



Branch Signals BCARC Newsletter

Volume II, Number 9

An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961



September 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 Web Site
www.qsl.net/wd8kaf

Club Officers 2003

President

Larry Camp, WB8R
517-278-0406
wb8r@arrl.net

Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI
banjonut@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Tom Twite, K8CHS
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

September Meeting Program Notice

Once again our club will be privileged to have Dick Mondro, W8FQT and his wife Sandy, KG8HM join us at our September meeting. As you may know, Dick has recently been "promoted" from ARRL Michigan Section Manager to Great Lakes Division Vice-Director. Sandy continues in her role as ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator.

Dick will give us insight on the happenings within the ARRL and will be able to give us a fresh update on the current threat to amateur radio by commercial interests that want to use existing power lines to carry broadband Internet to the masses (BPL). This sounds great on the surface, but the truth is that this plan will most likely cause very serious interference problems to hams everywhere in the country. Dick will also discuss the recent IARU decision to no longer require member nations to require demonstration of proficiency with Morse code in order for their hams to operate on the HF bands. You won't want to miss this meeting. Be sure to bring a friend.

In this Issue...

- ❖ VE Test Session Results Page 2
- ❖ Effortless Upgrade to General Page 2
- ❖ Ham Radio License Plate Frames Page 3
- ❖ Test Session Schedules Page 3
- ❖ XX XXXX XXXX XXX Page 4

VE Test Session Results



KC8WVV N8GTH

The BCARC Volunteer Examiner Team recently completed its second Exam session. Although the turnout was small, we are happy to report two upgrades that came out of the session.

Peggy Voss, N8GTH was able to upgrade her license to General Class because she had taken the Technician test prior to March of 1987 when the General and Technician written tests were the same test and she had already passed the code test as part of her Novice license. This is a no pain upgrade that involves only paperwork (and \$12 fee) to complete.

Dave King, KC8WVV successfully passed the CW test and is now sporting his General ticket. Dave had passed his General written test at a previous BCARC VE session.

Congratulations to both Peggy and Dave on their upgrades!



Effortless Upgrade

All holders of a Technician license that was issued prior to March 21, 1987 are eligible to obtain a "Grand fathered" upgrade to a General class. All that is required is your original or a photocopy of your Technician license issued prior to March 21, 1987. An alternative is a copy of a page from a call book that shows that you held a Technician license prior to the date in question.

You must still pay the testing fee (currently \$12.00) and fill out some paperwork. All in all it is a painless way to get on the HF bands without additional studying. If you would like more information, please contact one of the club officers or board members and they will put you in touch with someone who can help you.

2003 BCARC Programs

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

October: Club Auction. Auction rules will be published in the October newsletter and will be available at the September club meeting.

November: Annual Business meeting.

December: Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange at the Coldwater Country Club.

Upcoming Hamfests

September 6

ARA of Hanson Hills
Grayling, MI

September 6 & 7

Great Lakes Division Convention, Findley, OH
See www.arl.org for additional details.

September 13

Grand Rapids ARA, Lowell ARC, Michigan ARA
Grand Rapids, MI

September 14

Adrian ARC
Adrian, MI

October 5

Michiana Valley Hamfest Assn
South Bend, IN

October 12

Kalamazoo ARC & SW Michigan AR Team
Kalamazoo, MI

October 31-November 1

Michigan ARRL State Convention, Holland, MI
See additional information on Page 4.



Emergency Coordinator's Comments

Once again, the end of the month has taken me by surprise, prompting me to wonder what worthwhile information I might relay to you in this column.

We've made it through yet another month in the repeaterless condition. A hearty, 'thank you', to everyone who has participated in both the Tuesday night nets and especially the Skywarn nets, all held on 146.55 simplex. As I was telling the State ARPSC Net yesterday, we're happy to have the experience of working without a repeater and coming to know our shortcomings and helping us put together systems, which work successfully in this circumstance. But really now, lets get that repeater back on line! We are expecting to hear from the technician this week that the repeater is complete and ready to be installed, but I'm not holding my breath.

Recently, you may have received this link: <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lmk/sguide.htm#l> from Don, KC8PRM. I had this link in my favorites list, but had never taken the time to read through it. Wish I had, as it really explains the thunderstorm, its' construction and processes in a way that's understandable and will help you to grasp more of what you're seeing on radar. Take the time to read through it and I think you'll agree. Thanks, Don!

As most of you know, the new ARES cards have been laminated and some were distributed at the last club meeting. I've just received the results of the background checks for the RACES cards and they will be ready for issue at the next meeting. I'll also have applications at the September meeting for those of you who haven't filled them out. If you can't make the meeting please call or email me and I'll get them to you via mail or email. In a related matter, it was announced on the ARPSC net yesterday that the first of the RACES video courses would be available sometime in October. I'll probably schedule a

Saturday screening of the Introduction to Emergency Telecommunications course as soon as I can get my hands on it.

Finally, thanks to Arnie, NS8T, for picking up the Net Manager's position. What we need now, are more volunteers for running the Tuesday night net. If you haven't tried it, now's the time. Just give Arnie a call and he'll put you on the schedule.

'Till next time.

Jim Voss, W8SST - E. C. Branch County

Ham Radio License Plate Frames



This tasteful license plate frame from the ARRL would make a very nice addition to any ham's vehicle. It carries the statement "When all else fails... Amateur Radio" and is excellent advertising for ham radio. This would be perfect with a callsign plate, but would also be appropriate for use with a standard plate on a second car as well.

It is available from the ARRL for \$4.95 plus \$4.00 shipping if you order just one. If we pool our order, we can cut the shipping costs to a reasonable amount for each frame. If five of us place an order, the shipping cost per frame will be \$1.20 and if we get 10 orders the shipping cost will be \$.80 each. The more orders, the less shipping cost per frame.

We are looking for a volunteer to be the focal point to take the orders from club members, collect the money and to place the order with the ARRL and to distribute the frames when they arrive. We anticipate that the order would be sent in around the first of October. If anyone is interested in heading up this project, please call Larry at 278-0406 to discuss all of the details.



DX On the Bands

GUINEA, 3X Johnny, KA5BQM is working at the American Embassy in Conakry and is QRV as 3XY8B during his stay, the length of which is unknown. QSL to home call.

JAMAICA, 6Y William, W6FA will be QRV as 6Y5/homecall from Bluefields Bay from September 1 to 7. Activity will be on CW mostly, with bands and times determined by conditions. This is a vacation so his operating time will be limited. QSL to home call.

MALAWI, 7Q Nick, 7Q7NT has been QRV on 15 meter SSB around 1500z. He has also been active on 20 meters around 1900 and 2100z. QSL via G4FAL.

CHINA, BY Jack, WB8FSV is currently in Qingdao until September 4 and is active occasionally as WB8FSV/BA4IT and WB8FSV/BD4JV between 2300 and 0300z on 40, 20 and 15 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

REUNION ISLAND, FR FR5ZL has been QRV on 20 meters CW around 1200 to 1300z most days. QSL direct.

ENGLAND, G John, G3HTA/p will be QRV from Saint Mary, IOTA EU-011, from August 30 to September 12. Look for him using CW and SSB on 40 to 6 meters. QSL via G3RUV.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40 Vladimir, UA4WHX is QRV as H40VB. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

OGASAWARA, JD1 JD1YAB has been QRV on 40 and 30 meters around 1030z. QSL via JA1MRM.

SURINAME, PZ Ramon, PZ5RA has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 2100z. QSL direct.

SAO TOME, S9 Tom is QRV as S9TX and will be here for about another year. QSL via W7KNT.

MALI, TZ Luis, XE1L is QRV as TZ6L and is here for another few days. He is active on 20, 17 and 15 meters using SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via WA3HUP.

UKRAINE, UR To commemorate 100 years of world aviation special event station EN100WAY will be QRV from September 1 to 30. QSL via UT7WZ.

BELIZE, V3 V31LZ has been QRV around 2300z on 15 meters using CW or SSB. QSL via LZ3RZ.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X Andy, G3AB will be QRV as VK9XAB from August 30 to September 6. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters. QSL to home call.

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

VE Test Session Schedule



18-Sep-2003

Sponsor: Goshen ARC

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

Contact: Lyle Long (574) 875-8455

Email: NILL@juno.com VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Elkhart County Fairgrounds

Goshen, IN 46526

20-Sep-2003

Sponsor: Fulton County Radio Club
Time: 10:00AM (No walk-ins)
Contact: Howard W. Fuller (419) 825-5443
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Archbold Police Department
405 E Lutz Rd. Leave message on machine
Archbold, OH 43502

20-Sep-2003

Sponsor: W5YI-VEC
Time: (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Richard H McGuire (517) 782-1430
Email: dickki8c@juno.com VEC: W5YI VEC
Location:
Call for site location & time
Jackson, MI 49204

20-Sep-2003

Sponsor: Kalamazoo ARC
Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: David H. Watt (269) 345-8892
Email: dwatt@secamtcorp.com
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Kalamazoo County Sheriff Dept
1500 Lamont Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49001

09-Oct-2003

Sponsor: Goshen ARC
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Lyle Long (574) 875-8455
Email: NILL@juno.com VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Greencroft Retirement Center
Homan Building, Greencroft Blvd
Goshen, IN 46525

18-Oct-2003

Sponsor: Fulton County Radio Club
Time: 10:00AM (No walk-ins)

Contact: Howard W. Fuller (419) 825-5443
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Archbold Police Department
405 E Lutz Rd. Leave message on machine
Archbold, OH 43502



Repeater Update

As you are all aware, our 2-meter repeater has been down for a while.

We are in the process of having our Motorola repeater refurbished and set up as an amateur repeater. Our existing 2-meter repeater has a problem with its' controller and periodically refuses to identify itself for long periods of time. Of course, this failure to identify is contrary to FCC regulations and in order to obey the law, we have shut it down.

Once the new repeater is on line, we will have the old controller repaired and it will be moved over to the 440 repeater.

We apologize for the delay, but we have to remember that we are having the work done by a fellow that is very busy at work and works on our equipment in his spare time.

Web Site Membership List

We are considering placement a roster of members on our club website. We need to have member's agreement to this before we list their information on the site. We are considering placing member's name, callsign, city of residence, and email address on the website.

This would be a great time for ARRL members to sign up for the League's email forwarding service and begin using the "Callsign @arrl.net" address. If you do not want your information on the web site, please send an email to WB8R@arrl.net and we will not publish your information. We plan to publish on September 30