



# Branch Signals

The Official Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Founded in 1960. An ARRL Affiliated Club since 1961

[www.branchcountyarcc.com](http://www.branchcountyarcc.com)

February, 2005

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## Branch Signals Receives Prestigious Award

In the fall of 2004, all newsletters from amateur radio clubs in the Michigan Section of the ARRL were judged by a panel of ARRL Officials.

The newsletters were judged on the following criteria:

- Layout and Composition
- Grammar and Style
- Content of Interest to Radio Amateurs
- Local Content



The first place winner was

the *Waveguide* from the Lapeer County Amateur Radio Association. Second place was our own *Branch Signals*. The third spot was taken by the Muskegon Area Amateur Radio Council's *Flashovers*. Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, MI ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator presented the award to the club at the January BCARC meeting.

Congratulations go to both the Lapeer and Muskegon clubs for a job well done.

The *Waveguide* will take on the winners from Ohio and Kentucky to determine the best newsletter in the ARRL Great Lakes Division. We offer our wishes to Hank Kohl, K8DD, editor of the *Waveguide* for good luck in the Division competition. The winner will be announced at the Great Lakes Division Convention in Toledo On March 19.

You can take a look at their newsletters at the following websites:

- [www.w8lap.com](http://www.w8lap.com)
- [www.qsl.net/w8zho](http://www.qsl.net/w8zho)



## January 2005 Meeting Pictures



Dan, KB6NU Makes a point



Don, KC8PRM listening intently



KB6NU with Newsletter Award Plaque



WB8R with Newsletter Award Plaque



Andrew, KD8AGZ

## 2004 Club Highlights

We should always remember that a club is greater than the sum of its parts. Some members are more active than others, but it takes all of us to make it work. The following list includes some of the things that our club was able to accomplish through the efforts of the membership. 2004 was a very good year, thanks to the efforts of all of our members. All persons associated with our club should take great pride in the things we were able to accomplish.



- Club membership stood at 52 at the end of 2004.
- Our Tech Licensing class produced 6 new hams.
- We conducted a CW class with 4 students earning Element 1 credit.
- The BCARC VE Team now stands at 8 members
- Two club VE sessions were conducted in 2004.
- Our fund raising raffle was a success with club profit of over \$1100.00.
- We purchased a new Kenwood TS480 HF/6M rig for the club station with the raffle proceeds.
- We added office partitions and work surfaces in the club station.
- The club status as an ARRL affiliated club was renewed.
- The club status as a Special Service Club was renewed.
- 2004 Field Day included a solar charged battery powered effort
- Our club newsletter was recognized as runner up in competition with newsletters from other clubs in Michigan.
- Our membership donated \$131.00 to the United Way of Florida to make sure that the children victims of the fall hurricanes had toys for Christmas.
- We held another successful auction.
- Our Tuesday night 2M net was on the air every Tuesday evening except for meeting nights. Thanks to NS8T and WB8ZSK.
- We held many Severe Weather net sessions during the spring and summer.
- Our club presented programs to two other neighboring clubs. (Hillsdale and Steuben County).
- Club attendance for 2004 was 277 and average monthly attendance was 23.1 members and guests present

## 2005 Club Dues

2005 Club dues are now due and payable. Any club officer will be happy to take your dues payment for you. 2005 dues are \$15.00 and family members can join for \$3.00 each. Student members that do not qualify for family membership can join for \$7.50.

## Saturday Work Day to be Scheduled

In the near future, we will be scheduling a Saturday Work Day to get our club station cleaned up and presentable for the public. After this is completed, we will have the formal dedication of the station as the Bud Sissom (K8TZI) Memorial Station. Bud's family graciously donated our

## 2005 Club Contacts

### President:

Larry Camp, WB8R  
517-278-0406  
wb8r@arrrl.net

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI  
517-639-4390  
wkubiak@wmconnect.com

### Board of Directors:

Jim Voss, W8SST  
517-278-4636  
w8sst@arrrl.net

Arnie Hayward, N8ST  
517-278-8507  
ns8t@arrrl.net

Steve Williams, N8CTI  
517-369-7194  
shadowman405@charter.net

### Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST  
517-278-4636  
w8sst@arrrl.net

## Area Hamfests

February 13  
Livonia, MI

February 26  
Laporte, IN

March 19  
Marshall, MI

March 19  
G.L. Division Convention  
Toledo, OH

tower and Triband antenna along with a number of other items after Bud became a silent key.

## New Club QSL Card Chosen

At the January 2005 meeting of the BCARC, the club members chose the QSL card that the club will use for 2005. The card pictured here is the proof version and there will be some very subtle changes, but for all intents and purposes, this is it.



The winner of our contest was Randy Kruger, KI8BM from Coldwater. Congratulations, Randy, you did an excellent job with the card!

## Emergency Coordinator's Words

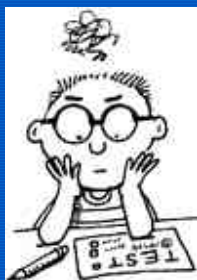
I've been sitting here for at least 10 minutes trying to think of something new to say for this month. Now, isn't that a predicament for a ham radio op to be in? If you have a subject you'd like me to address in this column please drop me an email.



I hope I can entice a number of you to begin checking in to the Sunday evening traffic net on the wide coverage repeater. Likely, your best link would be Battle Creek – 145.15 (pl – 94.8). The net is called at 9 p.m. Let's see if we can get Branch County represented on this net.

Another reminder that Skywarn training will be held at the March meeting of the BCARC. If you'd like to go a step further, consider attending the Advanced training in Elkhart in March. Details have been sent out a number of times, but contact me if you need more info.

Be advised that BCARC will be having a spring clean up day at the club station in the near future. We hope for a large turn out and make it quick work. We'll be cleaning house and mounting some maps, etc. Watch for the



## VE Test Session Schedule

05-Feb-2005

**Sponsor:** CASS COUNTY  
RACES

**Time:** 4:30 PM (No walk-ins)

**Contact:** LARRY L YAW  
(574)272-4076

**Email:** W9AMR@AOL.COM  
OR LARRY@W9AMR.COM

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC

**Location:**

130 N BROADWAY ST  
TECHNICIAN ONLY!

PRE-REGISTER

@W9AMR.COM/CCR  
CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031

12-Feb-2005

**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

19-Feb-2005

**Sponsor:** FULTON CTY  
RADIO CLUB

**Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins  
allowed)

**Contact:** HOWARD W  
FULLER  
(419)825-5443

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC

**Location:** ARCHBOLD  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
405 E LUTZ RD

PRE-REGISTRATION  
PREFERRED

LEAVE MESSAGE ON  
MACHINE

ARCHBOLD, OH 43502

date coming up soon.

I'd like to know how many of us have a packet TNC hanging around the house. Drop me an email if you do.

A heartfelt thank you to Bruce and Arnie for keeping the Tuesday night net going strong. It's been one of the best years for the net that we've had in quite a while. Be sure to join us this week.

See you on the air. . . .

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



## DX on the Bands

### **ROTUMA ISLAND, 3D2.**

Eli, HA9RE and Charlie, HA8IB are QRV as 3D2RE/R until February 22. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. They plan to participate in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest and the upcoming ARRL DX CW Contest. QSL direct via HA8IB.

### **GEORGIA, 4L.**

Mamuka, 4L2M will be active in both CQ WW 160 contests. QSL via operator's instructions.

### **EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6.**

Rich, PA0RRS will be QRV as 9M6/PA0RRS from Sabah, Borneo Island, IOTA OC-088, from February 3 to 13. QSL to home call.

### **THE GAMBIA, C5.**

Alan, G3XAQ and Steve, G4EDG are QRV as C56C until February 10. Activity is on all HF bands using CW. QSL via G3SWH.

### **SPRATLY ISLANDS.**

Gil, 4F2KWT will be QRV as DX0K from Kalayaan Island, which is one of the Philippine Spratly Islands. He will be active for about one month and will eventually be joined by additional operators. Activity will be on all HF bands, using mostly CW and SSB for now. Digital activity, including RTTY and SSTV, will soon follow. They may be active until the end of April. QSL via 4F2KWT.

### **CAPE VERDE, D4.**

Alex, 4L5A will sign D4B during the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via K1BV.

### **IRAN, EP.**

Hamid, EP4HR is usually QRV on 160 meters most days, then 80 and 40 meters using CW and PSK31, beginning around 0200z. QSL via operator's instructions.

### **TAJIKISTAN, EY.**

Nodir, EY8MM will be active in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest. QSL direct.

### **MARTINIQUE, FM.**

Thomas, KC0W is QRV as T000 until February 13. This includes an entry in the CQ WW

19-Feb-2005

**Sponsor:** CASCADES ARS

**Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** RICHARD H MC GUIRE

(517)782-1430

**Email:**

DICKKI8C@JUNO.COM

**VEC:** W5YI VEC

**Location:** JACKSON DISTRICT LIBRARY  
244 WEST MICHIGAN  
DOWNSTAIRS  
AUDITORIUM  
JACKSON, MI 49204

12-Mar-2005

**Sponsor:** CASCADES ARS

**Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** RICHARD H MC GUIRE

(517)782-1430

**Email:**

DICKKI8C@JUNO.COM

**VEC:** W5YI VEC

**Location:** JACKSON DISTRICT LIBRARY  
244 WEST MICHIGAN  
DOWNSTAIRS  
AUDITORIUM  
JACKSON, MI 49204

19-Mar-2005

**Sponsor:** FULTON CTY RADIO CLUB

**Time:** 10:00AM (Walk-ins allowed)

**Contact:** HOWARD W FULLER

(419)825-5443

**VEC:** ARRL/VEC

**Location:** ARCHBOLD POLICE DEPARTMENT  
405 E LUTZ RD  
PRE-REGISTRATION  
PREFERRED  
LEAVE MESSAGE ON  
MACHINE  
ARCHBOLD, OH 43502

160 Meter CW contest as a Single Op/High-Power entry. QSL to home call.

**ISLE OF MAN, GD.**

David, G3NKC, Martin, G4XUM and Tim, M0BEW will be QRV as MD4K in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via G3NKC.

**MARIANA ISLANDS, KH0.**

Takashi, JF1MIA and Shun, JH7IMX are QRV from here until January 31. Takashi will be QRV as KH0A in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest and Shun will be QRV as K7WD/KH0 in the UK DX RTTY Contest. QSL via home calls.

**PALMYRA AND JARVIS ISLAND, KH5.**

Bev, AH6NF will be QRV as AH6NF/KH5 from Palmyra Atoll, IOTA OC-085, from February 3 to 18 as time permits. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters using SSB and possibly PSK. QSL to home call.

**AUSTRIA, OE.** In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the signing of the State Treaty establishing autonomy for the Austrian republic, Austrian amateurs may use the special prefix OE50 until December 31, 2005.

**NETHERLANDS, PA.**

Bruno, F4CZU and Sylvain, F5TLN will be QRV as PA/homecalls from Duiveland Island, IOTA EU-146, from January 29 and 30. They may also try to activate Goeree Island. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters. QSL both calls via F5TLN.

**SOMALIA, T5.**

Six Italian amateurs will be QRV as 6O0G and 6O0CW from Galkayo beginning February 3. They should be active for 15 days. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via I2YSB.

**CANADA, VE.**

Paul, N4PN and Jeff, K1ZM will be QRV as VY2ZM in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest from Prince Edward Island. QSL via operators' instructions.

**BERMUDA, VP9.**

Jon, N0JK is QRV as VP9/N0JK and will participate in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest. Outside the contest, he may be active on 6 meters. QSL to home call.

**AFGHANISTAN, YA.**

YA5Y will be QRV in the CQ WW 160 Meter CW contest. QSL via DL5SE.

**INDONESIA, YB.**

Stan, YB0AJR will be QRV as YE0X from Jawa Island, IOTA OC-021, during the CQ WW 160 Meter contest. QSL via bureau.

**SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1.**

Look for ZK1WET, ZK1XMY, ZK1SDE and ZK1SDZ to be QRV from January 31 to February 17 from Aitutaki, IOTA OC-083. QSL via operators' instructions.

*Information courtesy of ARRL*