



Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

Volume II, Number 5

An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961



May, 2003
WD8KAF Club Repeaters:
147.300 + 100.0 Hz PL
443.300 + 123.0 Hz PL

**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

May Meeting Notice

The May 2003 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held at 7:00 PM on May 20, 2003 in the basement Training room of the 911 Center near the airport West of Coldwater. The drawing for the FT-90R Dual Band mobile transceiver will be held at 8:00 PM. Our program for this meeting will be another visit by Carl, K9LA and Vicky AE9YL from the Ft. Wayne DX Assn who will tell us all about their DXpedition to Syria in 2001. This should be a great program, which everyone will enjoy. See further info elsewhere in this issue.

In this Issue...

- ❑ Raffle Update Page 2
- ❑ DXpedition to Syria Page 2
- ❑ Technician Class Update Page 3
- ❑ Test Session Schedules Page 3
- ❑ Club Station Update Page 5

Organizational Structure

The body of every organization is structured from **four kinds of bones**:

- **Wishbones**, who spend their time wishing that something would get done
- **Jawbones**, who do all the talking about how someone should do something
- **Knucklebones**, who knock everything anybody else tries to do
- **Backbones**, who get under the load and do the work

(Appropriated loosely from QMN NET NEWS)



Rig Raffle On Home Stretch

The sale of raffle tickets has been pretty good up to this point and now that we are nearing the drawing date of May 20, the final push is on to sell as many as possible.

To date we have sold in excess of 100 tickets so we are assured that we are going to make money on this venture. Obviously, we would like to sell more because anything we sell now is pure profit for the club.

One of the things we will need to do is review the process that we used for this raffle and discuss if we want to do another raffle in a few months and if we do another one, what changes do we want to make to make it more attractive to more people.

Tickets are available from NS8T, W8SST, KC8PRM, KC8RYF, N8JWC, and WB8R.

DXpedition to Syria

Our guests for the May meeting will explain to us the trials and tribulations of operating in a foreign country.

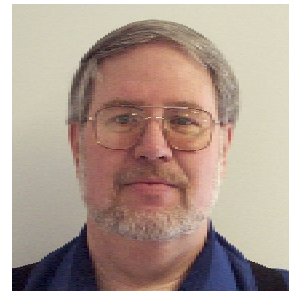


In an operation such as this there are always a number of surprises that happen, some pleasant

and some that try your patience and test your abilities and creativity. Carl, K9LA and his bride Vicky AE9YL will visit our club again and will tell us all about their experiences in Syria.



Vicky AE9YL “Mobile” in Syria



Jim Voss, W8SST Emergency Coordinator

A short column this month so you can get outdoors and enjoy the weather. That is, unless we're out there spotting.

You may have noticed that Assistant EC Don has been running many of the weekly Emergency Nets lately. The reason for this is that you folks aren't responding to his calls for net control stations. Thanks to those few who have taken the plunge, but c'mon folks, let's give a hand. Give Don a call and tell him you're willing to give it a try. You'll feel better for it!

Watch for an announcement of an ARES/RACES meeting sometime early in the summer. Most of you will notice that your ARES card has expired. We'll take care of that and start

work on RACES cards as well. Net training will be involved as well. Stay Tuned.

My thanks to all of you who have been checking in to the severe weather nets this spring. Special thanks to Larry, WB8R, for taking on NCS duties a number of times when I was unavailable.

73,

Jim Voss, W8SST

Emergency Coordinator

Tech Class Update



We have completed 75% of our class and we have all six students hanging in there. In addition, one of the original students has been unable to attend class because of work schedules, but has been studying on his own and tells us he is ready to take the test.

Prior to the test session (information elsewhere in this issue) we will hold a special class session to answer any questions that our students might have and to help prepare for the test.

Everyone involved has been diligent and has worked hard and will soon be rewarded with their own callsign and ham ticket!

Test Session Schedules

The Angola group is sponsoring tests at the Pleasant Lake Fire Dept, Pleasant Lake, IN at 6:00 PM (Indiana time) on May 13, 2003. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact Gene Diehl at N9LCF@loc1.net 260-495-5715.

The BCARC will sponsor a testing session at the 911 Center basement training room in Coldwater, MI on Saturday, May 31 at 9:00 AM. Walk-ins are welcome. Contact Larry Camp at WB8R@arrl.net 517-278-0406.

Michigan QSO Party

On Saturday, April 19, a bunch of us congregated at the Club Station at the 911 Center to participate in the Michigan QSO Party. Over the course of the day 15 operators stopped by to help out and to operate a while.

While we did not set the world afire with our results, we all learned a lot and we had some fun. We only operated until around 6:00 PM so the number of contacts was pretty low. Our newly installed Tribander worked well, with contacts in Poland and Alaska plus contacts all over the US on phone. The wire dipole used on the CW station worked reasonably well and 33 contacts were made on CW. We logged 32 phone contacts and 38 multipliers (MI counties or other states and provinces). The contest committee will score our log and we will be notified where we finished. This contest was a trial run for Field Day and we learned some valuable lessons.



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.



Lexmark Color Printer Cartridges

Two Lexmark # 12A1980 Make offer or willing to trade. Price new from Staples was \$59.98 For Compaq but will fit other printers.

See Don, KC8PRM

2003 Meeting Programs

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

June: Fox Hunt (Direction Finding exercise/contest). No business meeting.

July: Larry Wheeler, W9QR, Transmission Lines – all you ever wanted to know about ‘em.

August: The Three C’s – 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 at the Coldwater Country Club.

Upcoming Hamfests

May 3

Wexauke ARC, Cadillac, MI

May 16-18

Dayton Hamvention, Dayton, OH

June 1

Chelsea ARC, Chelsea, MI

June 7

Independent Repeater Assn, Hudsonville, MI

June 14

Midland ARC, Midland, MI

June 15

Monroe County Radio Communications Assn, Monroe, MI

June 16

Lake County ARC, Crown Point, IN



A couple of months ago, Arnie received a letter from a ham near Columbus, Ohio named Bill Jones, K8CU. This gentleman explained that he used to hold the callsign **NS8T** but had changed to K8CU. As NS8T, he had a wooden callsign plaque built and when he changed his call, he decided to keep it for whoever was the next owner of that call. Bill graciously shipped the plaque to Arnie, who proudly displays it on his wall. As you can see by the photo above, it is a beauty. Bill also has a nifty website, www.realhamradio.com. Check it out.

April ARES Net Statistics

Our VHF Net Manager, Don, KC8PRM reports 5 net sessions in April with a total of 58 checkins. We still need some help with Net Control. It is not fair for just 3 or 4 individuals to be saddled with the responsibility of the net. See “**Organizational Structure**” on page one of this newsletter.

Hillsdale Club’s Program Schedule

May Fox Hunting - Ideas and demonstrations
June Field Day prep
July No Meeting
August Fox Hunt

Club Station Progress Report



We are very pleased to report that most of the antennas have been installed and tested at the Club Station at the 911 Center.

On Good Friday afternoon, Jim (W8SST), Jon Voss (K8SST), Arnie Hayward (NS8T), Bill Slade (WD8MGF), Gary Kinney (KC8UKE), and Larry Camp (WB8R) got together to run the feed lines from the antennas into the building.

This was a major project that required that we bring the cables (5 pieces of coax plus the rotator cable) in through the gable vent at the west peak of the building and down through a first floor office into the basement. We hid the cables in the office by running them inside a 3 inch PVC pipe. Adding to the difficulty of the operation was the need for all 5 cables to have PL259's and barrel connectors at the point where they enter the building so that the tower can be lowered for antenna work without having to have extra cable just hanging around. We are all very happy to report that the effort went off without a major hitch and all feed lines are now available in our club station in the basement.

We have received permission to add a second operating desk to the station and we are in the process of cleaning out a bunch of old magazines that we have accumulated. These magazines will be offered to club members at the May meeting and what is left will go into the dumpster. In the future we can buy copies of the ARRL's QST CD's in order to have a complete set of all QST magazines if that is what we decide to do.

We also have some equipment odds and ends that will hit the block at the October auction.

We are working on setting up the station in a more permanent fashion for Field Day and

beyond. Soon we will need to be thinking about adding a HF transceiver to the station. We are interested in your fund raising ideas to financially support this.

This project has taken a long time to get this far, but we have to remind ourselves that we are all volunteers and we work on club projects when our schedules permit and when we can get together to do the work. There have been a great number of people who have helped in this project and we appreciate each and every one of you.



Repeater Update

It has come to our attention that there has been a recent increase in the number of one-way Transmissions on the 147.300 repeater.

FCC Part 97.113 Prohibits one way transmissions via amateur radio other than those specifically authorized in Part 97.111.

We all need to remember that the FCC does listen to amateur repeaters and they do act on offenses. When we violate the rules on a repeater, we are not only putting our personal licenses at risk, but we are risking the license of the repeater trustee as well. Let's do our homework, folks.

If you need clarification as to what the rules say, please refer to Part 97. The club has a copy of the ARRL's FCC Rule Book in our club library

