



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

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Annual Skywarn Training Scheduled for Mar 15

The March meeting of the BCARC will feature the Meteorologists from NOAA's IWX North Webster office who will give us our annual severe weather tune-up. We are looking forward to a visit by Steve Eddy, KC9BQD who will make sure that we are armed with the latest spotter information to help us to recognize what we are looking at.

We will meet at the 911 Communications Center at 7:00 PM on March 15. This training session will be open to the public and all are encouraged to bring guests with them.

Governor Granholm has proclaimed the week of March 16 as *Severe Weather Awareness Week* in the State of Michigan.

BCARC to Participate in Michigan QSO Party

The BCARC will once again put Branch County on the radio maps by participating in the Michigan QSO Party, an on the air activity that brings national attention to the hams of Michigan by making contacts with all counties of the state possible.

We plan to have our club station on the air Saturday, April 12th from noon to midnight to make as many contacts as possible. We will have a SSB station on the air for those hams who prefer voice operation and we intend to have a CW station for those who prefer to 'Dit and Dah' their way through life. Because we will be using the club callsign and will have extra class licensees on hand as control operators, hams of all license classes are welcome to participate. We will not only need operators, but we will need help running the computer logging software. This would be a good chance to get a non-ham friend involved in one of our activities as non hams can also get on the air as third party participants.

Please set time aside to join us even if it is just to encourage the ops!

February 2005 Meeting
Pictures



W8SST Leads Club in
Pledge of Allegiance



Pledge of Allegiance



Liar's Club Panelists



Deep in Thought during
Liar's Club Program



Relaxation after Liar's
Club winners were
determined



2005 Club Dues are Due

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.

Marshall Hamfest Planned for March 19

Be sure to make your plans to be part of that annual rite of Spring known as the Crossroads Hamfest in Marshall. The 45th edition of this great event will be open from 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The Talk-In will be held on 146.66+ and on 146.52 SX. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door and the hot parking tip is to park in the rear parking lot behind the school. See you there!

FCC Taking Action Against Hams Conversing with Unlicensed Stations

When recently perusing the FCC enforcement actions on the ARRL website, your editor was surprised to see a number of stations who have been cited for conversing with non hams on the 75 meter band. I am sure that we all remember that it is illegal to converse with non licensed individuals on the ham bands, but this hits close to home as several of those cited had 8's in their calls. One of these hams is known personally to me and I was shocked to see his call listed in the FCC enforcement action column.

How can we make sure that the individuals we talk with are actually licensed hams? One way is to check out a new contact via one of the callsign servers on the internet. Does the name associated with the license match the name used on the air? The home location? Do his words and manner of speaking lend credibility that he is who he says he is? If he says he has been a ham for many years, then a recently issued call probably doesn't make sense. If you find you are speaking with someone that you suspect is not really a ham, the conversation should probably be curtailed. There is nothing to be gained by accusations or interrogation on the air, but you risk your license if your suspicions turn out to be correct. It is probably better to just sign your call and chalk it up to experience.



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Area Hamfests

March 19

Marshall, MI

March 19

G.L. Division Convention

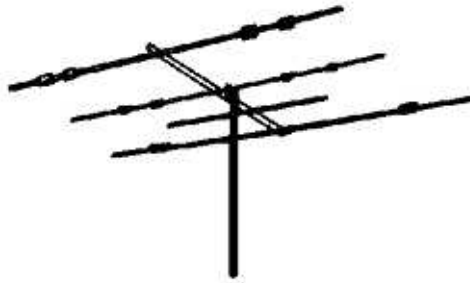
Toledo, OH

April 16

Milford, MI

May 7

Cadillac, MI



DX on the Bands

MAURITANIA, 5T

Phil, G3SWH, Jim, G3RTE, Jean, ON8RA, Harry, ON4HVO and Nicolas, 5T5SN are QRV as 5T0CW from Nouakchott until March 4. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. Propagation permitting, they plan to have one station QRV at all times. QSL via G3SWH.

KENYA, 5Z

Enrico, IV3SBE is QRV as 5Z4ES while working here. He is active on the weekends on 80 to 10 meters, including 12 meters, using SSB. QSL to home call.

MALTA, 9H

Special event station 9H2NCC is active from March 1 to 31 from the World Carnival. QSL direct via 9H4DX.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q

Gus, SM0DIC is QRV as 9Q0AR from Kinshasa until the end of 2005. QSL direct via SM5BFJ.

THE GAMBIA, C5

Noel, M0NBY is QRV as C56/M0NBY until March 3. He is active mainly during his evenings on 20 and 15 meters and possibly 40 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

BAHAMAS, C6

Bill, NE1B is QRV as C6AWB, and he along with Tom, C6ANM are active until March 8. This includes an entry in the CQ 160-Meter SSB contest and the upcoming ARRL SSB Contest. They plan to visit Berry Island, IOTA NA-054, from March 1 to 3. QSL both calls via WA2IYO.

CAPE VERDE ISLANDS, D4

Al, D4B has been QRV on 160 meters and will be active in the CQ 160-Meter SSB contest. QSL via K1BV.

SPRATLY ISLANDS

Gil, 4F2KWT is QRV as DX0K from Pag-Asa Island, IOTA AS-051, and has been active on 40 meters SSB around 1330 to 1445z. QSL to home call.

ISLE OF MAN, GD

Martin, G4XUM will be QRV as MD4K in the CQ 160-Meter SSB contest. QSL via G3NKC.

SOUTH KOREA, HL

A group of Korean hams are QRV as DT0HF from Taebu Island, IOTA AS-105, until February 27. QSL via HL2FDW.



VE Test Session Schedule

12-Mar-2005

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 District Library

244 West Michigan
Downstairs Auditorium
Jackson, MI 49204

19-Mar-2005

Sponsor: Fulton County 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

14-Apr-2005

Sponsor: Goshen ARC

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

Contact: Paul F Corey
(574)262-4414

Email: paul.cory.b@bayer.com
work

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Greencroft Retirement Center
Homan Building
Greencroft Blvd
Goshen, IN 46525

AMERICAN SAMOA, KH8

The American Samoa Amateur Radio Association will be QRV as KH8SI from Swains Island, IOTA OC-200, from March 2 to 6. Activity will be on 160 to 10 meters, including 6 meters, using CW, SSB and RTTY on the usual DX and IOTA frequencies. QSL via VE3HO.

ANTARCTICA

LU1ZAB is working from the station "Teniente Matienzo" on the Larsen Ice Shelf, IOTA AN-016. Activity is generally on 20 meters SSB around 2100z. QSL via operator's instructions.

ARUBA, P4

John, W2GD is QRV as P40W until March 8. This includes an entry in the CQ 160-Meter SSB contest and the upcoming ARRL DX SSB contest. Outside the contests he is active using mostly CW on the newer bands. QSL via N2MM.

DODECANESE, SV5

Willi, SV5/DJ7RJ will be QRV from the island of Kos, IOTA EU-001, mostly on the lowbands from February 28 to March 19. QSL to home call.

BENIN, TY

Luigi is QRV as TY2SF and has been active on 20 meters SSB just after 1700z. QSL via IK2ILK.

MARSHALL ISLANDS, V7

Steve, N4TKP is QRV as V73CS and plans to activate several atolls over the next 18 months. QSL via operator's instructions.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS, VP5

Ray, K9RS will be QRV at VP5B for the CQ 160-Meter SSB contest and the upcoming ARRL DX SSB contest. Before and after the contests he is active as VP5/K9RS. QSL VP5/K9RS via the bureau. QSL VP5B via operator's instructions.

BURKINA FASO, XT

SM5DJZ is QRV as XT2JZ from Ouagadougou until March 11. This includes an entry in the upcoming ARRL DX SSB contest. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

INDONESIA, YB

Stan, YB0AJR will be QRV as YE0X from Java, IOTA OC-021, in the CQ 160-Meter SSB Contest. QSL via bureau.

Information courtesy of ARRL

