



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Vol. III Number 8 August 2004
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

WA8LGO Silent Key



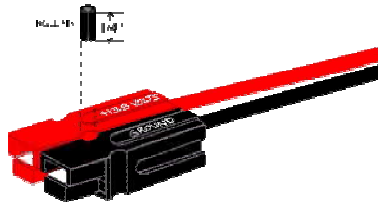
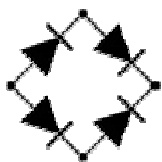
Amos Fleming, WA8LGO
May 11, 1914 – July 30, 2004

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of a fellow ham, club member and great friend. Amos Fleming, WA8LGO passed away on Friday, July 30, 2004 at Drew's Place of Coldwater.

Amos had been in failing health in recent months.

Amos loved to build gear, especially Heath Kit and home brew. He was always willing to help other hams put together a project and was an excellent teacher. Amos was the Treasurer and member of the BCARC for many years.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to Amos' family. No funeral services are planned by the family. He will be sorely missed.



Anderson Powerpoles Now Available From BCARC

In an effort to upgrade the connector systems of our member's radios and power connections and to foster improved interconnectability for versatility in an emergency, the club has purchased 100 sets of Anderson Powerpole electrical connectors.

The club paid about \$1.00 per set and we are selling them for \$1.50 per set. The profits will pay for the crimping tool that the club purchased (available for loan to members who purchase Powerpole connectors from the club) and the balance will go to the club's treasury as fund raising.

A power source will require one set and each radio will require one set. A minimal hookup will cost \$3.00. This is still a great investment because you can ensure that all of your equipment will mate with any and all of your power supplies. Don't forget a set for your mobile installation, too. These connectors are rated for 30 Amps DC so they will work on just about any rig you might have.

See Jim Voss to purchase yours and get connected!

WD8KAF Club Repeaters

147.300 + 100 Hz PL

443.300 + 123 Hz PL



Club Website:

www.branchcountyarcc.com



August BCARC Meeting Notice:

August 17- 7:00 PM at 911
Communications Center





Midland Repeater Project Kicks Off!

At the July meeting, the club authorized the Board to proceed with the necessary steps to convert the Midland repeater to 147.30/90 MHz for use as the club's primary 2M repeater. It will use a 94.8 tone.

We will switch the current controller that is in use on the current 2M machine over to the Midland and will also utilize the Kenwood UHF transceiver (donated by Mike Jepson) as our control link.

There is a possibility that we may have the 2M repeater down for a few days while this conversion takes place. We will announce this as far ahead of time as possible. A great alternate is our 440 repeater on 443.300 MHz.

The Channel Element for the Midland receiver has been sent to International Crystal Mfg. to have the new crystal installed and the circuit tuned and temperature compensated. We expect to have it back in our hands around mid August. We are planning to begin the conversion as soon after that as possible and are hopeful to have everything complete by the first of September.

We are considering placing the Motorola Micor repeater that we are currently using up for sale. Interested parties can contact

WB8R at 517-278-0406 for information.

Stay tuned for new developments.



Our final 2004 Field Day score was 984 points. Once again, thanks go out to all who participated this year to make the event a success!



WB8ZSK Recipient Of Prestigious "Lifesaver Award"

The BCARC's prestigious "Lifesaver Award" was presented to Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK at the July club meeting to honor him for his outstanding efforts to make the 2004 FD a success. Bruce was the primary reason that our FD was a success this year. Congratulations, and thank you again, Bruce!



VE Test Session Schedule



Information courtesy of www.arrrl.org

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

August 26

Sponsor: SMARS

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

Contact: Richard F Holcomb
(269)969-3026

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Seventh Day Adventist Church

September 18

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

September 18

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

September 18

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

Upcoming Hamfests

Full info can be found at www.arrl.org

August 14

Cascades ARS

Jackson, MI

Contact: ab8pw@arrl.net

September 12

Findlay Radio Club

Contact: kanga@bright.net

September 19

Adrian

Contact: k8jvw@arrl.net

October 10

Kalamazoo ARC

Contact:

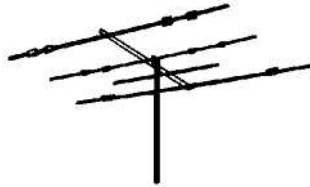
Information@kalamazoohamfest.com

September Meeting Program Notes



Dick Mondro, W8FQT

Dick Mondro, W8FQT and his wife Sandy, KG8HM will visit our club again in September. As you know, Dick is the Vice-Director of the Great lakes Division of the ARRL. Dick will fill us in on current happenings in amateur radio including BPL, license restructuring, and he will provide some insight into the inner workings of the ARRL.



DX on the Bands

DX info courtesy of ARRL

UGANDA, 5X.

Jay, K4ZLE will be QRV as 5X2A from August 3 to 21. He plans to be active on the lower HF bands using mostly CW. There may be some PSK31 activity as well. QSL to home call.

CROATIA, 9A.

Laci, HA0HW and Tomi, HA4DX will be QRV as 9A/homecalls from Silo, Krk Island, IOTA EU-136, from August 2 to 12. They are here on holiday, so their activity may be limited. They plan to be active on all HF bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL to home calls.

TONGA, A3.

Chris, A35DX has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB from around 0400 to 0700z. QSL via EB2AYV.

BAHRAIN, A9.

Mohamed, A92GR has been QRV on 17 meters using SSB around 1700z. QSL direct.

CHILE, CE.

Bob, XQ6ET is QRV on 160 meters around 1100z during the winter months. QSL via operator's instructions.

ESTONIA, ES.

Oskar, ES7NY will be QRV as ES7NY/2 from Naissaar Island, IOTA EU-149, for about two months. QSL to home call.

REUNION ISLAND, FR. Joseph, FR5HA has been QRV using PSK31 on 20 meters around 0400z and then around 1200z. QSL via operator's instructions.

SOUTH SHETLANDS. HF0QF has been QRV on 20 meters using SSB around 2100z. QSL via SP7IWA.

LEBANON, OD.

Francis, OD5PL has been QRV using CW on 15 meters around 1300z. QSL via HB9CRV.

CRETE, SV9.

Rolf, DL6ZFG is QRV as SV9/DL6ZFG/p until August 8. After August 1 he may use the special Olympic callsign J42004ZFG. Activity is mainly on 20 meters using SSB and some RTTY. QSL to home call.

GUATEMALA, TG.

Frank, TG9ANF has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters after 0200z. QSL to home call.

BRUNEI, V8.

V8FDX has been QRV on 30 meters from around 1300 to 1700z. QSL via JM1LJS.

AFGHANISTAN, YA. Henry, F6EAY is currently QRV as T6RF while in Kabul. He has been active using mostly PSK31. QSL to F6ITD.

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO, YU.

To mark the first commercial Marconi contact made between Bari, Italy and Bar, Montenegro on August 3, 1904, amateurs in Montenegro may add the number 100 to their callsigns through August. Look for commemorative station 4N6100BB to be QRV during this time. QSL via operators' instructions.

AVES ISLAND, YV0.

In celebration of its 70th anniversary, members of the Radio Club Venezolano and other amateurs will soon be QRV as YV0D until August 8. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including the 30, 17, 12, 6 and 2 meters, and 70 cm, using CW, SSB, RTTY, SSTV, PSK31, FM, EME and satellites. QSL via KB6NAN.

PARAGUAY, ZP.

Doug, ZP6CW is often QRV on 160 meters during his sunrise. QSL via ZP6CU.

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



N8GSK

If you watch the weather on Channel 6 out of Lansing you have probably seen this face. If you participate or listen to our Skywarn nets during severe weather, you have probably heard his voice when he joins our net when he is in our area.

In November, you will have a chance to see him in person when he visits the BCARC to tell us about his storm chasing adventures on behalf of Channel 6.

You see, Rob is one of the meteorologists at WLNS Channel 6 in Lansing. Rob also is a ham. That blend means that he is on the road searching out bad weather whenever conditions warrant. Rob has checked into our nets a number of times and provided us with an expert set of eyes in our network.

Rob has agreed to visit our club in November and tell us about his storm chasing, Skywarn activities, and information on advanced radar interpretation.

As you know, November is our annual business meeting where we elect (railroad) our officers and members of the Board of Directors, but we promise to get the painful stuff over quickly so we can enjoy Rob's presentation. This is a must attend meeting!



Club Station to be Open at August Meeting

Since the August meeting program is all about chatting amongst our selves, the club station will be available for anyone who would like to put our new TS480 on the air and make a few contacts. Please make sure that you operate within your license privileges or that you have the appropriate license class control operator present to keep both you and the club legal. Arnie, NS8T is the club trustee and he will be on hand to answer any questions about privileges and the need for control operators. We will be using the club callsign, WD8KAF for operation.

Be sure to take the new rig for a spin!



The Order of Wide Eyed Night Crawlers Certificates Distributed at July BCARC Meeting

Randy Kruger, KI8BM, Michael Spencer, KC8ZLB, Steve Williams, N8CTI, Larry Camp, WB8R, Don Cook, KC8PRM, Bill Slade, WD8MGF, Jonathan Voss, K8SST, Dan Sprow, KC8RYF, and Byron Agnew, KB9NNT.

As it says on the certificates, "these individuals have the proven ability to clutter the airwaves of Branch County with all matter of lunacy at an Indecent Hour."

If you can read the fine print on the certificate above, you will see that it is S/N 002 issued in April of 1980 to WD8RHU. Boy, how time flies! The certificates distributed last month all had the proper dates and current callsigns on them.

Random Thoughts

Grizzard's Truism:

The trouble with most jobs is the job holder's resemblance to being one of a sled dog team. No one gets a change of scenery except the lead dog.

Brooke's Law:

Whenever a system becomes completely defined, some damn fool discovers something which either abolishes the system or expands it beyond recognition.

Peter's Placebo:

An ounce of image is worth a pound of performance.



Jim Voss, W8SST

Thanks, and a tip of the hat, to those who have been assisting with both the regular weekly net and Skywarn net recently. I'm happy to report that I think we only had one Skywarn activation in the month of July (unless something pops in the next few days). It's reassuring to know that there are those who are willing to step up to the plate when you're not around.

In case you didn't get the link here or somewhere else – here's a great radar site which will give you the free information on the storm cells in any given NWS radar coverage area:

<http://www.wunderground.com/radar/radblast.asp?num=4&scale=1&delay=100&noclutter=1&showstorms=31&ID=IWX&lat=41.90769958&lon=85.01450348&label=Coldwater%2C+MI&type=NOR>

This link will display the following information for each cell worth watching: direction of travel, speed, height, probability of hail and size of hail. It also indicates a tornado vortex and mesocyclone in any cell. Also helpful, is the Radar FAQ page at: <http://www.wunderground.com/radar/help.asp>

Emergency Management of Branch County is requesting that as many ARES/RACES members as possible take the MSP course: Emergency Response To Terrorism – Awareness. The course will be offered at the Branch County 911 site in the near future. It is a one-day course, or may be given on 2 consecutive evenings. There is no charge for the training. I will promulgate detailed information when it becomes available.

An interesting excerpt from the ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 29: *Acting July 16 during its second meeting of 2004 in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board established as policy that ARES groups and any group using the ARES logo shall formally acknowledge ARES as an ARRL program, including in their bylaws or other organizational documents, and agree to abide by all rules and guidelines the League establishes. Since both ARES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered ARRL service marks, ARES groups are to utilize the R symbol in any printed or electronic media and note that the logo is used by permission. All ARES records, membership rosters and other data pertaining to the ARES program, wherever located, are the property of the ARRL.*

Here's wishing you fair weather and good DX.

Jim Voss, W8SST - E. C. Branch County



BPL Provider Bails Out

NEWINGTON, CT, Jul 28, 2004-- The broadband provider that's been testing BPL in the Village of Penn Yan, New York, now reportedly will "move away" from that technology. The Western New York community of some 5000 residents has been considering various proposals with Data Ventures (DVI) to offer broadband service. The village reportedly would get 10 percent of the generated revenue. According to an article in today's edition of the Finger Lakes Times Online, DVI now is proposing to employ wireless mesh technology instead of BPL. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, congratulated Penn Yan Mayor Douglas G. Marchionda Jr and DVI for going with wireless broadband instead of BPL.

"Not only will your citizens receive better service, but a serious radio spectrum pollution problem has been averted as well," Sumner said in a letter faxed to Marchionda and to DVI CEO Marc Burling. "We hope that other communities will be able to profit from your experience." Sumner raised the issue of interference complaints from the Penn Yan BPL trial with Marchionda last April.

The Finger Lakes Times report quotes Burling as saying that his company didn't feel BPL was "commercially deployable." He also cited issues with the BPL trial including security concerns and interference--which will not be an issue with the wireless system.

Penn Yan already has rejected two DVI proposals to bring high-speed Internet service to the community, the newspaper said. Village officials reportedly met again with DVI representatives this week. DVI is partnering with Nortel to offer the wireless service.

The article quotes Marchionda as saying that the village didn't want to be involved with handling complaints or operating the broadband system. It just wants to rent space on village-owned utility poles and benefit from any revenue the system generates.

Penn Yan and DVI had been looking at a 10-year agreement, but the latest proposal calls for a two-year contract with provisions for an automatic two-year renewal.

In a March 23 article "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," Wall Street Journal reporter Ken Brown described a "firestorm" of protest from amateurs when Penn Yan approved the BPL test plan.

For more information on BPL, visit the "Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) and Amateur Radio" page on the ARRL Web site.

Courtesy of ARRL