



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Vol. III Number 7 July 2004
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

WD8KAF Club Station Updated



The club's station located at the 911 Center recently underwent a major transformation with the addition office panels and work surfaces to produce two separate cubical-type operating positions. One is pictured above.

This was made possible by a generous donation by Taylor's Stationers who had the materials lounging in an upstairs storage area at their Chicago Street store.

Our hats are off to Howard Taylor for his generosity and to Jim Voss for convincing his boss that donating the materials in question was a good idea.

Our thanks also go to Jim and Jon Voss, Steve Williams, and Larry Camp for supplying the muscle required to move the materials to the 911 Center and assemble it all into useable form. (And for accomplishing it all prior to Field Day!)

This makes a very nice station environment for our new TS480 SAT HF/6M rig. Check it out at the next meeting!

Fox Hunt Winners!



Dan, KC8RYF



Milt, N8BFD

The BCARC 2nd Annual Foxhunt held on June 15 was won by two Hillsdale amateurs. Dan Sprow, KC8RYF and Milt Bowers, N8BFD were able to sniff out the elusive fox.

It was not easy, however. The Fox had promised that this hunt would be more difficult than the previous one. Well, he was correct in that it took Dan and Milt right up to the 1.5 hour time limit to locate him. Several teams were in the correct area but were not able to pinpoint the fox until the time limit had expired.

Dan and Milt took home a crisp \$20 bill to split between them for their efforts. There was no second prize awarded because the time limit expired before anyone else found the fox.

Thus far our Foxhunts have been team efforts with no communication between teams and some deception involved to throw others off the track. We are considering what we call a Collaborative Foxhunt where all teams cooperate with each other to locate the hidden transmitter. This is how we would locate a signal in a real situation. This may happen in the next two or three months, so don't put that gear away!

WD8KAF Club Repeaters

147.300 + 100 Hz PL

443.300 + 123 Hz PL



Club Website:

www.branchcountyarcc.com



July BCARC Meeting Notice:

July 20 7:00 PM at 911
Communications Center





FD 2004: A Great Time Was Had by All!

Field Day 2004 is in the books. A total of 18 club members and 4 guests visited and/or participated in this year's event.

We operated a total of 3 stations this year. We operated our new Kenwood TS480 SAT HF/6M rig from the club station in the basement of the 911 Center using the tri-bander and a 80M dipole antenna. The new operating positions were a great improvement over last year.

Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK set up a pair of stations from his 16 ft trailer that we parked near the 911 sign near the highway. Bruce came well prepared with all the necessary hardware to install approximately 800 ft of wire that we strung in a loop around the perimeter of the parking lot supported on a number of extending metal pipe/PVC pipe supports that were set into place and guyed by twine and cement blocks. The loop was fed by ladder line using a tuner leading to Bruce's Ten Tec Jupiter. Bruce also put up a VHF beam to try out 2M SSB as well. All of this was battery powered with a pair of solar panels to provide charge when the sun was shining. Bruce's system worked very well.

Paul, KG8WI backed his truck up to the outside station and set his Yaesu HF/6M/2M/440 rig and tuner on the tailgate and proceeded to work stations on 6M in Texas, Colorado, North Carolina, and Florida!

Both the indoor and outdoor stations used club computers for logging with good success. We made

approximately 245 contacts and while the final scores has not yet been calculated, general comments of those participating indicated that a great time was had by all. We made contact in 32 states and 4 provinces of Canada in addition to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Don, KC8PRM worked a station in Italy for the 2004 DX crown! Many favorable comments were received about the club's new rig, and all were suitably impressed by Bruce's engineering capabilities!

A lot of time was spent with a bunch of hams chewing the fat rather than operating, but we proved that our systems worked well and we took the opportunity to do what hams do best....talk.

Many thanks to all those who helped set up, tear down, operate, and support our effort. Thanks to Susie Wilson for delivering the life saving pizza Saturday evening!

Those attending were as follows: Bill Acock, KC8ZFP; Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK and XYL Susie; Gerry Barnes, KC8QNS; Jim Voss, W8SST; Jon Voss, K8SST; Arnie Hayward, NS8T; Michael Spencer, KC8ZLB and parents, Don Cook, KC8PRM; Paul Van Briggle, N9DFA (new club member); Bill Slade, WD8MGF and XYL Nancy; Tom Twite, K8CHS; Jim Shaw, N8NG; Steve Williams, N8CTI; Dennis Jaques, WD8OUO; Jim King, KC8UGV; Paul Sygnecki, KG8WI; Ed Klein, KC8MCC; and Larry Camp, WB8R.



More Field Day pictures can be found on the club website at www.branchcountync.com

VE Test Session Schedule



July 8

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

July 17

Sponsor: Cascades ARS
Time: 10:00AM
(Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Richard H. McGuire
(517) 782-1430
Email: DICKK18C@JUNO.COM
VEC: W5YI VEC
Location: Jackson Library,
Jackson, MI 49204



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

July 17

Sponsor: Kalamazoo ARC

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

Contact: John Tucker
(269) 324-9085

Email:

JOHN.TUCKER@WMICH.EDU

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Kalamazoo County Sheriff Dept.

August 21

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

Welcome to New Club Members

Our club has had the good fortune to add two new members to our roster.

The first is a 15 year old student from Tekonsha, Andrew Glenn. Andrew is not licensed yet, but is working feverishly towards taking his licensing test in the near future. Those of you who attended the Fox Hunt may have already met Andrew. In any event, be sure to welcome him to the club when you see him next.

We would also like to welcome Paul Van Briggie, N9DFA of Centerville as the newest member of our club. Paul visited our Field Day and your editor had a very interesting conversation with him. Paul has joined our club and we are looking forward to seeing him again at our

next meeting July 20. Please make sure to say hello to him and make him feel welcome.

According to your editor's best estimates, that brings our current membership to 51.

Upcoming Hamfests

Full info can be found at www.arrl.org

July 10

Straits Area ARC

Petoskey, MI

Contact: wd8rth@arrl.net

August 1

Land of Lakes Hamfest

Angola, IN

Contact: Sharon.L.brown@gte.net

August 14

Cascades ARS

Jackson, MI

Contact: ab8pw@arrl.net

Vanity Callsign Fees to Increase

The FCC regulatory fee to obtain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will rise from \$16.30 to \$20.80 later this year. The FCC announced the new fee in a Report and Order (R&O) in MD Docket 04-73, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2004." The FCC says it anticipates 7800 applications for FY2004--2000 fewer than the previous fiscal year. The FCC expects revenue collected from the vanity call sign regulatory fees in FY2004 to rise by nearly \$2400 to slightly more than \$162,100. The R&O becomes effective 30 days after it's published in The Federal Register. ARRL will announce when the new, higher vanity fee begins.

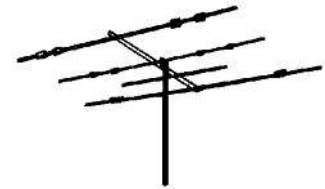


July Meeting Program Notes



Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA

Our good friends from the Ft. Wayne DX Association, Carl (K9LA) and Vicky (AE9YL) Luetzelschwab will be with us again in July. A few months ago they visited Albania (ZA) to help a group teach amateur radio to university students. They also managed to sightsee and operate a bit. We will hear all the details when they visit on the 20th. You won't want to miss this one!



DX on the Bands

FIJI, 3D2.

Christian, EC3ADC is QRV as 3D2EA from Viti Levu, IOTA OC-016, and is active on 40, 20 and 17 meters. He is here until September. QSL via EB2AYV. Meanwhile, Norm, W1BYH will also be QRV from here from July 5 to 14. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL to home call.

CROATIA, 9A.

Den, 9A3FO is QRV as 9A3FO/p from the Island of Pag, IOTA EU-170, until July 10. Activity is on 40 to 12 meters, including 30 and 17 meters, using CW. QSL to home call.

ANGOLA, D2.

Ed, D2PFN has been QRV using SSB on 10 meters around 1100 to 1200z. QSL via KK5DO.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO, 9Y.
Look for KE9I, N9LAH and AJ9C to be QRV as 9Y4/homecalls from July 3 to 17. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They will also participate in the upcoming IARU contest as 9Y4ZC. QSL contest call via AJ9C and all others via home calls.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.
Members of the Gran Canaria DX Group and others will be QRV using the special event call ED8ERC from July 3 to 10 to celebrate the 2nd Canarias Ham Radio meeting. Activity will be on all HF bands, using CW, SSB and possibly RTTY and PSK31. They plan to have one APRS station active as well. QSL via operators' instructions.

MOROCCO, CN.
Youssef, CN8YZ has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 0015 and 0115z. QSL via EA7FTR.

NORWAY, LA.
Mario, DL5ME and Guenter, DG3HWO are QRV as LA/DL5ME from Tromoy Island, IOTA EU-061, until July 6. Activity is on 40 to 15 meters, including 30 and 17 meters, using CW and SSB. They may also be active on the VHF bands. QSL to home call.

LUXEMBOURG, LX.
LX8M will be QRV during the DL-DX-RTTY Contest and in the upcoming Russian RTTY WW Contest. QSL via LX1ER.

ST. MAARTEN, PJ5.
Mario, K2ZD and Jim, K4BI are QRV as PJ7M from St. Maarten until July 12. Their primary focus will be 6 meter Sporadic E propagation. QSL via K2ZD.

ICELAND, TF.
Kan, JA1BK is QRV as JA1BK/TF and has been active on 20 meters around 0800z and then around 1400z. QSL via VE3HO.

ST. KITTS AND NEVIS, V4.
Andrei, NC2N will be QRV as NC2N/V44 from Nevis Island, IOTA NA-104, from July 5 to 12.

Activity will be on all bands using CW, SSB and RTTY. This includes an entry in the upcoming IARU contest. QSL via W3HNC.

CANADA, VE.
Carl, VE3ZCO is QRV as VY0CQ from the Canadian Arctic until August 25. He is here with other geologists, and his radio activity is limited to his free time and will be mostly on 20 meters. QSL to home call.

EL SALVADOR, YS.
Rick, N1RL is here until July 11 while participating in a project to rebuild housing damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. He hopes to be QRV possibly as N1RL/YS using QRP, generally on 20 or 17 meters as conditions permit, using mostly CW. He may try some FM satellite activity as well. This includes the new Echo satellite if it's functioning during his stay. QSL via operator's instructions.

DX info courtesy of ARRL

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

Where to find Help

Subject Area and Who Can Help

Antennas: K18BM, NS8T, WB8R, K8CHS, W8SST, N8NG, WB8ZSK

Buying First Radio: K18BM, NS8T, WB8R, N8NG, W8SST, WB8ZSK

Code Practice: W8SST, K8CHS, WB8R, NS8T, K18BM

Computers: K8SST, W8WU

Contests, County Hunting
K8CHS

DXCC Awards: K8CHS

DX: K8CHS, W8WU, KQ8R

FM: K18BM

Homebrew (Do It Yourself)
WA8LGO

License Testing: W8SST, NS8T, WB8R, N8JWC, KC8RYF, K8CHS, K18BM

Digital Communications: N8CTI, K18BM, W8SST

Public Service: W8SST, WB8R, N8CTI

Rag Chewers Club: WB8R, W8SST

Technical Questions/Electronics: K8CHS, K18BM, WB8R

Traffic (Message Handling)
WB8R, W8SST, N8CTI

Tube Type Radios: WA8LGO

WAS (Worked All States):
WB8R, W8SST

