



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Vol. II Number 10 October 2003
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald

On November 7, 8, and 9th about 10 members from the Stu Rockafellow Amateur Society from Plymouth Michigan will be on the air from Whitefish Point and Paradise, in the upper peninsula of Michigan.

The 'Fitz' went down with her crew on the evening of November 10, 1975 approximately 17 miles off Whitefish Point in Lake Superior.

This will be the 7th year that the Stu Rockafellow Amateur Society has done a special event in remembrance of the Edmund Fitzgerald and her crew.

We expect to have 3 HF stations on the air plus 6M SSB and 2M FM. The call sign for the event is N8F "November" "Eight" "Fitzgerald". Expected operating times will be between noon Friday November 7 and noon Sunday November 9.

Frequencies as listed in QST, CQ, and World Radio are 7.265, 14.265, 21.325 and 28.465 MHz. Other bands and modes are possible. (160m, 80m, 17m, 12m, 6m, 2m, SSTV, PSK31 and CW).

To obtain a certificate, send your QSO information/QSL along with a 9x12 inch self-addressed, stamped envelope to address listed below.

We would appreciate your support by talking it up on the air and working us in November.

Certificate available from:
Richard Barker, W8VS
264 N. East St.
Brighton, Mi. 48116
w8vs@arrl.net

Thank you in advance,
Don Quarles, W8RIF



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WD8KAF Club Repeaters

147.300 + 100 Hz PL

443.300 + 123 Hz PL



Club Website:

www.qsl.net/wd8kaf



Club Meeting 3rd
Tuesday, 7:00 PM at 911
Communication Center
Basement Training Room



VE Test Session Schedule



09-Oct-2003

Sponsor: GOSHEN ARC Time:
7:00 PM
(Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Lyle L Long (574) 875-
8455
Email: N1LL@JUNO.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Greencroft Retirement
Center
Homan Building
Greencroft Blvd
Greencroft Retirement Center
Goshen, IN 46525

11-Oct-2003

Sponsor: EATON COUNTY ARC
Time: 12 noon (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: John A. Dewey
(517) 543-0398
Email: DETTA@IA4U.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location:
1250 Independence Blvd
Eaton County Sheriff Dept-EOC
Charlotte, MI 48813

18-Oct-2003

Sponsor: FULTON CTY RADIO
CLUB
Time: 10:00AM (No walk-ins)
Contact: Howard W. Fuller
(419) 825-5443
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Archbold Police Dept
405 E Lutz Rd
Leave message on machine
Archbold, OH 43502

18-Oct-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

23-Oct-2003

Sponsor: SMARS
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Richard F. Holcomb
(616) 969-3026
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: American Red Cross
162 Van Buren St W.
Battle Creek, MI 49017

15-Nov-2003

Sponsor: FULTON CTY RADIO
CLUB
Time: 10:00AM (No walk-ins)
Contact: Howard W. Fuller
(419) 825-5443
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Archbold Police Dept
405 E Lutz Rd
Leave message on machine

15-Nov-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

15-Nov-2003

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

Ham Calendar

Michiana Hamfest
Goshen, IN
October 5

Lansing Hamfest
October 11

Kalamazoo Hamfest
October 12

Eastern UP Hamfest
October 18

BCARC Meeting
October. 21. Program: Club
Auction. See auction rules
elsewhere in this issue.

Utica/Shelby Hamfest
October 26

**ARRL Michigan
State Convention**
Holland, MI
October 31/November 1

Ft. Wayne Hamfest
November 15 & 16

BCARC Meeting
November 18. Program:
Annual Business Meeting:

BCARC Meeting
December 16. Program:
Christmas Dinner/Gift
Exchange at Coldwater
Country Club





BCARC Auction Rules

October, 2003

1. The president or auctioneer will select a member to keep a record of each item auctioned, who the seller was, who the successful bidder was and how much it sold for.
2. The seller of an item may specify a minimum bid for the sale of said item. If that price is not reached, the item will revert back to the seller.
3. 10 percent of the sale price of each auctioned item will be donated to the club.
4. Winning bidders for each item will pay the club treasurer or a person assigned by the president in his absence, in full by cash or check, before taking possession of an item.
5. If a seller wishes, they may donate to the club the total price paid for an item, or the item itself, if not successfully sold.
6. No warranty, or guarantee, implied or otherwise, shall be given by the club as to the condition or serviceability of any item sold or offered for sale.

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 call sign plate, but would also be appropriate for use with a standard plate on a second car as well.

This frame 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.

Steve, N8CTI has agreed to be the focal point for group ordering. He is planning to send the order in on October 25, so he will need to know how many people would like to order frames so he can calculate the shipping costs. You can contact Steve by email at: shadowman405@charter.net or by snail mail at 403 McKee Lane, Coldwater, MI 49036. He can also be reached at 517-369-7194.



EC Comments

Sometimes the words in this column come pretty easy, at other times it's a bit of a job. Tonight is one of the latter.

It's been a pretty quiet month, comparatively speaking, for Skywarn operations. Thanks to Larry, WB8R for picking up the net a couple times when I was away from the county or stuck at work. Although we've seen a few storms run through the county this time of year previously, we're likely going to be pretty slow now. This would be a good time to start working on your FEMA IS-02 course if you haven't completed it. I still plan to offer an abbreviated session some evening, going over the high points and taking the test. As soon as the date is set I'll email the information to the club list. I'm expecting to have a video version of Introduction to Emergency Telecommunications by the end of October and we'll screen it ASAP after receipt.

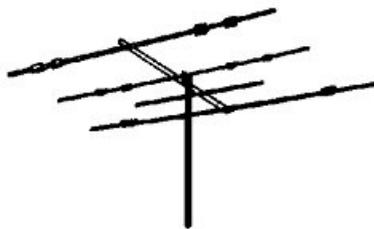
I hope that you're emailing and writing your various representatives concerning the pending possible approval of Broadband over Power Lines (BPL). This appears, at least, to be an inconvenience to our operations, or, at worst, an extremely detrimental type of interference to the point of making HF (and even UHF/VHF) impossible. Investigate the situation and take whatever action you feel necessary.



Several of your fellow hams attended the Advanced Skywarn Training at Elkhart last year. If you were one who missed it, here's a chance to attend this year's. The 2nd Annual Advanced Spotter Training course being hosted by IMO Skywarn. This is an all day course/seminar with "big name" storm chasers, meteorology professors, etc. who will enhance your awareness of, and safety in, severe weather. As soon as I know a webpage address for this event, I will send it out to you. I highly recommend it for as many of you spotters as can attend. It will be held at Elkhart Central High School from 9 am to 4 pm (lunch and snacks provided) on Saturday March 13, 2004.

I put out an invitation to those attending the last club meeting to participate in the annual Simulated Emergency Test on October 4th. That's this Saturday. We will be traveling to another county to help with a 'major emergency' of some kind. It's not too late if you'd like to join us. Give me a call (278-4636) or email (w8sst@arrl.net) by Thursday, Oct 2.

Jim Voss, W8SST - E. C. Branch County



DX on the Bands

ALASKA, KL7. Richard, AD5OZ will be QRV as KL7FBI from Shemya Island (IOTA NA-37) from October 8 to 14. Activity will be mainly CW on 80 to 20 meters. QSL to AD5OZ.

POLAND, SR. Look for special event station SR25JP (club station SP6KFA) to be active from October 1 to 31, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the election of Pope John Paul II. Operations will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB, PKS31 and RTTY. QSL direct or via the bureau to SP6KFA.

TIMOR LESTE, 4W. Peter, 4W3CW has been heard on 30, 20, 17 and 12 meter CW between 1000 and 1330z. He will be on the air for one year. QSL via Peter McKay, UNMISSET, PO Box 2436, Darwin, N0801, Australia.

MADAGASCAR, 5R8. Phil, G3SWH and his wife are expected to fly to Ile Sainte Marie (IOTA AF-090) on September 22 and stay until the 27th. He will use the callsign 5R8HA/p. Activity is expected on 40 to 10 meters, CW only. QSL via G3SWH.

MALTA, 9H. The Latvia team consisting of Girts, YL2KL, Karl, YL2MD and Andy, YL2GQT will be active from Gozo Island (EU-023) as 9H3M during the CQ/RJ Worldwide DX RTTY Contest on September 27 and 28. QSL via YL2KL. The team will be there from September 24 to 30 and will be active outside of the contest. Look for YL2KL as 9H3KKL, YL2MD as 9H3MMD

and YL2GQT as 9H3GQT. Activity will be on all HF bands using CW, SSB and RTTY.

BHUTAN, A5. Hawk, SM5AQD reports that he and Pelle, SM7EHU, will be active between September 25 and October 2. Callsigns and details of the operation were not provided. QSL via SM7EHU.

PRATAS ISLAND, BQ9P. The Chinese Taipei Amateur Radio League (CTARL) is planning to head back to Pratas Island during an upcoming freight schedule arrangement from October 7 to 16. The operator list so far is BV4FH, BV3BW, BV3FG, JI6KVR, DL3DXX, DK7YY, ZL4PO, OE1WHC and N2OO. Operations will concentrate on the WARC bands and SSTV.

CAMBODIA, XU. Hubert, XU7ACI is working as a missionary in Phnom Penh for the next two years. QSL via KB8TJP.

CYPRUS, 5B4. Alan, G3PMR will sign 5B4AHJ again until December 13. QSL via G3PMR, bureau ok.

DODECANESE, SV5. SV5/ON4BB, SV5/ON5JE and SV5/ON5KH are QRV from Kos working on 20 through 10 meters until September 29. QSL via home calls.

Hillsdale ARC Code Classes

The HCARC will be offering Morse Code Classes at the Hillsdale High School (30 S. Norwood) in Room 131 beginning Wed., Oct. 1 at 7 p.m. and running weekly through Wed., Dec. 10 to coincide with our next regularly scheduled testing session on Dec. 13.

This will be a 9-week course (one week off for Thanksgiving) and should take you from 0-5 (wpm, that is) and get you ready to pass

Element 1. We use the ARRL tapes and add supplementary drills and exercises with NuMorse (syllabus available upon request). Participants in our last class successfully passed Element 1 before we'd even finished the class!

If you've "been gonna do it" for some time - now's the time! If you're looking to brush up your CW skills - this is the opportunity! If you're at all interested - do yourself a favor and start from the beginning, so you don't hafta play "catch-up", but we'll take "walk-ins", too. If you know of anyone who might be interested (& I know I'm Sending this to a lot of folks who've already passed Element 1), please let them know.

An RSVP would be appreciated so we can gauge attendance, but we look forward to seeing you next Wed. evening. I'm more than happy to be there for even 1 person, but will cancel the program if no one shows up after 2-3 sessions.

Thanks. 73 Peter Cromwell, KC8PMC

WD8IBY Visits Area

We were pleased to have an old friend and a long time member of the BCARC visit the area in September. Ray Gardner, WD8IBY and his XYL from Lakeland, FL were in the area visiting family and friends. There was coffee drank, rags chewed, and problems of the world solved during his visits with local hams. Some of the fellows that were able to spend some time with Ray while he was home included Jim Voss, Warren Unterkircher, John Sistanich, Larry Camp, and Arnie Hayward. All had a great time and we look forward to the next opportunity we to see our old Florida friend again.



Repeater Update

I am happy to report that there is light at the end of the tunnel. We believe that we are clearing the last few obstacles necessary to getting the new repeater on the air. As it turns out, several pieces of equipment had to be rebuilt in order to be 100% serviceable. One of our goals was to field a *reliable* repeater that works like it is supposed to. We think we have done that.

As with most projects, it takes a lot more time than we had planned, but we think that it will be worth the wait.

Barring any unforeseen catastrophes, we expect to have it running the week of October 6.

Thank you for your patience.

Dayton Bus Trip

At our last meeting we discussed the possibility of chartering a bus to the Dayton Hamvention next May. The bus would leave from Coldwater at 5:00 AM and return at 9:00 PM the same day. It is anticipated that the cost would be around 40 to 45 dollars per person plus food. If you think what it would take in terms of money and inconvenience to drive your own car there, taking a bus just might make sense. Besides, it would be great fun to have a bunch of hams on a bus heading down the open road together.

Give it some thought and tell one of the club officers if you are interested.

Club Officer and Contact Information

President

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

Secretary/Treasurer

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI
banjonut@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

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Arnold Hayward, NS8T
517-278-8507
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Emergency Coordinator

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