



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
Vol. III Number 11 November 2004
An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

“Remembering the Edmund Fitzgerald” Special Event Station



SS Edmund Fitzgerald

On the weekend of Nov. 4th thru Nov. 7th, 2004 the Stu Rockafellow Amateur Radio Society of Plymouth, Michigan will operate a special event station commemorating the sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald. The "Fitz" went down with her crew on November 10th, 1975 in a fierce storm in Lake Superior a few miles off Whitefish Point. This is the 29th anniversary of that terrible loss.

They expect to start operations shortly after 1700 UTC Thursday Nov. 4 and continue until 1700 UTC Sunday Nov. 7 using the special event callsign N8F. They plan to utilize 2 stations at the Point and 2 stations at Paradise, MI, 11 miles south of the Point. Primary target frequencies are 3860, 7260, 14260 and 21360 kHz. Secondary frequencies are 18160 and 28360 kHz. Most operating will be on SSB. Check the special event sections of the Nov. issues of QST, CQ and World Radio magazines.

A certificate is available to those who contact either station. More information is available at www.qsl.net/w8njh.



CW Class Wrap-up

Our congratulations go out to the following hams who were able to stick with it and were successful in passing the 5 wpm CW test on October 23: Lori Henderson, KC9CXZ, Roy Henderson, KC9BES, Denny Brauker, KC8ZFT, and Michael Spencer, KC8ZLB. Congratulations to you all! Thanks also go to WB8ZSK, W8SST, and WB8R for teaching the class and to KI8BM and NS8T for helping the instructors administer the tests as part of the BCARC VE team.



Be sure to exercise your right to vote on Tuesday, November 2.

WD8KAF Club Repeater

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

443.300 + 123 Hz PL

Club Website:

www.branchcountyarcc.com

November BCARC Meeting Notice:

November 16 - 7:00 PM at Branch Area Career Center Room 112



November Meeting Site Moved

Due to a scheduling conflict at the 911 Center, our November Club Meeting will be held Nov. 16 at 7:00 PM in Room 112 at the Branch Area Career Center located at 366 Morse St. in Coldwater.



Rob Dale, N8GSK, meteorologist from Channel 6 in Lansing will be our guest. Rob will discuss Skywarn interaction with the media, his activities chasing storms in Mid-Michigan, and some advanced radar interpretation.

We will also elect our Club Officers and members of the Board of Directors for 2005 at this meeting.

In spite of the election, this should be a good meeting. Be sure to make plans now to join us. Why not call a friend and invite them to come to the meeting with you?



December Christmas Dinner/Gift Exchange Meeting

Our annual Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange will take place in the Free Methodist Church Fellowship Room at the corner of Fremont St and Parkhurst Ave at 6:30 PM on December 7, 2004.

Our dinner will be catered by Fine and Fancy Catering from Bronson. The menu will be selected at the

November meeting. The total cost is expected to be in the range of \$15.00 per person. We would like to see everyone there to enjoy the Holiday festivities.

The gift exchange guidelines are printed elsewhere in this issue.

VE Test Session Schedule



Information courtesy of www.arrrl.org

November 20

Sponsor: Fulton County Radio Club

Time: 10:00 AM (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

November 20

Sponsor: Cascades ARS

Time: 10:00 AM
(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

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

December 18

Sponsor: Fulton County Radio Club

Time: 10:00 AM (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

December 18

Sponsor: Cascades ARS

Time: 10:00 AM
(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

December 23

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.arrrl.org

November 5-6

Michigan State ARRL Convention
Holland

<http://www.hollandarc.org>

November 7

Blossomland ARA
Benton Harbor, MI

w8mai@comcast.com

November 13-14

Indiana State ARRL Convention
Ft. Wayne

<http://www.fortwaynehamfest.com>

December 5

L'Anse Creuse ARC
Harrison Twp, MI

www.n8lc.org

December 18

Amateur Radio Youth Club

Lowell, MI

al.eckman@sbcglobal.net



BCARC Active in Holiday Toy Drive for FL Hurricane Kids

Ham radio clubs and individual amateurs across the US have indicated they'll be taking part in ARRL's recently announced nationwide holiday toy drive to benefit children in Florida displaced or left homeless in the wake of recent hurricanes. The Branch County Amateur Radio Club is participating in this event and we have already collected \$85.50 by passing the hat and donating the club's portion of our monthly 50/50 raffle.

We will be asking for additional cash donations at the November meeting and will again donate the proceeds from the raffle. After totaling the donations, a check will be forwarded to the United Way in Stuart, FL, the agency who is coordinating the toy effort in Florida.



BCARC's HF Rig



2004 Christmas Gift Exchange Rules

The gift exchange is open to all members and guests. In order to receive a gift, one must bring a gift.

Gifts should be useful items that have a value of \$10 or more. A gift can come from your junk box or can be purchased and should be radio or computer related.

Gifts should be wrapped in Christmas paper and need not have "to" or "from" tags or other identification on them. Be sure to remember which gifts you brought so you don't select your own gift!

If your spouse and/or children bring a gift, that will maximize your "take" from the exchange and may enable you to take home that "prize" gift that everyone covets.

Those that bring gifts will be asked to draw a number, which will determine the order of gift selection and opening.

The gift opening will proceed as follows:

Number 1 chooses a gift from the gift table, opens it, and MUST show it to everyone present.

Number 2 can choose a gift from the table or he can take Number 1's gift if he thinks that is a better gift than he could find amongst the unopened gifts. If number 2 chooses a gift from the table, he opens it and MUST show it to everyone present.

If Number 2 takes the gift from Number 1, then Number 1 goes back to the gift table and selects another gift, opens it and MUST show it to everyone.

Number 3 can choose a gift from the table, Number 1, or Number 2 and follow the same procedures listed above.

This same procedure is followed until the final person selects the last gift.

The third owner of a gift gets to keep it.

An individual cannot retake a gift that was taken from him.

Gifts must be able to be carried by one person.

Gifts cannot consist of spouses, children or pets.

After all gifts have been opened, it is acceptable to trade your gift to anyone who is willing to trade with you.

Be creative in the selection and packaging of your gift. This event is supposed to be fun so feel free to "ham it up" a bit to add some humor to the evening. Walk around and look over the gifts that are available for taking. Look at everything ... even those items that you have no intention of taking. Do what you can to "fake out" the crowd and when the time comes, pounce on that treasure!

Feel free to take pictures of the event and the haggling and conniving that will undoubtedly go on.

Club QSL Card Design Contest



Since we now have a club radio station, it only makes sense that we have a club station QSL card to

confirm all the contacts that we will be making.

The design guidelines with the required information to be placed on the cards will be distributed at the November club meeting. The cards will have all QSL information on one side of a standard sized post card.

All entries are to be submitted to a Club Officer or member of the Board of Directors no later than January 1 to be considered in this design cycle.

The winning card will be the Official QSL Card of the BCARC for 2005 and will bear the winner's callsign as the creator of the card design. A year from now we will issue the challenge again for the coming year.

Now is your chance to get your design on the Club QSL Card and distributed to hams all over the country! Start thinking about your design now.



DX on the Bands

DX info courtesy of ARRL

CYPRUS, 5B.

The Radiotechnika Magazine contest team will be QRV as 5B/HA5RT/qrp from Limasol during the HA-QRP contest from November 2 to 9. Activity will be on 80 meters using 10 watts. Members will also be QRV as 5B/homecalls on other bands as well. QSL contest call via HA6NL and all others to home calls.

BHUTAN, A5.

A group of French operators are QRV as A52CDX until Nov. 11. QSL via F9DK.

THE GAMBIA, C5.

Jef, ON4ACA is QRV as C56ACA for two weeks. This includes an

entry in the CQWW SSB contest. QSL to home call.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6.

Tomas, LY1DF will be QRV as EA6/LY1DF in the CQWW SSB contest possibly as a Single-Op/All-Band or Single-Band entry. Look for activity before and after the contest on CW on all bands. QSL to home call.

MARTINIQUE, FM.

Laurent, F5MUX will be QRV as FM5BH in the CQWW SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band/High Power or Single Op/All Band Assisted entry. He is active as TO7X before and after the contest. QSL via F5MUX.

THAILAND, HS.

Members of the Radio Amateur Society of Chumphon will be QRV as HS8AC/p during the Royal Plaque Boat Race and Hae Phra Festival 2004 at Laun Suan. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV. QSL via E21EIC.

ANTARCTICA, KC4AAA

Nick, NH6ON will be QRV as KC4AAA mainly on 20 meters from November 1 and December 15 while here on a communications systems engineering trip. Activity may be around 0100 to 0600z. QSL to home call.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, V2.

Team Antigua will be QRV as V26B during the CQWW SSB contest as a Multi/Two entry. Members are also QRV using their own calls before and after the contest on all bands, with special attempts at 160 meters and the newer bands, RTTY and PSK31. They may also try some Satellite work on AO-7 and AO-51. QSL contest call via KA2AEV and all others via operators' instructions.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X.

David, VK2CZ is QRV as VK9XD until November 4. He is active on 80 to 10 meters, and will participate in the CQWW SSB contest as a Single Op/All Band entry. QSL to home call.



Technician/General Licensing Class 2005 Under Consideration

The BCARC Instructor Team is currently discussing plans for the next licensing class. The addition of General Class instruction material is being considered if there is sufficient interest and demand.

While we are happy to have students of all ages, we are particularly interested in attracting teenagers and other young people. All we have to do is to look around at one of our meetings to see that the club members are certainly not getting any younger. At club meetings there is a lot of missing hair and often what hair is there tends to be gray. We need young blood in order to keep our hobby growing. If you know anyone that is interested in becoming a ham, be sure to send them our way.



New Harmonic Arrives!

On October 17, WB8R's new grandson arrived at the Angola, IN hospital. Michael Charles Votaw (no callsign as of this writing!) has already been looking at the pictures in the latest QST even though he his reading skills are not fully developed yet. Grandpa has big plans for this youngster and he will certainly be exposed to CW in the very near future! Both mom and baby are doing fine. Congrats!