



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Vol. III Number 9 September 2004
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

CW Class Offered



The BCARC Instructor Team has announced that a class will be held to teach students to understand Morse Code and copy at 5 wpm.

The class will be held on Saturday mornings beginning September 11 through October 16. The 6 week class will run from 9:00 to 11:00 AM in the basement Training Room of the 911 Center.

The class will be taught by Jim, W8SST; Larry, WB8R; and Bruce, WB8ZSK.

Testing is scheduled for October 23 and all license class element testing will be available. Testing is open to all parties interested in amateur exams.

Study materials consist of the ARRL CD "Your Introduction to Morse Code". This CD is available from the club for \$12. Be sure to get yours early as it will be used in the first class session.

Call Jim at 278-4636 or Larry at 278-0406 for details.

New VE Joins Team

The BCARC Volunteer Examiner Team has a new member. Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK has recently been certified as an ARRL VE.

We are happy to have him on our team and look forward to working with him at our testing sessions in the future. Thanks for volunteering, Bruce!

New Ham In Town!



Andrew Glenn, KD8AGZ

Andrew 15, from Tekonsha was recently annointed as KD8AGZ. Andrew joined our club as an associate member in June and has been working on his license on his own. He successfully passed his Technician test at the SMARS VE session in Battle Creek on August 26. You may have already heard Andrew on the air using his new FT 2800 2M rig. Congratulations, Andrew!

Special thanks go to WB8ZSK for his help in getting Andrew's station on the air.

2M Repeater Tone to Change Soon

If you are not able to access the 2M repeater, but you hear others chatting away on it, you may have forgotten to change the sub-audible tone in your rig. The change is planned to take place when the new

WD8KAF Club Repeaters

147.300 + 100 Hz PL
(Changing soon to 94.8 Hz)

443.300 + 123 Hz PL



Club Website:

www.branchcountyarc.com



September BCARC Meeting Notice:

September 21 - 7:00 PM at 911 Communications Center



Midland repeater is placed on the air. We are changing the tone on the repeater to 94.8 Hz to comply with the latest standards from the Michigan Area Repeater Council.

The voice ID and beacon messages will remind listeners that the tone has changed and we will make announcements to advise everyone.

The Midland project is moving forward a bit more slowly than we had hoped. The power supply had a failure and we have pressed the club's 50A Astron supply into service until we can repair the Midland supply. The cavities have been retuned and the next step is to get the transmitter EEPROM erased and re-burned with our transmit frequency information. Once the exciter, receiver, and amplifier are tuned, the step remaining is to interface the controller and the UHF control receiver to the repeater. It will then be time for trial by fire! Stay tuned.

Hillsdale County Emergency Coordinator Appointed



Dan Sprow, KC8RYF

Dan Sprow, KC8RYF was recently named as the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Hillsdale County. Dan will be responsible for all ARES and RACES activity in the county.

Dan is the current President of the HCARC and has a wealth of organizational experience. He will be an excellent leader for the hams of Hillsdale County.

Congratulations are in order for Dan along with our best wishes for the future!

VE Test Session Schedule



Information courtesy of www.arrl.org

September 16

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

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, 144 W Michigan, Downstairs Auditorium, 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

October 3

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

October 14

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

October 16

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

October 16

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, 144 W Michigan, Downstairs Auditorium, Jackson, MI 49204

October 28

Sponsor: SMARS
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Richard F Holcomb
(269)969-3026
VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Seventh Day Adventist Church, 264 W. Michigan, Battle Creek, MI

Upcoming Hamfests

Full info can be found at www.arrl.org

September 12

Findlay Radio Club
Contact: kanga@bright.net

September 19

Adrian
Contact: k8jvw@arrl.net

October 10

Kalamazoo ARC
Contact:
Information@kalamazoohamfest.com

November 5-6

Michigan State ARRL Convention
Holland
<http://www.hollandarc.org>

November 15-16

Indiana State ARRL Convention
Ft. Wayne
<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

Who Is This Prospective Ham?



Our own Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK located a prospective ham while on vacation in the Upper Peninsula when a young lady expressed interest in Morse Code.

It turns out that there is a local connection to Branch County

Who can identify this young lady?

Dick Mondro, W8FQT to speak at BCARC



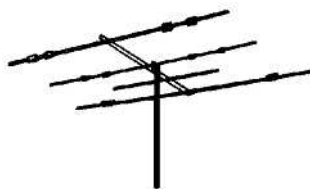
Dick Mondro, W8FQT

Dick Mondro, W8FQT ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director will speak at our September club meeting. 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.

Labor Day Wishes

The Officers and members of the Board of Directors wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable Labor Day holiday.

Now that school is back in session, don't forget to allow a little extra time in your morning and afternoon travels to compensate for the inevitable school buses that will cross your paths.



DX on the Bands

DX info courtesy of ARRL

SWAZILAND, 3DA.

John, G4IRN will be QRV as 3DA0RN from September 3 to 13. He plans activity on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 160 meters, using mostly CW with some SSB. QSL to home call.

MALAWI, 7Q.

Harry, G0JMU is QRV as 7Q7HB and plans to remain here until the end of November. QSL direct via G0IAS.

FRANCE, F.

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the Battle of the Marne River, look for TM5BDM to be QRV September 4 and 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters. QSL via F5ASD.

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Members of the Wrexham and District Amateur Radio Society are QRV until September 8 as GB4IOM and GB4SPT from a coast guard observation tower at Scarlett Point. QSL via bureau.

SCOTLAND, GM.

G3ZAY, M0BLF, M0TDG, M0NKI and M3OXY plan to be QRV as GM6UW/p from the Outer Hebrides, IOTA EU-010, from September 6 to 10. Weather permitting, they also plan to operate, during daylight hours only, from the Monach Islands, IOTA EU-111, on either September 6 or 7. QSL via M0BLF.

NORWAY, LA.

Members of the Skandinavisk Radio Club will be QRV as LA3SRK/p from Hitra Island, IOTA EU-036, from September 4 to 5. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. They will be 5 to 10 kHz below the usual IOTA frequencies. QSL via SM5SIC.

ANTARCTICA.

LU1ZD is QRV from General San Martin Base, located on Barry Island, IOTA AN-016, in Marguerite Bay. Meanwhile, LU4ZS is QRV from Vicecomodoro Gustavo A. Marambio, located on Seymour Island, IOTA AN-013. Both stations have been active on the 20-meter Antarctic Net beginning around 1900z during the weekends.

BELGIUM, ON.

Zelzate members are QRV as ON60Z until November 30 to

celebrate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of this region during World War II. QSL via ON7ZT.

SOUTH SHETLANDS. Alex, R1ANF has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 2000 and 2300z. QSL via RK1PWA.

ANTARCTICA. Alexei, UA1PAC will be QRV as R1ANC while wintering at the Russian Base Vostok. He is responsible for running the ionospheric stations. QSL via DL5EBE.

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA, T9.

Babs, DL7AFS, Lot, DJ7ZG and Chris, Z31GX are QRV as T98LBC until September 12. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via DL7AFS.

CHAD, TT.

Francois, F6GYV is now QRV as TT8FT and will be active for one year. QSL to home call.

CHAGOS ISLANDS, VQ9. Larry, VQ9LA has been QRV on 80 meters around 1300z. QSL via operator's instructions.

VANUATU, YJ.

Clark, YJ0XX has been QRV on 30 meters around 1000 to 1200z. QSL via W6YOO.



Interesting Websites

Recently, I happened to come across a few websites that offered interesting ideas and/or products.

Here are three of them:

www.ramseyelectronics.com

www.howstuffworks.com

www.blackcatsystems.com

If you have some websites that you would like to share with other readers of Branch Signals, please forward them to wb8r@arrl.net and

I would be happy to publish them in the next issue.

2004 Club Contacts

Officers

President:
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Jim Voss, W8SST
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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

Random Thoughts

Firestone's Law of Forecasting: Chicken Little only has to be right once.

MURPHY'S LAW: If anything can go wrong, it will.

Murphy's First Corollary: Left to themselves, things tend to go from bad to worse.

O'Toole's Commentary: Murphy was an optimist.

Glatum's Law of Materialistic Acquisitiveness: The perceived usefulness of an article is inversely proportional to its actual usefulness once bought and paid for.

Lewis' Law: No matter how long or hard you shop for an item, after you've bought it, it will be on sale somewhere cheaper. If nobody uses

it, there's a reason. You get the most of what you need the least.

Korman's conclusion: The trouble with resisting temptation is it may never come your way again.

Lennon's Law: Life is what happens while you are making other plans

Tom Wicker Clarke's First Law: When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible, he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.

Clarke's Second Law: The limits of the possible can only be defined by going beyond them into the impossible.

July Club Meeting Pics



Coffee, cookies and Conversations are enjoyed by club members.



The Club Station is put to good use at the July meeting

