



Branch Signals

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

www.branchcountyarc.com

Club Repeaters: 2M 147.300 100 Hz 440 443.00 123 Hz

June, 2005

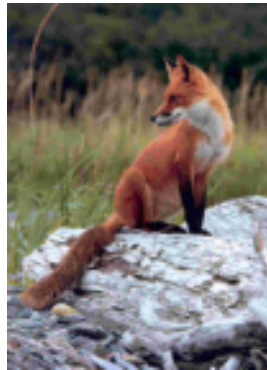
Volume 4, Number 6

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June is Foxhunt Month!!!



Our old fox, Arnie NS8T, has some new tricks up his sleeve for our annual foxhunt which will take place on June 21, 2005. Now is the time to form your hunting team and drag out the fox hunting equipment and dust it off and install some fresh batteries and replace any suspect parts where necessary.

This year's event will operate in a manner similar to the past two years in that we will meet at the 911 Center parking lot to synchronize timepieces, acquire the fox signal and take off from there. There will be a time limit and the first 2 teams to find the fox within that time limit will win a handsome prize. Certificates will be awarded to the 3 top teams.

See complete Foxhunt information and rules elsewhere in this issue.

Last year's hunt was more difficult than the 2003 hunt and the 2005 version promises to be more difficult than the 2004 hunt. Make your plans now!

ARRL Encouraged by New Motorola BPL Technology

The ARRL this week said it was encouraged to learn of Motorola's just-announced Powerline LV system--a BPL system that takes radio interference concerns into consideration from the outset. The Powerline LV system avoids using medium-voltage power lines and introduces broadband signals only on the low-voltage side of the power transformer, greatly reducing the system's radio interference potential.

"We know that medium-voltage power lines are no place for broadband energy, since there is overwhelming technical evidence that radio interference from BPL is unavoidable if MV lines are used," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"By confining their Access BPL system to low-voltage lines and by adding hardware notch filters for additional protection to Amateur Radio frequency allocations, Motorola has addressed our interference concerns."

Sumner explained this week that until Motorola Powerline LV came along, opposing BPL and opposing BPL interference were essentially one and the same. During product development, Motorola invited ARRL's suggestions and welcomed its input. Sumner said he hopes other BPL system providers now will see the benefit of cooperating with the ARRL that Motorola is now enjoying.

"However, we can and should remain critical of the FCC's Report and

Liar's Club on the Road in Hillsdale



Our Panelists (liars)
W8SST, KB8VWI & KI8BM

Area Hamfests

June 4 Hudsonville, MI

June 5 Chelsea, MI

June 12 Wauseon, OH

June 12 Wabash, IN

June 18 Midland, MI

June 19 Monroe, MI

July 17 Van Wert, OH



Order, which makes no effort to distinguish between good and bad ways of pursuing BPL," he added.

Sumner says the League is looking forward to seeing the first Powerline LV system in operation. The ARRL will continue to work with Motorola "to ensure that their new product is indeed the first BPL system that is a solution, not a problem," he said. *(Info courtesy of ARRL Letter)*

BCARC Takes Liar's Club on the Road!

On Thursday, May 19, the celebrity crew of our own Liar's Club journeyed to Hillsdale to try to bamboozle the hams from the Hillsdale Club. We were loaded with all sorts of odd items and we found that two thirds of our panelists were liars! What a shock that was.

We had a great time and the evening's winner was Dave King, KQ8R who was able to recognize the truth when he heard it. Congratulations go to Dave and our thanks to the Hillsdale gang for inviting us to join them for the evening. Thanks also to our panelists and helpers, KB8VWI, W8SST, NS8T, KI8BM, and WB8R.

2005 Fox Hunt Information and Rules

The FOX will hide only in an area that is accessible to the public without the payment of an admission fee.

Events may be Mobile hunts where participants hunt from their vehicles or On-Foot hunts where participants use portable direction finding equipment to locate a hidden transmitter, or a combination of both.

The starting frequency, on which the first FOX will transmit, along with the frequencies that will be used for any announcements or hints during the hunt, will be made known to all participants before the start of the event.

Any hunt will have a Maximum Time Limit.

When the allotted time has expired, an announcement will be made on the Fox frequency that the hunt has concluded and that all stations should return to the starting point.

When all participants and observers have gathered at the starting point at the conclusion of the hunt, the location of the FOX will be announced to all.

So that all teams can hunt with equally high enthusiasm, the FOX will not announce that the hunters are in the area or that any teams have found the fox.

A portable FOX will have on it, or as nearby as possible, removable tags or slips of paper, each containing a sequential number starting at number 1. A hunter finding the FOX will take the lowest numbered tag and return it to the Hunt Master at the starting point.

Prizes will be awarded for the first two teams or individuals to find the FOX within the allotted time frame

Rules Specific to June 2005 Hunt

All interested parties should meet at the 911 Center near the airport in Coldwater no later than 7:00 PM.

The hunt will commence from the parking lot of the 911 Center at 7:15 PM.

Hunt timeframe will be a maximum of 1 hour 30 minutes

2005 Club Contacts

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Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST

517-278-4636

w8sst@arrl.net

The fox will be hidden within a 10-mile radius of the intersection of Marshall and Chicago streets in Coldwater.

The Fox will be transmitting on 147.550 MHz.

The Fox will transmit for one minute followed by 4 minutes of silence. All transmissions will take place at 5-minute intervals beginning at 7:15, followed by 7:20, 7:25, etc.

The Fox may change power settings during the hunt.

Time synchronization will be available from the Hunt Master prior to the start of the hunt.

The hidden antenna will have 5 tags attached to or near it that bear numbers 1 through 5.

When the Fox is located, the team locating it should not mention anything on the air or otherwise tell others where the fox is located.

As each team finds the Fox, they should discreetly and quietly take the lowest numbered tag and return to the 911 Center and turn the tag over to the Hunt Master. The Hunt Master will write on the tag the time that the tag was received and sign the tag. If a team finds the Fox and there are no tags present, that means that at least 5 others have found the Fox before them.

The person or team with the number 1 tag will be the winner of the hunt. Runners-up will follow the same procedure and be scored according to the numbered tags that they turn into the Hunt Master.

Our primary concern during the hunt is for the safety of all participants.

We will notify the authorities that we are conducting a hunt.

If you drive slowly or stop your car in or near the roadway, remember to turn on your 4-way flashers in your vehicle.

Be careful when exiting your car near the flow of traffic.

Think safety all the time.



Field Day 2005

Field Day 2005 will be held on June 25 and 26 at the 911 Center. We will activate our club station and will have a station set up outdoors similar to what we did last year. Activity will begin around noon on Saturday and continue until Sunday early afternoon. Look for a separate FD emailing soon.



2005 Club Dues are Due

2005 Club dues are now due and payable. We are currently carrying 32 paid members. If you are not sure if you have paid your 2005 dues, please contact Bill, KB8VWI and he can tell you if your dues are current. 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.



VE Test Session Schedule

June 11

Sponsor: Eaton County ARC

Time: 12 Noon (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: John A Dewey
(517)543-0398

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Eaton County Sheriff's Dept-EOC
1250 Independence Blvd
Charlotte, MI 48813

June 18

Sponsor: Cascades ARS

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins ok)

Contact: Richard H McGuire
(517)782-1430

VEC: W5YI VEC

Location: Jackson District Library
244 West Michigan
Downstairs Auditorium
Jackson, MI 49204

June 18

Sponsor: Fulton County radio Club

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins ok)

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

July 14

Sponsor: Goshen ARC

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

Contact: Paul F Corey
(574)262-4414

VEC: ARRL/VEC

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

Reward Offered

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for the information leading to the arrest of Hop-A-Long Capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named Milli Henry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer series of resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field, where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing a harmonic.

(A bit of humor written by Mr. Mark Bushnell, Director of Engineering at CCA Electronics)

WRITE YOUR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO CO-SPONSOR HOUSE RESOLUTION 230

(From Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director)

Your urgent help is requested on this one.

From the ARRL web site: US "Representative Rep Michael Ross, WD5DVR, of Arkansas, has introduced a resolution in the US House of Representatives calling on the FCC to "conduct a full and complete analysis" of radio interference from broadband over power line (BPL). The resolution, House of Representatives Resolution 230, says the Commission should comprehensively evaluate BPL's interference potential incorporating "extensive public review and comment," and--in light of that analysis--to "reconsider and review" it's new BPL rules. If approved by the full House, the non-binding resolution, introduced April 21, would express the requests as "the sense of the House of Representatives." The FCC adopted rules to govern so-called Access BPL last October 14 in ET Docket 04-37."

OK, so what does this mean to you and to your ham friend down the street and to me? It means that we all -- and many more as well -- should send an E-mail to our own US House member (this is, to the House member who currently represents the House District in which each of us live). In this letter, we should ask these House members to co-sponsor House Resolution 230. This Resolution, if passed, would "ask" the FCC to review and reconsider the regulations it approved for BPL, last year.

SPECIAL NOTE: Do NOT send the letter directly to your congressman. Instead, please send it to Zach DeWaters. Zach is an executive for the ARRL account with Chwatco, our retained lobbying firm in Washington, DC. Mr. DeWaters will put your letter into a packet of the other letters they receive for your congressman/woman and will hand-deliver the letters to the respective congressmen/women.

July 16

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

July 16

Sponsor: Cascades ARS

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins ok)

Contact: Richard H McGuire (517)782-1430

VEC: W5YI VEC

Location: Jackson District Library
244 West Michigan
Jackson, MI 49204

Aug 20

Sponsor: Fulton County radio Club

Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins ok)

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



Because of this, address the following letter to your congressman/woman, insert the entire letter (with address, etc.) into the body of an E-mail and send the E-mail to: zach.dewaters@chwatco.com. Please copy your E-mail to me. (k8je@arrl.org).

To find the name and House District of your US Representative, go to: <http://www.house.gov/>. It will expedite your search if you have your ZIP+4 codes.

Rep. _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. _____

As a federally licensed Amateur Radio operator in your district and as a member of ARRL -- the national association for Amateur Radio, I ask you to support House Resolution 230. This resolution urges the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the potential of "broadband over power line"; (BPL) systems to interfere with public safety and other licensed radio services.

BPL utilizes electric power lines to serve as the conductors of the broadband signals. Unfortunately, because the power lines are not shielded, they also act as antennas and radiate the signals into the air. These radiated signals will interfere with radio receivers tuned to the same frequency range. BPL has only been deployed to a very limited extent, but Amateur Radio already is experiencing severe BPL interference that the FCC has been unable or unwilling to correct. Unlike BPL, other methods of providing broadband Internet services to consumers, such as cable, DSL, wireless and Fiber to the Home, do not pollute the radio spectrum.

Last October 14, the FCC ignored the evidence that BPL systems will cause widespread interference and adopted rules for BPL deployment that provide inadequate protection to radio communication by First Responders and others who need reliable radio communication to ensure our security. The FCC needs to do what it should have done in the first place: fairly and carefully review this evidence and adopt rules that will keep interference from BPL within reasonable bounds.

Because we need no infrastructure in order to communicate, the Amateur Radio Service is the only 100-percent fail-safe emergency communication capability in the world. Interference from BPL emissions will significantly disrupt this capability. Please cosponsor H. Res. 230 as soon as possible to express your concern over the interference potential of BPL to Amateur Radio operators and to public safety licensees.

Sincerely,

Name
Address
(Email and telephone optional)

Please let me know if you need any additional information. Also, please spread this request throughout your clubs and other amateur groups.

Thanks for your help.

Jim Weaver, K8JE (k8je@arrl.org)
ARRL Great Lakes Division Director

Editor's note: For those of us in Branch County, our representative is the Honorable Joe Schwarz of Battle Creek. If you experience problems with cut and paste from a PDF file, please request an email copy from wb8r@arrl.net.



DX on the Bands

(info courtesy of ARRL)

UNITED NATIONS HQ, 4U_UN.

Subject to the availability of the station, look for W1CX and KT1J to be QRV from 4U1UN on June 5. Activity will be on the HF bands using RTTY and PSK, and possibly on 60 meters. QSL this operation via HB9BOU.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO, 9Q.

9Q0AR has been QRV on 20 meters around 1900z and 6 meters from around 1900 to 2100z. QSL via SM5BFJ.

TONGA, A3.

Elizabeth, VE7YL and Gwen, VK3DYL are QRV as A35YL from Nuku'alofa, IOTA OC-049, until June 8. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via VK3DYL.

TAJIKISTAN, EY.

Nodir, EY8MM is usually QRV on 20 meters from about 0130 to 0230z. QSL via K1BV.

SCOTLAND, GM.

Jim, MM0BQI is QRV as MM0BQI/p from Lunga Island, Treshnish Isles, IOTA EU-108, until June 5. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

SOUTH KOREA, HL.

Stations HL2EJT, HL1OJQ, HL1OYF, HL1SRJ, HL1VAU, DS1KOQ, DS1NMA, DS3MLG, DS4NMJ, DS4NYE and HL2AGG are QRV as homecalls/4 from Chu'ja Island, IOTA AS-084, until June 5. QSL via operators' instructions.

ITALY, I.

Special event station II1TPG is QRV until June 5 during the IX Paralympic Winter Games. QSL via IZ1CCE.

SARDINIA, IS0.

Vittorio, IK4CIE, Lorenzo, IK4XQM and Mirco, IZ4GJJ are QRV as

homecalls/IS0 until June 7. Weather conditions permitting, they may also be QRV as homecalls/IM0 from Tavolara Island, IOTA EU-165. QSL via operators' instructions.

NORWAY, LA.

Ric, DL2VFR will be QRV as LA/homecall from Otroy Island, IOTA EU-056, from June 4 to 11. Activity will be mainly CW. QSL to home call.

LUXEMBOURG, LX.

Operators from the Scouting Radio Spijkenisse will be QRV as LX/PI9SRS from Wiltz on June 4 and 5. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, including 17, 12 and 2 meters, using CW and SSB. They will also have an APRS beacon. QSL via operators' instructions.

FINLAND, OH.

Members of the Oulu University Radio Club will be active as OH8T/p from Hailuoto Island, IOTA EU-184, during the IARU Region 1 CW Field Day. QSL via the bureau.

POLAND, SP.

Special event station SNOLED is active until June 5 for the IX Youth Meeting at Lednica. Activity is on all bands using CW, SSB and FM. QSL via SP3POH.

GREECE, SV.

Mike, SV1RK, Stavros, SV3CUJ and Kostas, SV1AER are QRV as J48SI from the Sapientza Lighthouse on Sapientza Island, IOTA EU-158, until June 5. Activity is on 40, 20, 17 and 15 meters. This is the first time amateur radio is active from this island. QSL via operators' instructions.

PALAU, T8.

Yasu, JA6BJV and Toshio, JA3IFT are QRV as T88AG and T88AH, respectively, until June 6. Activity is on all bands, but mainly on 40 meters and higher, with Yasu using CW and Toshio using SSB. QSL to home calls.

ASIATIC RUSSIA, UA0.

Operators UA0BA, RU0BB, UA0BFN, UA0BIV, UA0BJB, RW0BG and UA0BHC will be QRV as homecalls/p from Mount Medvezh'ya until June 5. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters. QSL to home calls. They will also participate in the IARU Region 1 CW Field Day as RK0BWW/p. QSL contest call via RW0BG.

GIBRALTAR, ZB.

Adrian, G0KOM is QRV as ZB2/G0KOM for the UKSMG 6-Meter Contest and is here until June 6. He is active primarily on 6 meters, but will also be active on all HF bands, except for 160 meters. QSL to home call.