stations with similar capabilities.

We have gained permission to operate from our club station at the 911 Center and we are planning to put two stations on the air for this contest. The bands for the contest are 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 Meters. This should be a tune up for Field Day.

Plan now to participate!

2003 Meeting Programs

The following programs are planned for the club meetings for the balance of 2003:

March: Skywarn Training courtesy of NWS North Webster. No business meeting.

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

August: Chat and Chew – An evening of coffee, cookies, and conversation.

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

October: Club Auction

November: Annual Business meeting.

December: Christmas dinner and gift exchange.

Upcoming Hamfests

March 15

Michigan Crossroads Hamfest, Marshall, MI (N8KNM has advance tickets)

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