



Branch Signals

Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Vol. III Number 12 December 2004

An ARRL Affiliated Club Since 1961

BCARC Elects Officers and Board of Directors

At the BCARC annual business meeting in November, the 2005 Officers and two members of the Board of Directors were elected.

The following positions were filled by unanimous ballot:

President:

Larry Camp, WB8R

Secretary/Treasurer:

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI

Board Member (2yr term):

Steve Williams N8CTI

Board Member (1yr term):

Jim Voss, W8SST

Arnie Hayward is currently serving a 2 year term as a Board of Directors Member. His term will expire at the end of 2005.

Congratulations to the 2005 leadership team and thank you for volunteering to serve.

Also, many thanks to the 2004 team for your leadership in the past year.

Christmas Dinner

The 2004 edition of our annual Christmas Meeting/Dinner/Gift Exchange will be held in the Fellowship Hall of the Free Methodist Church in Coldwater at

the corner of Parkhurst Ave and Fremont St. (This is kitty-corner from the front of the High School.) On December 7th.

We will meet at 6:30 pm and dinner will be served at 7:00 by Fine and Fancy Caterers from Bronson.

The meal choices are as follows:

Roast Beef
Sliced Turkey Breast

Twice Baked Potatoes

Beans Almondine

Salad with choice of dressing:
Ranch
Thousand Island

Beverages:
Coffee, Iced Tea, and Water

The cost will be \$14.50 per person. This reflects a 15% gratuity, which is optional.

We will need some manpower to help set tables and chairs up and to put things away when we are done.

We look forward to seeing you there!



Holiday Wishes

The Club Officers and members of the Board of Directors would like to wish you and your family the best of the Holiday Season.

WD8KAF Club Repeaters

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

443.300 + 123 Hz PL



Club Website:

www.branchcountyarc.com



Annual Christmas Dinner & Gift Exchange Dec. 7 at Fellowship Hall, Free Methodist Church in Coldwater at 6:30 pm





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.



It's That Time Again!

January is nearly upon us and that means that Club Dues are due again.

In 2004, the club membership voted to increase the dues to \$15.00 per year from \$10.00.

It is interesting to note that club dues had not been raised since approximately 1985. What else do

you know of that has not increased in cost in 20 years?

As always, Family memberships are still a bargain. After the initial member pays full dues, additional family members can join at 20% of regular dues (\$3.00).

Student membership is available at 50% of current cost (\$7.50) for those that do not qualify for family membership.

Non-hams are eligible for membership at normal costs and they enjoy all the benefits of membership except for voting privileges and holding office.

2005 dues can be paid to any Officer or member of the Board of Directors. One must be a member in good standing in order to participate in any procedural votes at any club meeting.

2005 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



VE Test Session Schedule

Information courtesy of www.arrl.org

December 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
43502 Pre-registration preferred
Leave message on machine

December 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, 244
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

January 13

Sponsor: Goshen ARC

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

Contact: Paul Corey
(574) 262-4414

Email: paul.cory.b@bayer.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Greencroft Retirement
Center Homan Building
Greencroft Blvd
Greencroft Retirement Center

January 15

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

February 19

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



Jim Voss, W8SST

I thought about making a list of goodies for Santa to leave in my stocking this Christmas, but I'm convinced that Santa has my number blocked both on his Cell, email and call waiting.

Instead, let's talk about some upcoming training. First on the calendar is NWS Snow Spotting: Your local Emergency Management Agency has invited the National Weather Service (NWS) to present a winter weather spotting class in Branch County. This class will be offered on Tuesday, December 14th at 7 P. M. in room 112 of the Branch Area Careers Center. The class is free, open to the general public, and should last about one hour. No specialized equipment is necessary to become a snow spotter.

A meteorologist from the NWS will teach the course. The NWS is attempting to expand its network of winter weather spotters to meet its goal of better warning and informing the public of hazardous winter weather conditions. The training objectives are to teach spotters how and when to measure and report winter weather phenomena; to train spotters to be able to differentiate between the various winter weather precipitation types; and to train spotters on how to expediently report their observation to the NWS. Hope you can make it.

Secondly, the 2005 IMO Advanced Skywarn Training has been scheduled for March 12th. Details and application available at: <http://www.imoskywarn.org/>.

Lastly, annual Skywarn training for our local group will take place on Tuesday, March 15th at the 911 Center.

Here's a little bonus thanks to Arnie, NS8T. Here are some really fine storm chasing photos: <http://www.extremestability.com/default.htm>.

Hope Santa Claus treats you well, and I look forward to seeing you at the Christmas Party on December 7th.

**Jim Voss, W8SST - E. C. Branch
County**

Don't Forget....

To get your entry for the Club QSL Contest to any Club Officer or member of the Board of Directors Before January 1 in order to have your design considered. Need more info? Email wb8r@arrl.net.

The hams of Branch County reached into their pockets and into their hearts and donated \$131 for toys for the children in Florida who have been affected by the hurricanes of this fall.

Thanks to everyone who helped!