



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Vol. III Number 10 October 2004
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

Mystery Operator Identity Revealed



This young lady's name is Heidi Geiman and is the granddaughter of our own Ed and Norita Geiman of Quincy. Heidi is the daughter of their son David, KA8MMX. David's family ran into Bruce and Susie Wilson while all were vacationing near Manistique in Michigan's Upper Peninsula this summer.

If Heidi follows through on her interest she could become a 3rd generation ham in the Geiman family!

Midland Repeater Update

Not a lot is happening right now while Greg, our technician, is working to locate the correct UV EEPROM programmer for the transmitter. Thanks to Bill, WD8MGF, we have an UV eraser to clear all the old information before adding the new stuff to the transmitter.

Even though we are a bit disappointed at the speed (or lack of it) that this program is moving forward, the good news is that we

are not in a "down" situation as our current Motorola repeater is working well. We need to be patient and remember that our technician is working on our equipment in his spare time.



CW Class Update

The BCARC CW Class is at the halfway point in the 6 week schedule with 8 to 10 students participating each week.

As of this writing, the class has learned all 26 letters of the alphabet plus several punctuation characters, prowords and numbers. We will tackle the rest of the numbers next week. Week 6 of the class is reserved for review and practice. Volunteer Examiner testing will follow on October 23. See the [VE Test Session Schedule](#) elsewhere in this issue for more details concerning the testing sessions available in the area.

Annual Club Auction Scheduled for October

The program for the October meeting will be our very popular Equipment Auction. We will have our business meeting as usual (shortened as much as possible so we can get quickly to the fun!) and then we will turn it over to our auctioneer extraordinaire, Jim

WD8KAF Club Repeaters

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

443.300 + 123 Hz PL



Club Website:

www.branchcountyarc.com



October BCARC Meeting Notice:

October 19 - 7:00 PM at 911
Communications Center



Voss, to get the auction started.

Club members and other interested persons are welcome to bring items that they wish to sell at the auction. Generally speaking, the items should be related to radio or computers. Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK has indicated that he will have a pair of TenTec HF rigs for sale. The Auction Rules are listed below:

BCARC Auction Rules October 2004

1. The president or auctioneer will select a member to keep a record of each item auctioned, who the seller was, who the successful bidder was and how much it sold for.
2. The seller of an item may specify a minimum bid for the sale of said item. If that price is not reached, the item will revert back to the seller.
3. 10 percent of the sale price of each successfully auctioned item will be donated to the club.
4. Winning bidders for each item will pay the club treasurer or a person assigned by the president in his absence, in full by cash or check, before taking possession of an item.
5. If a seller wishes, they may donate to the club the total price paid for an item, or the item itself, if not successfully sold.
6. No warranty, or guarantee, implied or otherwise, shall be given by the club as to the condition or serviceability of any item sold or offered for sale.



Local Ham makes BPL Impact on White House

Our own Steve Williams, N8CTI recently conveyed his concerns about Broadband Over Power Line (BPL) to President Bush. He received a letter from the President's Special Assistant indicating that the Administration "recognizes the potential interference risks associated with BPL for amateur radio operators and is dedicated to ensuring that BPL systems do not harm radio users."

Steve's original letter and the response received from the White House were forwarded to Jim Weaver, K8JE (ARRL Great Lakes Division Director). Jim in turn, passed the information along to the ARRL Board of Directors.

Below is Jim's note to Steve with additional comments from the League's legal counsel:

Steve,

As I told you, I forwarded the letter you received from the White House on BPL to the rest of the ARRL Board of Directors. I thought you'd enjoy knowing that our Legal Counsel and Vice President gave copies of the letter and discussed it during a visit they made to the FCC a couple of days ago. No one yet knows if this ploy will have any impact on FCC's decision on BPL, but it certainly got their attention.

My congratulations to you, again.

73,

Jim

The following is an excerpt from our Legal Counsel's report on the meeting.

"... Kay and I did like the letter very much, and Steve Williams, of Coldwater, MI should be commended for getting it. The operative terms are that the

Administration "recognizes the potential interference risks associated with BPL for amateur radio operators and is dedicated to ensuring that BPL systems do not harm radio users". It also says that the Administration "will continue to protect America's radio users."

Congratulations, Steve, for taking the initiative and making a difference.

Jim Voss, W8SST



Emergency Coordinator

A short column this month, mainly to update you on the Simulated Emergency Test. The drill was held on Saturday, October 2nd, from about noon 'till one. My special thanks to Steve, N8CTI, who was called into service to take the place of Larry, WB8R who was called in to work at the last minute.

The test was done a bit differently this year, in that, there was no simulated emergency per se, but the purpose was to set up communications between as many hospitals in District 5 as possible. Also, stations were dispatched to served agencies throughout each county to report the coordinates of each office to net control. Thanks to the following stations for their participation: KC8PRM, WB8ZSK, KQ8R, KD8AGZ, WD8MGF, KC8YUN, KI8BM, KC8ZLB AND KC8RYF. Most of these stations originated a piece of formal traffic with the coordinates of the location they were dispatched to and then sent that message to net control. I'll have our total points for you in the next column.



W8SST on Hospital Roof During SET

On Friday, October 1st, Branch County Emergency Services held a tabletop exercise at the Emergency Operations Center. The scenario was one of a multi-state, multi-location anthrax release via crop dusters. In attendance were representatives from MSP, Sheriff's Dept., CHC, Health Department, County Gov't., Emergency Services and others. During the treatment of the afflicted a severe storm (simulated, of course) moved into the Matteson Lake area and caused damage. Our ARES group was called into action for the storm and then to provide communications between several served agencies that had lost power. It was a learning experience for me and I look forward to the next one.

As reported at the last clubmeeting, we have been extremely lucky weather wise the past months. Hopefully, we are past the severe weather season for the year.

Until next time....

Jim Voss, W8SST - E. C. Branch County

VE Test Session Schedule



Information courtesy of www.arrrl.org

October 9

Sponsor: Eaton County ARC
Time: 12 Noon (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: John A Dewey
 (517)543-0398
Email: detta@ia4u.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Eaton Cty Sheriff's Dept-EOC
 1250 Independence Blvd
 Charlotte, MI 48813

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 23

Sponsor: Branch County ARC
Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: William J Voss
 (517)278-4636
Email: w8sst@arrrl.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Branch County 911 Center
 141 E Chicago Rd
 Basement Training Room
 Coldwater, MI 49036

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

November 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, Archbold, OH
 Leave message on machine

November 20

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

November 20

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



Upcoming Hamfests

Full info can be found at www.arrrl.org

October 10

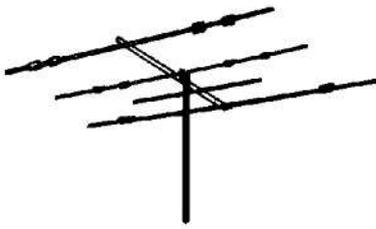
Kalamazoo ARC
 Contact:
Information@kalamazoohamfest.com

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>



DX on the Bands

DX info courtesy of ARRL

AZERBAIJAN, 4J.

Rashad, 4J9RI has been QRV on 20 meters CW around 1600z. QSL via DL7EDH.

ALGERIA, 7X.

A group of Spanish operators will be QRV as 7W0AD from October 2 to 9. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via operators' instructions.

GHANA, 9G.

Kees, PA0CJH is QRV as 9G5JH from Accra until November 13. Activity is on 80, 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL to home call.

MALTA, 9H.

Arno, DL1CW will be QRV as 9H3AP from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, from October 5 to 13. He will be active on 40 to 10 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

MOZAMBIQUE, C9.

Ralph, C93Q has been QRV on 17 meters CW around 1600z. QSL via VK4VB.

ENGLAND, G.

Bill, G3WNI, Tom, G0PSE and Dave, M0AOD will be QRV as GB0SM from St. Mary's Island, IOTA EU-011, from October 2 to 9. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, and possibly 6 meters, using CW and SSB. QSL via G0PSE.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Voytek, HF0QF has been QRV on 12 meters around 1500 to 1700z. QSL via SP7IWA.

SOUTH KOREAN, HL. Special event station DT40YL will be QRV from October 6 to 16 during a meeting organized by the Korea Ladies Amateur Radio Club. QSL via HL1OYF.

MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1.

Itokazu, JR6TYH/JD1 is stationed at Marcus Island and expects to be QRV until December 20. QSL via bureau.

LUXEMBOURG, LX.

Six Dutch operators will be QRV as LX/PA6Z from October 2 to 8. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via PA1K.

LEBANON, OD.

Hassein, OD5UE has been QRV on 15 meters between 1400 and 1700z. QSL via IZ8CCW.

ANTARCTICA.

R1ANB is QRV from Mirny Base on Queen Mary Coast, IOTA AN-016. QSL via RU1ZC.

SEYCHELLES, S7.

Willi, DJ7RJ and Klaus, DJ4SO will be QRV as S79RJ and S79SO, respectively, beginning October 3 for about three weeks. They will be active on 40 to 6 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. They will seek permission to try and operate on 80 meters during the weekends. QSL to home calls.

SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE, S9.

Marq, CT1BWW is QRV as S92BWW from Rolas Island, IOTA AF-023, until October 15. Activity is on all bands and modes. This is the first operation from this island. QSL to home call.

BENIN, TY.

Michael, PA5M is QRV in his spare time as TY5M until October 21. QSL via PA7FM.

MICRONESIA, V6.

Neil, V73NS will be QRV as V63NS from Pohnpei, IOTA

OC-010, from October 7 to 10. QSL to home call.

AUSTRALIA, VK.

In celebration of the 175th anniversary of the state of Western Australia, the Northern Corridor Radio Group will be QRV as VI6175WA for the month of October. They will participate in the Oceania DX Phone Contest. QSL via VK6NE.

INDONESIA, YB.

Hotang, YC0IEM/9 is QRV from Kupang on Timor Island, IOTA OC-148, for about two weeks. He is active on 15 and 10 meters. QSL via IZ8CCW.

Boy Scouts Plan 2004 JOTA

It is that time of the year again and the local Boy Scouts will hold their annual Jamboree On The Air on the weekend of October 16-17. This Jamboree gives scouts an opportunity to speak with other scouts around the state, country, and world using ham radio.

Details are sketchy at this writing, but full information will be available soon and will be published in a separate document distributed electronically to the newsletter distribution list.

Randy, KI8BM has previously been involved in setting up a station for the scouts to use during the JOTA weekend. This is always a fun, worthwhile activity that exposes a lot of young people to amateur radio.

Stay tuned....

Club QSL Card Design Contest Planned

A contest for members to design a QSL Card for our club station will be announced in the near future. Be thinking about what you think our QSL card should look like.