



# Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Vol. II Number 12 December 2003  
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

## BCARC Elects 2004 Officers and Board of Directors

At the annual club business meeting in November, the 2004 Officers and two members of the Board of Directors were elected.

The following offices were filled:

**President:**

Larry Camp, WB8R

**Secy/Treasurer:**

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI

**Board Member (2 yr term):**

Arnie Hayward, NS8T

**Board Member (1 yr term):**

Steve Williams, N8CTI

Jim Voss, W8SST is currently serving a two-year term as **Board of Directors** member. His term will expire at the end of 2004.

Congratulations to the 2004 Leadership Team for their dedication and for volunteering to serve.

The 2004 Leadership Team would like to thank Tom Twite, K8CHS for his service as a Board member. We appreciate your hard work and dedication to the club.



### New Gavel for Club

Courtesy of Dave King, KC8WVV, our club woodworking expert, we have a bright shiny new gavel and sound block to open and close our club meetings.

Dave turned and finished a beautiful walnut gavel and sounding block. He did a great job and we all really appreciate his effort and generosity. Thanks, Dave!



### Technician Licensing Class

As discussed at the November meeting and published in various media, the organizational meeting for the upcoming Technician Licensing class will be held at 9:00 AM at the 911 Center on December 6. Prospective students should be prepared to pay for their books that day. The cost is \$20.00 for book and study materials. The 8-week class will begin Jan 10 with testing for all license classes scheduled for Mar. 6. If you know any interested persons, be sure to have them join us at the 911 Center Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>.

### WD8KAF Club Repeaters

147.300 + 100 Hz PL  
443.300 + 123 Hz PL

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Club Website:  
[www.qsl.net/wd8kaf](http://www.qsl.net/wd8kaf)

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**Christmas Dinner &  
Gift Exchange Tuesday,  
Dec. 16 at 6:30 PM at  
Coldwater Country  
Club**  
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## Christmas Meeting Dinner Menu

As a reminder, our annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange will be held at the Coldwater Country Club on Narrows Road north of Coldwater on December 16. We will meet at 6:30 PM and dinner will be served at 7:00.

The cost per person will be \$17.00 and the club will pick up the dessert cost and the gratuity. Please try to have the correct change.

The menu as selected by the membership at the November meeting is as follows:

- Dinner Choices: (one trip)**
- Salisbury Steak**
- 1/2 Baked Chicken (Seasoned)**
- Baked Potato**
- Corn**
- Tossed Salad and rolls**

The Country Club is a great facility and they will take very good care of us. We were there last year and the overwhelming choice by the membership was to return this year.

Please RSVP to Arnie, NS8T at 278-8507 or any club officer so we know how many meals to plan.

Please see the gift exchange rules elsewhere in this issue.

See you there!



## Repeater Update

Last month I provided an update on the operational status of our newly refurbished Motorola Micor repeater. I am pleased to report that it continues to work quite well with no hiccups.

Recently W8SST, NS8T, K8CHS, and WB8R met with Mike Capella from Charter Communications to explore possible opportunities at various Charter sites. While touring one of the tower buildings we noticed a repeater complete with duplexers that was not connected to an antenna. The duplexers were marked with the frequencies that are used by Central Dispatch in Coldwater. We made the appropriate notes for later and the wheels began to turn. We needed to know who owned the equipment, and what its intended use was.

Jim Voss, W8SST contacted 911 Director Kurt Spaulding shortly after our meeting and was told by Kurt that the repeater was no longer used and we were welcome to it.

So, the long and the short of it is that we now have another VHF repeater, complete with duplexers.



## Another New Baby

The repeater has been identified as a Midland 71-1500 150 watt VHF unit. It consists of a mobile transmitter and receiver that are coupled together to form a repeater along with a DC power supply and a 150-watt power amplifier. The repeater was purchased and installed in 1993-1994.



### Rear View

The duplexers are 6 can units made by CelWave and are some of the best that money can buy.

This is a real step up in technology for us as all of our current equipment was made in the early 1970's. The Midland transmitter is synthesized and can be programmed via computer. The receiver still uses crystals, however. We are in the process of locating a technician than can help us determine how to go about converting the repeater to amateur use.

The club Officers and Board of Directors and the repeater committee (KC8PMG, KC8VFI, and KC8PRM) are exploring additional system improvements for both the VHF and UHF repeaters. We hope to have some interesting news to report soon.

Our sincere thanks go to Kurt Spaulding for his generosity and willingness to assist us to develop reliable equipment that will help us serve our community in an emergency.

## VHF Repeater PL Change Planned

A period of time ago, The Michigan Area Repeater Council (MARC) set standards for sub audible tone (PL) usage for Michigan repeaters by location. The Lower Peninsula was divided into three parts and Coldwater is in the Southwest section. MARC specified that repeaters in SW Michigan should use a 94.8-Hertz sub audible tone. We have always used 100 Hertz, which used to be the standard for all of Michigan.

We are anticipating changing the VHF repeater over to 94.8 Hertz at some point in the future.

This change will require that all who use the repeater will need to reprogram their equipment for this new tone in order to use the machine. The repeater ID'er will tell listeners of the proper tone to be used. There will be plenty of publicity prior to the change.

It will take a while (a year or more) for the various repeater directories to catch up with our change. There are no plans to change the UHF tone requirement.

## It's That Time Again



### Club Dues Due Jan. 1

Well, it is that time again. Club dues are due and payable as of January 1. The annual dues are currently \$10.00 per year. For those with more than one ham in the family, additional family members can join for \$2.00 each. Students who do not qualify for family membership can join for \$5.00 per year.



## Holiday Wishes

The club Officers and members of the Board of Directors wish you and yours a Happy Holiday season with best wishes for a safe and prosperous new year.

## VE Test Session Schedule



### December 13

**Sponsor:** Hillsdale County ARC

**Time:** 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** Dan Sprow, KC8RYF  
(517) 437-1410

**Location:**  
Hillsdale Community Library  
11 E. Bacon St.  
Hillsdale, MI 49243

### December 13

**Sponsor:** Eaton County ARC

**Time:** 12 Noon (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** John A Dewey  
(517) 543-0398

Email: [DETTA@IA4U.NET](mailto:DETTA@IA4U.NET)  
VEC: ARRL VEC

**Location:**  
1250 Independence Blvd  
Eaton County Sheriff's Dept-EOC  
Charlotte, MI 48813

### December 20

**Sponsor:** Fulton County 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

### December 20

**Sponsor:** W5YI-VEC

**Time:** (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** Richard H. McGuire  
(517) 782-1430

Email: [DICKKI8C@JUNO.COM](mailto:DICKKI8C@JUNO.COM)  
VEC: W5YI VEC

**Location:** Call for site location & time. Jackson, MI 49204



## Another New PC at Club Station at 911 Center Plus Other Gifts

As a result of the generosity of Jim Fowler of Bronson, the club has another new (to us) computer for use in the club station. This second PC will complement our other PC for contest logging and other events. Thanks to Jim for thinking of us and thanks again to Jon Voss for his help in getting it ready to go.

We received a MFJ Multi-mode Data Controller courtesy of Randy Kruger, KI8BM. This will add digital capability to our club station. Thanks Randy.

Mike Jepson has been very generous as well, contributing a UHF transceiver for use as a repeater control receiver as well as other items too numerous to mention.

Thanks to Dale Smith, W9LKI for a section of Super Flex hardline for use on the 2-meter repeater.





## DX on the Bands

**GUINEA, 3X.** Leo, 3XY1L plans to be QRV as 3XY1L/p from Rooma Island, IOTA AF-051, on November 30. Activity may be on 10 meters between 1100 and 1600z. QSL via UY5XE.

**UNITED NATIONS HQ, 4U UN.** Ray, W2RE, Frank, W2IX and Seppo, OH1VR will be QRV as 4U1UN in the CQ WW CW contest. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters for about 10 to 12 hours on November 29. QSL via operators' instructions.

**CROATIA, 9A.** Paul, N4PN and Charlie, NF4A will be QRV with the Multi/Multi 9A1A group for the CQ WW CW contest. They are QRV as 9A4PN and 9A5PC, respectively, outside the contest until early December. QSL 9A1A via the contest club and others to home calls.

**URUGUAY, CX.** Raul, CX7BY plans to be active in the CQ WW CW contest as a Single Op/Single Band/High Power entry. QSL direct.

**ANGOLA, D2.** D2PFN has been QRV on 10 meters SSB around 2000z and 15 meters RTTY around 1700 to 1930z. QSL via KK5DO.

**CAPE VERDE, D4.** Al, 4L5A will be QRV as D4B in the CQ WW CW contest. QSL via K1BV.

**PHILIPPINES, DU.** Jon, DU9/N0NM will be QRV as 4D71/N0NM from Samal Island, IOTA OC-235, from November 28 to 30. This includes an entry in the

CQ WW CW contest. QSL via W4DR.

**SAUDI ARABIA, HZ.** Tom, SM0CXU will be QRV as HZ1AB in the CQ WW CW contest as a Single-Op/Single Band entry. QSL via K8PYD.

**SVALBARD, JW.** Erling, LA5RIA will be active as JW5RIA from Bear Island, IOTA EU-027, from the end of November until June 2004. He will operate on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and digital modes. QSL via the bureau.

**LUXEMBOURG, LX.** Les, G3VQO will be QRV as LX/G3VQO in the CQ WW CW contest as a Single-Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL to home call.

**EGYPT, SU.** Tom, N9NC will be QRV as SU9NC in the CQ WW CW contest as a Single-Op/All Band/Low Power entry. QSL via OM2SA.

**DODECANESE, SV5.** Stathis, SV1DKL will participate in the CQ WW CW contest as SV5RDS as a Single-Op/Single Band/High Power entry from the Dodecanese Radio Society. QSL SV5RDS via the bureau.

**EAST KIRIBATI, T32.** Look for T32MP, T32WW, T32KV, T32N, T32TF, T32YL, T32ZA and T32TF to be QRV until December 7 from Christmas Island. This includes an entry in the CQ WW CW contest as T32WW. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL T32MP, T32KV and T32WW via N0KV. QSL T32N via KE4RHU, T32TF via KT0F, T32YL via N0WBV, T32ZA via W0ZA and T32ZM via N0ZM.

**ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0.** Vlad, UA0FZ will be active as RS0F from Zone 19 in the CQ WW CW contest as a Single-Op/All Band/High Power entry. QSL via W3HNC.

**BRUNEL, V8.** Flo, V8AQZ is QRV from here for about a week.

Activity of late has been on 17 meters around 0900z. QSL via IZ8CCW.

**CAMBODIA, XU.** OM3TZZ, OM1KW, OM3TA and OM1ATT QRV as XU7ACZ, XU7ADC, XU7ADA and XU7ADB, respectively, until December 3. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They will be QRV as XU7ACZ during the CQ WW CW contest. QSL to home calls.

(DX Info Courtesy of ARRL)

## 2003 Gift Exchange Rules



The Branch County Amateur Radio Club will hold its annual Christmas dinner and gift exchange on December 16 at 6:30 pm at the Coldwater Country Club on Narrows Rd. north of Coldwater.

The gift exchange is open to all members and guests. In order to receive a gift, one must bring a gift. Gifts should be useful items that have a value of \$10 or more. A gift can come from your junk box or can be purchased and should be radio or computer related. Gifts should be wrapped in Christmas paper and need not have "to" or "from" tags or other identification on them. If your spouse and/or children bring a gift that will maximize your "take" from the exchange and may enable you to take home that "prize" gift that everyone covets.

Those that bring gifts will be asked to draw a number, which will

determine the order of gift selection and opening.

The gift selection and opening will proceed as follows:

Number 1 chooses a gift from the gift table, opens it, and shows it to everyone present.

Number 2 can choose a gift from the table or he can take Number 1's gift if he thinks that is a better gift than he could find amongst the unopened gifts. If number 2 chooses a gift from the table, he opens it and shows it to everyone present.

If Number 2 takes the gift from Number 1, then Number 1 goes back to the gift table and selects another gift, opens it and shows it to everyone.

Number 3 can choose a gift from the table, Number 1, or Number 2 and follows the same procedures listed above.

This same procedure is followed until the final person selects the last gift.

The third owner of a gift gets to keep it.

An individual cannot retake a gift that was taken from him.

Gifts must be able to be carried by one person.

Gifts cannot consist of spouses or children.

After all gifts have been opened, it is acceptable to trade your gift to anyone who is willing to trade with you.

Be creative in the selection and packaging of your gift. This event is fun so feel free to "ham it up" a bit to add some humor to the evening. Feel free to take pictures of the event and the haggling and conniving that will undoubtedly go on.

See you there!!



## News Flash!!!

Another instructor has recently been added to our Volunteer Instructor Team. Don Cook, KC8PRM has joined Jim Voss, W8SST, Arnie Hayward, NS8T and Larry Camp, WB8R as teachers for the upcoming Technician licensing class.

Thanks for volunteering, Don. We are glad to have you join us.



## 2004 Club Contacts

### Officers

#### **President:**

Larry Camp, WB8R  
278-0406 [wb8r@arrl.net](mailto:wb8r@arrl.net)

#### **Secy/Treasurer:**

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI  
639-4390 [banjonut@yahoo.com](mailto:banjonut@yahoo.com)

### Board of Directors

Jim Voss, W8SST  
278-4636 [w8sst@arrl.net](mailto:w8sst@arrl.net)

Arnie Hayward, NS8T  
278-8507 [ns8t@arrl.net](mailto:ns8t@arrl.net)

Steve Williams, N8CTI  
369-7194  
[shadowman405@charter.net](mailto:shadowman405@charter.net)

## Random Thoughts

**Churchill's commentary on man:** Man will occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of the time he will pick himself up and continue on.

**The Ultimate Law:** All general statements are false.

**The Unspeakable Law:** As soon as you mention something; if it is good, it goes away. If it is bad, it happens.

**The Whispered Rule:** People will believe anything if you whisper it.

**The First Law of Wing Walking:** Never let go of what you've got until you've got hold of something else.

Eat a live toad the first thing in the morning and nothing worse will happen to you the rest of the day.

**Farnsdick's corollary:** After things have gone from bad to worse, the cycle will repeat itself.

**Lynch's Law:** When the going gets tough, everybody leaves.

**Law of Revelation:** The hidden flaw never remains hidden.

**Langsam's Law:** Everything depends.

**Hellrung's Law:** If you wait, it will go away.

**Shevelson's Extension:** ... having done its damage.