



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Vol. III Number 6 June 2004
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

The Winner!



Mike Jepson, KC8VFI shows off his \$500 Cash winnings from the 2004 BCARC Raffle. Raffle chairman Steve Williams, N8CTI proudly presented the cash to Mike at the May club meeting.

Mike generously donated \$250.00 back to the club to help with the purchase of a High Frequency radio for the Club Station.

The raffle turned out to be successful after a slow start in ticket sales. Mike's generous donation certainly helped push us over the top. We would have liked to sell more tickets and we feel that we should have, but we are happy to have sold 125 more tickets (\$625) than we did last year.

After all expenses were paid (\$500 prize, ticket printing, State raffle license), ticket sales generated \$853. Mike Jepson's generous donation gave us a total of \$1103 income

Thanks to all who sold tickets and to those who bought them to support our club.



HF Rig for Club Station Ordered



Kenwood TS480SAT

After much research, thought, and deliberation, an order has been placed for a brand new TS480SAT HF/6M rig.

The Board felt that this rig offered the greatest number of features with the latest technology in a compact package that will serve the club well as a base rig as well as having the capability of being taken into the field should that become necessary.

This rig has Digital Signal Processing and covers all amateur bands from 160M to 6M with 100 watt output with a built in antenna tuner. It is compact and has the capability of having the radio body mounted remotely (under the desk) from the neat control head. This saves space on the operating surface. This rig can also be completely controlled by a PC and the software to do so is free!

We are looking forward to giving this rig it's 'baptism of fire' during the upcoming Field Day exercise in June. See elsewhere in this issue for FD information.

WD8KAF Club Repeaters

147.300 + 100 Hz PL

443.300 + 123 Hz PL



Club Website:

www.branchcountyarc.com



June BCARC Meeting

Notice:

June 15 7:00 PM at 911
Communications Center
Fox Hunt!





Despite rumors to the contrary from uninformed sources, the BCARC will have Field Day this year. We will be operating again from the 911 Communication Center west of Coldwater June 26 and 27.

We are still developing the actual configuration that the FD operation will take, but it does look like we will have two stations available for operation.

We will put the club's new Kenwood to use in the club station and we may have an outside station that will have a more traditional FD flavor. The public will be invited to attend and participate. We will have information available about amateur radio and how to become a ham.

We will once again ask club members to sign up for particular time slots to make sure that everyone that wants to operate is able to. As always, we will need operators for the overnight on Saturday.

Field Day is a great opportunity to get in some serious HF operation. Remember, you do not have to have a General or above license in order to operate FD! You will be under the auspices of a control operator who holds the necessary license. As a general rule, everyone at the FD site will have Extra class privileges that weekend when operating the club FD equipment.

We hope to see you there!



Jim Voss, W8SST
E. C. Branch County

So, who ever heard of making it through the months of March and April around here without being called out to storm spot? I can't recall this happening any time in recent history. My XYL kindly reminded me that we were, however, called out in January or February – go figure! Obviously, we've made up for March and April by spotting practically every other day in May! A hearty 'thank you' to all who have participated, especially in the after dark nets.

Your VHF net manager, Arnie, NS8T, is looking for fill-in net control stations through the summer when he is out gallivanting around with June on that two wheeled contraption of his. There have been a couple of volunteers, but how about some more? Nothing to it, and it is excellent preparation to be an NCS for the Skywarn Net when the other shoe drops. If you're interested contact Arnie or me.

Any amateur sincerely interested in Emergency Service is invited to check into the Michigan Amateur Radio Public Service Corps Net. The net meets each Sunday at 5 p.m. and is a roundtable style net. There is often a topic of discussion. It's a good place to catch up on what's happening around the state with ARES/RACES. The net meets on 7.232 during the summer and 3.932 in the winter months.

This will likely be mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter, but be advised that the code class, originally scheduled to be held in June and July has been pushed back to September and October. Details will follow

Branch County ARES is happy to have a number of new licensees in the county this spring. If you are new to Skywarn operations and are interested in being involved in storm spotting in the field (and I hope you are), please drop me an email and I'll see that you get teamed up with an experienced spotter. We'll send you out together a number of times so you can take advantage of the experience of some of our more seasoned veterans, which will give you more confidence the first time you go out by yourself later on.

Here's looking forward to a safe spotting season and, with any luck, no more after dark nets! As always, keep that jump kit ready and those batteries charged up! Do you know where your mobile power cord is tonight?

Fox Hunt June 15!



The June meeting of the BCARC will feature our popular Fox Hunt part 2.

There will be no business meeting in June (Yea!!!!)

Fox Hunt General Rules

The FOX will hide only in an area that is accessible to the public without the payment of an admission fee.

Events may be Mobile hunts where participants hunt from their vehicles or On-Foot hunts where participants use portable direction finding equipment to locate a hidden transmitter, or a combination of both.

The starting frequency, on which the FOX will transmit, along with the frequencies that will be used for any announcements or hints during the hunt, will be made known to all participants before the start of the event.

Any hunt will have a Maximum Time Limit.

When the allotted time has expired, an announcement will be made on the Fox frequency that the hunt has concluded and that all stations should return to the starting point.

When all participants and observers have gathered at the starting point at the conclusion of the hunt, the location of the FOX will be announced to all.

So that all teams can hunt with equally high enthusiasm, the FOX will not announce that the hunters are in the area or that any teams have found the fox.

A portable FOX will have on it, or as nearby as possible, removable tags or slips of paper, each containing a sequential number starting at number 1. A hunter finding the FOX will take the lowest numbered tag and return it to the Hunt Master at the starting point.

Prizes will be awarded for the first two teams or individuals to find the FOX within the allotted time frame.

Rules Specific to June 2004 Hunt

The hunt will commence from the parking lot of the 911 Center at 7:15 PM.

Hunt timeframe will be a maximum of 1 hour 30 minutes.

The fox will be hidden within a 10-mile radius of the intersection of Marshall and Chicago streets in Coldwater.

The Fox will be transmitting on 147.550 MHz.

The Fox will transmit for one minute followed by 4 minutes of silence. All transmissions will take place at 5-minute intervals beginning at 7:15, followed by 7:20, 7:25, etc.

The Fox may change power settings during the hunt.

Time synchronization will be available from the Hunt Master prior to the start of the hunt.

The hidden antenna will have 5 tags attached to or near it that bear numbers 1 through 5.

When the Fox is located, the team locating it should not mention anything on the air or otherwise tell others where the fox is located.

As each team finds the Fox, they should discreetly and quietly take the lowest numbered tag and return to the 911 Center and turn the tag over to the Hunt Master. The Hunt Master will write on the tag the time that the tag was received and sign the tag. If a team finds the Fox and there are no tags present, that means that at least 5 others have found the Fox before them.

The person or team with the number 1 tag will be the winner of the hunt. Runners-up will follow the same procedure and be scored according to the numbered tags that they turn into the Hunt Master.

Our primary concern during the hunt is for the safety of all participants.

If you drive slowly or stop your car in or near the roadway, remember to turn on your 4-way flashers in your vehicle.

Be careful when exiting your car near the flow of traffic.

Think safety all the time.



2004 Meeting Programs

June:

Foxhunt – See if you can find our elusive Fox!

July:

Ft. Wayne DX Association – Carl and Vicky from Ft. Wayne visit to tell us about their trip to Albania.

August:

Coffee, Cookies & Tall Tales

September:

Dick Mondro, W8FQT, ARRL Division Vice-Director tells us what is happening in the ARRL. Remember, Dick's program was recently voted as the 7th most popular program of 2003 at the BCARC. And he hasn't visited our club since 2002. Now that is staying power!

October:

Club Auction with Jim Voss as our auctioneer extraordinaire!

November:

Annual Business Meeting and election of officers and members of the Board of Directors.

December:

Christmas Dinner & Gift Exchange – We are looking for new ideas for this annual event.



VE Test Session Schedule



June 12

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

June 19

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, Archbold, OH
43502
Pre-registration preferred
Leave message on machine

June 19

Sponsor: Cascades ARS
Time: 10:00AM
(Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Richard H. McGuire
(517) 782-1430
Email: DICKKI8C@JUNO.COM
VEC: W5YI VEC
Location: Jackson Library,
Jackson, MI 49204

June 24

Sponsor: SMARS
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Richard F Holcomb
(269) 969-3026
VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)
Location: American Red Cross
162 Van Buren ST W
Battle Creek, MI 49017

July 8

Sponsor: Goshen ARC
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Lyle L Long

(574) 875-8455

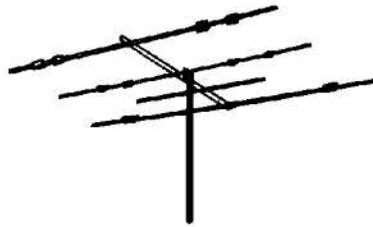
Email: NILL@JUNO.COM

VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)

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

July 17

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, Archbold, OH
Leave message on machine



DX on the Bands

SENEGAL, 6W.

Conrad, 6W8CK is QRV from here
for the next few years.
QSL via DH7WW.

MALTA, 9H.

Con, DF4SA will be QRV as
9H3MM in the CQ WPX CW
contest. He will be a Single Op/All
Band/Low Power entry. Activity
will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to
home call.

CHILE, CE.

Carlos, NP4IW/6 and Bob, K4UEE
plan to be QRV as CE3AQI as a
Multi/Single entry in the CQ WPX
CW contest. QSL via operators'
instructions.

CUBA, CO.

Juan, CO8TW will be QRV in the
CQ WPX CW contest as a Single
Band/Low Power entry on 20
meters. QSL via IZ8CCW.

GERMANY, DA.

Look for DG1RUG/p, DL2SWW/p
and DL2VFR/p to be QRV from
May 29 to 31 from Usedom Island,
IOTA EU-129. They will use CW
and SSB. Weather permitting, they
will make a side trip to one of the
three lighthouses near
Peenemuende. QSL via bureau.

SOUTH KOREA, HL.

Members of the Korea Keymen's
Club will be QRV as D80HQ/3 in
the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL via
DS1KVP.

SAUDI ARABIA, HZ.

Thomas, SM0CXU will operate
from the HZ1AB club station during
the CQ WPX CW contest as a
Single Op/Single Band entry on 15
meters. QSL via K8PYD.

ITALY, I.

A number of Italian operators will
be QRV June 2 from Turin with the
special event callsign IO1PDT to
celebrate Paralympics Day. QSL
via IZ1CCE.

SARDINIA, IS0.

Look for Franc, S59AA to be active
as IS0/S52A in the CQ WPX CW
contest as a Single Op/All Band
entry. Outside of the contest, he
will operate as IS0/S59AA. QSL to
home call.

NORWAY, LA.

Hardy, DL3KWF is QRV as
LG5LG from the Norwegian side of
Morokulia. He will participate in
the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL via
SM5DJZ.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0.

Ari, OH5DX is QRV as OH0Z until
June 4 on all HF bands. This
includes being a Single Band entry
in the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL
to home call. Meanwhile, Marcus,
DL1EKC is QRV as OH0EC from
Finstrom until June 4. Activity is
mainly using CW on 80 to 10
meters. This includes being a
Single Op/Low Power entry in the
CQ WPX CW contest. QSL to
home call.

ARUBA, P4.

Andrius, LY2TA and Jurgis, LY2CY will sign P40X in the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL direct via LY2TA.

SWEDEN, SM.

Rosel, DL3KWR is QRV as SJ9WL from the Swedish side of Morokulia. He will participate in the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL via SM5DJZ.

SUDAN, ST.

Michael, PA5M is QRV as ST2DX from Khartoum on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. His operating times depend on his workload. QSL via PA7FM.

UKRAINE, UR.

The Ukrainian State Centre of Radio Frequencies club station EM0U is QRV on all HF bands. QSL via UT3UZ.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5.

David, W5AO and Kirk, K4RO will be QRV as VP5/W5AO and VP5/K4RO, respectively, until June 1. QSL to home calls. They will also participate in the CQ WPX CW contest as VQ5V. QSL the contest call via the Oklahoma DXA.

CAMBODIA, XU.

Pete, SM5GMZ plans to participate in the CQ WPX CW contest as XU7ADI. QSL to home call.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC4.

Andy, G3AB will be active as ZC4/G3AB from the Eastern Base Area during the CQ WPX CW contest. QSL to home call.



Who is This Ham?



A global connection

Coldwater boy communicates using ham radio

Michael Spencer, KC8ZLB was recently featured in an article published in the Battle Creek Enquirer on May 24, 2004

The article was a boost for amateur radio and young people becoming involved with the hobby. The article was reasonably accurate with the exception of the author's failure to understand the importance of attention to small details like getting a callsign correct..

Still, all things being equal, generally any publicity is better than nothing.

Congrats to Michael for obtaining minor star status!

Dave King, KQ8R correctly identified this ham as our own Jim Voss, W8SST. This picture was taken in 1964. Thanks to N8CTI for digging in the archives to pull that one out.

2004 Club Contacts

Officers

President:

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

Secy/Treasurer:

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI
639-4390 banjonut@yahoo.com

Board of Directors

Jim Voss, W8SST
278-4636 w8sst@arrl.net

Arnie Hayward, NS8T
278-8507 ns8t@arrl.net

Steve Williams, N8CTI
369-7194
shadowman405@charter.net

Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST
278-4636 w8sst@arrl.net

July Program Notes



Our good friends from the Ft. Wayne DX Association, Carl (K9LA) and Vicky (AE9YL) Luetzelschwab will be with us again in July.

This trip they will tell us all about their recent trip to Albania to teach amateur radio to engineering students and of course to sneak in a little operating from ZA-land.

Carl and Vicky always put on an interesting show and this will be their third visit to BCARC. Be sure to attend!