



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

July, 2005

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June Foxhunt a Tough One!

This year's Foxhunt started out just like all of our previous adventures. The crowd of hunters gathered at the appointed time at the 911 Center west of Coldwater to receive their last minute instructions. At the appointed start time all antennas began to sweep the horizon as the Fox made his first transmission. But this is where the similarity to previous hunts ended. No signal was heard at first!

Over a period of the next ten minutes or so, at least one team got a very light "sniff" of a signal and took off towards town. Other teams that were unable to hear the Fox followed and still others headed off on their own in various directions. The duration of the hunt was to be 1 ½ hours and as time went by it appeared that perhaps the Wiley old Fox might just skunk the hunters.

Approximately ten minutes before the end of the hunt, the Fox notified the Hunt Master that the first team was very close to the objective. Once they found the vehicle with the antenna they proceeded to take the coveted "number 1" tag and as chance had it, were observed by another team who quickly grabbed the second place tag. The third and fourth tags were claimed by other teams as they homed in on the weak signal just as time expired.

The hunt winner was Dave King, KQ8R who was operating alone followed by the team of Milt Bowers, N8BFD and Roy McCloud, KA8VSH. The team of Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK, Andrew Glenn, KD8AGZ, and prospective ham Kyle Morris came in third place, followed by the team of Don Cook, KC8PRM and friend Bob Driver in fourth position.

The low power transmissions were not planned by the Fox, but due to a glitch in the system, that was the way it happened. The hunters took this in stride and were able to ultimately locate the sneaky Fox in spite of the weak signal.

By the way, the transmitter and antenna were hidden in plain sight in a vehicle in the parking lot of the Meijer store on the east side of Coldwater. The transmitter was controlled via cross-band repeat from another vehicle on the other side of the parking lot.

The winning teams received prizes of \$20, \$10, and \$5 for their efforts. Team three graciously donated their prize back to the club treasury.

A great time was had by all and thanks to all who participated.

BCARC Participates in 2005 Field Day

On Saturday, June 25 and Sunday June 26, the airwaves of Branch County exploded with action as the BCARC fired up our club station at the 911 Center and three portable stations as part of the annual ARRL nationwide Field Day exercise.

A total of 27 individuals participated in the event through the course of the event. Among those were 15 hams and 12 non-ham interested parties including State Representative Bruce Caswell From Hillsdale County who represents the 58th District which includes Branch County.

Your editor had a lengthy conversation with Representative Caswell concerning the roles that amateur radio can play in Homeland Security and I am very happy to report that he is very interested in our unique capabilities.

2005 Fox Hunt Winners



First Place

Dave King, KQ8R



Second Place

Roy McCloud, KA8VSH

Milt Bowers, N8BFD



Third Place

Andrew Glenn, KD8AGZ

Kyle Morris,

Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK

Area Hamfests

July 9 Petoskey, MI

July 17 Van Wert, OH

Aug 13 Jackson, MI

Aug 21 Lapeer, MI

Sep 10 Grand Rapids, MI

Sep 18 Adrian, MI



WB8R makes a point with Representative Caswell

At this year's event, a total of 278 phone contacts were made in 43 states, 4 Provinces of Canada, and the Virgin Islands. Our score total as reported to the ARRL including bonus points was approximately 1106 points.

I would like to offer my thanks to all of the club members who stepped forward to help this event take place especially Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK for his fine leadership. We couldn't have done this without you.



2005 Club Contacts

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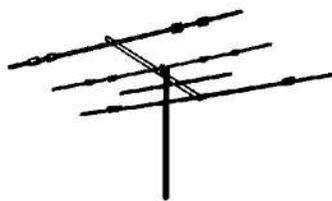
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DX on the Bands

(info courtesy of ARRL)

ALGERIA, 7X.

7W1ASF has been QRV on 20 meters SSB between 1530 and 1900z. QSL via 7X2DD.

ST. PAUL ISLAND, CY9.

The CY9SS DXpedition is QRV until July 7. Activity is on all bands, including 6 and 2 meters, using CW, SSB, WSJT-MS and EME. QSL direct to VY2SS.

GERMANY, DL.

Andy, DL7AT will be QRV from Foehr Island, IOTA EU-042, from July 3 to 9. Activity will be on 40 and 20 meters. QSL to home call.

DJIBOUTI, J2.

Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as J20VB and has been active on 40 and 20 meters using CW. QSL to home call.

JAPAN, JA.

JN6CJR/8 plans to be QRV from Rishiri Island, IOTA AS-147, from July 6 to 7. QSL to home call.

LEBANON, OD.

Naim, OD5LN has been QRV on 80 meters between 1945 and 2015z. QSL via operator's instructions.

SURINAME, PZ.

Bob, N3CXM and Carroll, KG4EHW are QRV as PZ5JR and PZ5CM, respectively, until around July 18. They are active in their spare time. QSL both calls via K3BYV.

POLAND, SP.

Special event station SN125LO is QRV until July 20 in celebration of Sanok, the "High School Number One's" 125 years of operation. QSL via SP8PAB.

EGYPT, SU.

Gab, HA3JB will be QRV as SU8BHI from July 1 to December 31. Activity will be on all bands using CW, RTTY, SSTV, PSK and some SSB. He will also participate in all the major upcoming contests. QSL direct to home call.

GABON, TR.

Alain, TR8CA has been QRV on 80 meters around 0330z. QSL via operator's instructions.

KALININGRAD, UA2.

Members of the RU-QRP Club are QRV as special event station UE3QRP/2 until July 8. QSL via RU2FM.



VE Test Session Schedule

July 14

Sponsor: Goshen ARC
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins ok)
Contact: Paul F Corey
(574)262-4414
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Greencroft Retirement Center, Homan Building
Greencroft Blvd
Goshen, IN 46525

July 16

Sponsor: Fulton County R. C.
Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins ok)
Contact: Howard W Fuller
(419)825-5443
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Archbold PD
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 R. C.
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

BELIZE, V3.

KU5B will be QRV as V31UB from July 4 to 10. Activity will be on 80 to 10 meters, and possibly 6 meters, using CW and SSB. He plans to be active in the IARU contest. QSL to home call.

SYRIA, YK.

Saad, N5FF will be QRV as YK1BA from July 2 to 16. This is not a DXpedition, so his operating time will be limited. He plans to be active mainly on 20 meters, but on 80 to 10 meters as well, depending on propagation, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

SOUTH COOK ISLANDS, ZK1.

Tommy, VK2IR will be QRV as ZK1IIR from Rarotonga, IOTA OC-013, from July 3 to 14. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using SSB. QSL via W3HMK.

Weaver's Words....

(Portions of the latest missive from Jim Weaver, K8JE, ARRL Great Lakes Division Director)

US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RESOLUTION 230

In my previous E-mail newsletter I asked you each to send a letter (that I provided) to ask your US Representative to co-sponsor H.R. 230 (note this is not a House Bill). This Resolution would "ask" the FCC to review the details of its decision to allow Broadband over Power Lines essentially without insuring it would not wipe out operations on our HF and VHF bands.

There (is) good news is that some 250 of you care enough about protecting our frequencies that you took the time to send the letter. The bad news is that this is only 250 of the more than 12,000 members in this Division. Could it be that the 11,750 who did not take the time to write just don't give a tinker's dam about Amateur Radio? I certainly hope this is not the case.

In case you care about the future of Amateur Radio and your lack of writing is because you didn't read my last newsletter or it got lost in the E-mail or you simply forgot about it, there is still time for you to write. If you still have my May 29/30 WEAVER'S WORDS, the letter and instructions for sending it are in this issue.

If you no longer have the May 29/30 issue, let me know and I'll send the information to you right away.

Please take the time to help defend Amateur Radio. Become an active participant in defending our frequencies.

Of course, thanks very to you members of the "LEADING 250" for your support of Amateur Radio. I don't have the time at this moment to thank you individually as is my usual practice, but be assured your help is very much appreciated.

(Jim can be reached at K8JE@arrl.org)