



# Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

Volume II, Number 7

An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961



<b>July 2003</b>
<b>WD8KAF Club Repeaters:</b>
147.300 + 100.0 Hz PL
443.300 + 123.0 Hz PL
<b>Club Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM 911 Center, Basement Training Room</b>
<b>2-Meter Net Tuesdays 7:00 PM (Except meeting night)</b>
<b>Club Officers 2003</b>
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## July Meeting Program Notice

The July 2003 meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held July 15, 2003 in the basement training room of the 911 Communications Center west of Coldwater on U.S. 12.

Our guest will be Larry Wheeler, W9QR from Spencerville, IN. Larry owns and manages EW Systems and he has a wealth of experience in the communications project management field and has researched and designed systems for some very large corporations in the US and around the world. Larry will discuss transmission lines and how they guide energy, how they transform impedance, the differences between tuned and untuned lines, how to calculate losses, how transmission lines work as delay lines and phasing elements etc...

Larry is planning a Q & A session, so be sure to write down your questions in advance. This promises to be a great program where we can all learn a lot. Be sure to bring a friend with you or how about bringing one of our new hams to the meeting with you? Don't forget to bring something to write on and with so you can jot down any formulas or other pertinent facts that you choose to retain.



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## Fox Hunt Results

1<sup>st</sup> Place Team



Tom Romine, Ed Klein, KC8MCC,  
and Gene Miller, KC8PRM

2<sup>nd</sup> Place Team



Don Cook, KC8PRM and Austin  
Mandoka, KC8WVX

3<sup>rd</sup> Place Team



Bill Shaw, Jim Shaw, N8NG, and  
Jerry Barnes, KC8QNS

The word on the street is that the Fox Hunt was a great success and huge quantities of fun were had by all.

We would like to offer our congratulations to the winning team of Tom Romine (aspiring ham), Ed Klein, KC8MCC, and Gene Miller, KC8PWB. Likewise our congratulations go to Don Cook, KC8PRM and one of our new hams, Austin Mandoka, KC8WVX who were the second team to find the fox. The third team to locate the Ol' Fox was Jim Shaw, N8NG and his son Bill, and Jerry Barnes, KC8QNS.

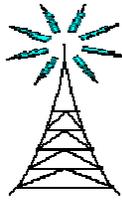
Honorable mention goes to Dave King, KC8WVV (another new ham) who came in fourth, and lastly, the crew from Hillsdale County consisting of Pete Cromwell, KC8PMC, Milt Bowers, N8BFD, and Dan Sprow, KC8RYF.

Below is a picture of the heavily disguised fox that everyone was looking for:



All your editor can say is that if everyone knew what a scroungy fox they were looking for, no one would have deliberately tried to find him!!!

What do you think? Everyone have a good time and learn something too? Wanna do it again? If you are interested in additional fox hunts, be sure to let one of the club officers know that you like being abused by strangely dressed old men that hide so you can find 'em.



## New Hams Receive Callsigns

All seven of our new hams from our recent Technician class learned what the Callsign Gods had in store for them when their new callsigns appeared on the FCC database. Do you remember what fears went through your mind while waiting for that new call and the thoughts of the horrible callsign that you **might** get? Well, I think the guys did ok.

I believe that all have VHF and/or UHF equipment and several have been heard on the air. If you hear any of these fellows on the air, be sure to give them a call and chat with them and be sure to welcome them to amateur radio and to the BCARC ham community. We are really proud of all of them.

The new calls are:

**Brandon Miller, KC8WSO**, Bronson

**Scott Townsend, KC8WUH**, Coldwater

**David King, KC8WVW**, Litchfield

**Austin Mandoka, KC8WVX**, Bronson

**John Stephenson, KC8WWA**, Hillsdale

**Randy Kruger, KC8WWB**, Coldwater

**Chris Peters, KC8WWC**, Coldwater



## New MI ARRL Section Manager

Michigan ARRL Section Mgr Debbie Kirkbride, KA8YKK, a frequent BCARC visitor, has recently resigned her position due to family health problems. She rightfully will be concentrating all of her efforts on her family and we all wish her well. Debby did an excellent job during her tenure as our Section Manager, always approaching any task with lots of enthusiasm and eagerness. Debbie is a valuable resource that will be missed, but those of us who know her well know that once the problems that took her away from us are resolved that she will most likely be back in a leadership role. Many thanks for a job well done, Debbie!

The good news here is that we have an old friend who has stepped forward to lead the Michigan Section for the second time. **Dale Williams, WA8EFK**, from Dundee MI has accepted the call to lead. Dale was previously our SM from 1992-1996 and did an excellent job. I am certain that he will serve with equal distinction this time as well.

Dale and your editor have been close friends for nearly 25 years so I am particularly happy to be working with him again. We will schedule Dale to visit our club in the coming months so all BCARC members can get to know him.



## Early 2003 FD Results

The first calculations from this year's Field day have been completed and the following statistics are available:

### Participants:

Tom K8CHS, Steve N8CTI, Ed, KC8MCC, Paul, KG8WI, Jerry, KC8QNS, Jim, W8SST, Jon, K8SST, Larry, WB8R. We had a very special guest: Michigan Senator Cameron Brown joined us for a while and sat down and made a contact on the phone station. Senator Brown was enthused and stepped right up to the microphone. He is an interesting gentleman who is now more aware of

the role of amateur radio in these trying times. Various topics that impact amateur radio were



### Senator Brown After Making First FD Contact

discussed and further contact with the Senator will be made through the ARRL. It is very important that our legislators are aware of the issues facing amateur radio.

We ran two stations this year and operated out of the EOC using the antennas already installed there for the club station. One station operated phone and the other was a CW station. Band conditions were not the best, but the antennas performed well. We were all disappointed that more club members were not able to help out and enjoy the fun.

Overall, 237 contacts were made in 42 states and 6 provinces of Canada. There were 125 phone contacts and 112 CW contacts made in the 24 hours of operation. We made contact in 59 ARRL sections and worked both Cuba and Costa Rica.

We learned several things that are important when operating HF stations in the EOC environment where any interference to the 911 systems is not acceptable. We were able to work around several problems and we found solutions for several others. We are now much better prepared to operate from the EOC in an emergency and that is what Field Day is all about.



### Does your mobile rig look like mine when you're trying to program it?

OK, it's confession time. I recently was out in the field, under the gun, asked to relay pertinent weather information to a distant repeater, which wasn't preprogrammed into my VHF mobile rig.

As usual I thought, "I can do this, I'm a bona fide ham radio operator, not to mention Emergency Coordinator, successful father, husband, salesman and part time intelligent person". Right!

I fondly remember the days of knowing how to flip all of the (what, 5 or 6?) switches on my Heathkit HW-2036 to reach any repeater or frequency. How the heck did we get to this point, where many of us can't even program in a repeater tone without the help of two other hams, the instruction manual, a call to the manufacturer and much pulling of hair and torquing of jaws. Methinks the microprocessor is a mixed blessing!

Oh, and in case you didn't surmise it from the first paragraph, I had to admit to net control that I was unable to accomplish the required task because I couldn't program my stupid radio. DUH! The shame of it all!

I'm going to suggest an easy way to rectify this situation. I'll tell you my solution and wait for your feedback as to other or better methods. I'm going to sit down with both of my mobile rigs and their manuals, go through the programming of a repeater frequency and all the associated parameters like tone and offset. I will then reduce the instructions to their basics, type them into my computer, print them on small sheet and laminate it. I will then keep that sheet with the appropriate radio from that point forward. Thus, I will never again have to admit to being radio ignorant. Oh, and I'm going to complete the task in 30 days or less. I tell you this because I've promised myself several times

previously that I'd do this. Next time you see me, ask if I've done it yet and I'll ask you the same. This is assuming I'm not the only one with this problem.

There will be a Branch County ARES/RACES meeting on Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 A.M. in the training room of the 911 Center. We will be taking photos for our outdated cards and distributing application forms for RACES cards. There will also be a short training session on formal radiogram traffic and net procedures. We'll also announce some slight changes to Skywarn net operation

**Jim Voss, W8SST**

**Emergency Coordinator, Branch County**



## 2003 BCARC Programs

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

**July:** Larry Wheeler, W9QR, Transmission Lines – all you ever wanted to know about 'em and more.

**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

### **July 12**

Straits Area ARC, Petoskey, MI

### **July 20**

Van Wert ARC, Van Wert, OH

### **August 3**

Land of Lakes ARC, Angola, IN

### **August 9**

Cascades ARC, Jackson, MI

### **August 24**

Lapeer County ARA, Lapeer, MI

### **September 6 & 7**

Great Lakes Division Convention, Findley, OH

See [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org) for additional details.



## VE Test Session Schedule

### **10-Jul-2003**

**Sponsor:** GOSHEN ARC

**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Location:** Greencroft Retirement Center  
Homan Building  
Greencroft Blvd  
Greencroft Retirement Center  
Goshen, IN 46525

### **19-Jul-2003**

**Sponsor:** FULTON CTY RADIO CLUB

**Time:** 10:00AM (No walk-ins)

**Contact:** Howard W. Fuller  
(419) 825-5443

**Location:** Archbold Police Department  
405 E Lutz Rd  
Leave message on machine  
Archbold, OH 43502

### **19-Jul-2003**

**Sponsor:** KALAMAZOO ARC

**Time:** 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** David H. Watt  
(269) 345-8892

**Email:** [DWATT@SECANTCORP.COM](mailto:DWATT@SECANTCORP.COM)

**Location:** Kalamazoo County Sheriff Dept  
1500 Lamont Ave  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

### **16-Aug-2003**

**Sponsor:** FULTON CTY RADIO CLUB

**Time:** 10:00AM (No walk-ins)

**Contact:** Howard W. Fuller  
(419) 825-5443

**Location:** Archbold Police Department  
405 E Lutz Rd

Leave message on machine  
Archbold, OH 43502

### **28-Aug-2003**

**Sponsor:** SMARS

**Time:** 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** Richard F. Holcomb  
(616) 969-3026

**Location:** American Red Cross  
162 Van Buren Street W  
Battle Creek, MI 49017

CW, SSB and RTTY. He will also participate in the WAE-CW Contest.

**CHINA, B4.** The People's Republic of China Headquarters Station BY1PK (operated by the JiangSu DX Club) will be active in the IARU HF World Championship as B4HQ. QSL via BA4RD, Ken Wang, P.O.BOX 538, Nanjing 210005, P.R. CHINA.

**VIRGIN ISLANDS, VP2.** Jeff, WB9CEJ, will be QRV as VP2V/WB9CEJ from Tortola, IOTA NA-023, from July 7 to 13. He will also be active as KP2/WB9CEJ from St. John and St. Thomas, IOTA NA-106, from July 14 to 19. Activity will be primarily on 20, 17 and 15 meters, using SSB and CW. QSL to home call.

**BAHAMAS, C6.** Look for Jimmy, W6JKV, to be active as C6/W6JKV until July 7. His activity over the past week has been on 6 meters at various times between 1000 and 1800z, usually looking for Europe, 50110 and 50125 kHz.

**CORSICA, TK.** Fred, F5OZK, will be active as TK/F5OZK between July 5 and 25. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters, including the newer bands. QSL via his home call sign, direct or via the bureau.

**AZORES, CU2.** Lars, SM3CVM, plans to sign CU2/SM3CVM/p from Sao Miguel (EU-003) until July 6. CW operation is planned on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via bureau.

**BOTSWANA, A2.** Joe, AA4NN, Aldo, IK2ANI, and Fabrizio, IN3ZNR, are signing A25NN, A25NI and A25FV, respectively, in CW and SSB until July 13. QSLs via home calls.

**EAST KIRIBATI, T32.** La Marr will be active as T32Z, using SSB, CW, and digital modes on HF and 6 meters for several weeks. QSL via K3PD.

**MAURITANIA, 5T.** DL8YHR will be active as 5T6M mostly on 6 meters until July 7. QSL via ON4ANT.

**MAYOTTE, FH.** Martrial, FH/F5SIE, will be QRV in CW only on 15, 17 and 40 meters until July 15. QSL via bureau.

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## Don Does It!!!



Just 2 weeks after successfully passing his code test at the BCARC VE session on May 31, Don Cook, KC8PRM journeyed to Hillsdale and successfully passed his written test to become a full fledged General. Congratulations go out to Don for his achievements. I hear that an Extra Class study guide may soon be present in the Cook household!

## DX On the Bands



**MALTA, 9H.** Thomas, DL1ASA, will be active from Gozo Island (EU-023) from August 1 to 15, as 9H3TM. His activity will be on all HF bands on

## New 60-Meter Band Open!

Five "channelized" frequencies on the newly authorized 60-meter band were made available to U.S. amateurs at 12 AM July 3, 2003. These channels have center frequencies of 5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5404 KHz. This allocation uses USB only with a maximum of 50 W ERP.

Anyone that is thinking of trying out this new band should visit the ARRL website to get the full details concerning how to use the "channels" and what must be done concerning power limitations. It is hoped that this band may take the form of a more normal ham band in coming years. 60 meters would be a great band to fill the void between 80 and 40 meters.

## No More 40M Broadcast?

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 3, 2003--There's good news from World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) for 40-meter enthusiasts. In an 11th-hour compromise, delegates to WRC-03, which wraps up officially July 4, agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. The agreement eventually will mean a 200-kHz worldwide allocation at 40 meters. Although the change does not go into effect until 2009, that's considered speedy in International Telecommunication Union (ITU) terms. Some of the timelines proposed during discussions on the 7 MHz agenda item would have held off the changes until 2033! The WRC-03 action on 7 MHz makes no change in the exclusive US 40-meter allocation. US amateurs will continue to enjoy the full 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have.

"History was made today," said International Amateur Radio Union Secretary (and ARRL CEO) David Sumner, K1ZZ, who called the agreement a big change over the status quo. "Never before in the history of radiocommunication has an HF broadcasting band been shifted to accommodate the needs of another service. But that's what happened at WRC-03 this morning."

Sumner said a "carefully crafted compromise" was approved on first and second reading in the WRC-03 Plenary. It calls for broadcasters to vacate 7100 to 7200 kHz by March 29, 2009,

and it allocates the band to the Amateur Service from that date forward.

## Other Amateur Radio-Related Actions at WRC-03

WRC-03 delegates also agreed to an extensive rewrite of Article 25 of the *Radio Regulations*, which defines the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services. Article 25 had included a requirement that an amateur applicant "shall prove that he is able to send correctly by hand and to receive correctly by ear texts in Morse code signals" but permitted administrations to waive the requirement for operation for "stations making use exclusively of frequencies above 30 MHz."

The reworded Article 25.5 now says, "Administrations shall determine whether or not a person seeking a license to operate an amateur station shall demonstrate the ability to send and receive texts in Morse code signals." Sumner said edits to the Article 25 rewrite--including the Morse issue--continued right up to the proposal's first reading in the Plenary. That included agreement upon a Canadian proposal to replace the word "prove" with the word "demonstrate."

The practical difference is that the wording change now leaves it up to radiocommunication regulatory bodies in each country to determine if they wish to require a Morse code test for amateur applicants. Some US observers predict that the revised wording of 25.5 will spark a flurry of petitions for rule making to the FCC to eliminate Element 1, the 5 WPM Morse code examination, as a requirement for HF operation. (Courtesy of ARRL)

## Michigan State Convention

The 2003 Michigan State ARRL convention is scheduled for October 31 and November 1, 2003 in Holland, MI. There will be a banquet on Friday evening and there will be a Wouff Hong ceremony at midnight Friday night. The Wouff Hong is one of the oldest traditions of the ARRL and amateur radio and all league members should experience this at least once in their ham careers. There will be a Hamfest on Saturday, Nov 1. More information can be found on the Michigan Section website at <http://www.concentric.net/~ka8ykk/state.htm>

Holland is a great town and there are lots of good restaurants and hotels. See you there!