



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 440 443.300+ 123 Hz

September, 2005

Volume 4, Number 9

In This Issue

- Fox 1, Hunters 0 !!!!
- Legislative Action Committee update
- September Meeting
- VEC Test Sessions
- Area Hamfests
- On The Bands DX Listing



Fox Skunks Hunters!

On August 16, the BCARC hosted its first Collaborative Foxhunt. For those that may not be familiar with that terminology, a collaborative foxhunt is a hidden transmitter hunt where the hunters help each other find the objective through coordinating with each other. Hams are good communicators, right? Our group of hunters did a good job and were able to close in on the general area of the Fox, but just could not close the deal before time expired.

Our favorite fox, Arnie, NS8T did his usual great job in selecting a hiding place that was hard to find. Arnie was truly thinking 'outside the box' this time. Bill, WD8MGF fired up the club station to act as coordinator to assist the hunters and K8CHS and WB8R kept him company.

After the hunt we all met at the local Dairy Queen for some refreshments and to talk about our adventures. A good time was had by all.

ARRL Legislative Action Committee

At the July BCARC meeting, our guest speaker Val Rose, N8EXV explained all about the new ARRL Legislative Action Committee program that had been recently formed. Val outlined that even though we do not necessarily want to be political about amateur radio and BPL in particular, this is something that we must do in order to protect our hobby. Jim, W8SST and Larry, WB8R volunteered to head up the effort on behalf of our club.

All hams in Branch County have recently received a letter from W8SST and WB8R concerning the ARRL Grassroots Political effort that we are putting forth as a club. In this

August Foxhunt Pics



Hey, What's This?



Getting Ready



Tom and Bill at Club Station



Don's Latest Secret Weapon



KC8ZLB and Brother Brian

letter was an explanation of what we are trying to accomplish and what assistance we need in order to do our share.

We urgently need either letters from all hams in the county or permission from those hams to assemble letters over their signatures in order to forward them to the ARRL who will provide our lobbyist in Washington with the hard copies to hand deliver to Representative Schwarz. This is pretty easy, folks. If you don't want to write it yourself, or don't have time to write it, or if you are not sure how to proceed, all you have to do is call Jim or Larry and they will write it for you and send you a copy of what they wrote on your behalf.

Aside from the harm that BPL will do to the ham bands, think a minute about the disaster operations that are taking place in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama. What do you think the impact would be on the rescue operations? How many lives might be lost if BPL is in place?

We may think that BPL will not affect us, but we have to remember that this is a local fight and a national war. We must fight the fight to help out those that may be impacted more that we are. It is time to think of others instead of ourselves.

Please help us.
responded thusfar.



Thanks to those who have

September Meeting Notice

At our September meeting (Sep. 20 at 7:00 PM) Charlie Chapman, KB8SFR of the Kalamazoo County LosTeam will join us again. Charlie will present a program on Public Service (how we as amateurs justify our existence).

In addition to being a LosTeam member, Charlie holds the position of District Emergency Coordinator for the MSP 5th District, which is composed of Allegan, Barry, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties.

I suspect that a number of the LosTeam members will come along and if past experiences hold true, there will be a lively discussion from this spirited group. You won't want to miss this meeting. Besides, we will be giving away 2 tickets to the Goshen Hamfest (Oct 2) to winners of the 50/50 raffle.

Emergency Coordinator's Words

Jim Voss, W8SST

Well, it's been a while since I've visited this column. Some would say it's about time, and they're probably right!

I believe all of you would agree that this has been the quietest year for Skywarn in the past 25. Let's hope we can carry it through the fall season. Don't let something catch you off guard though. Check to make sure that jump kit is still where you saw it last and that there are enough fresh batteries in it to keep things going. Recall that we had some very nasty stuff do extensive damage just a few years ago in November in counties just to our west.

Speaking of jump kits – was anyone else glad they had multiple radios capable of receiving public service frequencies during the last power outage a few weeks ago? My family sat around by kerosene lantern light listening to the power crews and public safety guys as they cleaned up the mess. Would have been very boring otherwise

I hope that everyone has responded to the call for your letter to Representative Schwarz concerning Broadband Over Powerlines. The League needs everyone's cooperation on this one, otherwise we may find ourselves unable to use one or more of our HF bands not to mention a serious threat to Public Safety communications nationwide. **Please do not send your letter directly to Rep. Schwarz. We need to collect the responses and send them via the ARRL so the League lobbyist can carry them in to Schwarz's office all at once.** If you've not sent your letter to Larry or me please do so today!

We're exactly one month away from the annual Simulated Emergency Test. This year will bring a similar scenario to last year's test with some twists. Let's start talking this up with those who haven't participated in the past and juice things up this year.

Your E.C. is in possession of a new 144/440 antenna to be mounted at the top of the Community Health Center. It's part of a project to equip every hospital in the state with a backup amateur system so that each facility can always contact the surrounding hospitals. We believe the coax and antenna will be installed by an outside entity and a spot for a radio will be provided by the hospital near the new 800 MHz radio which

Area Hamfests

Sep 10 Grand Rapids, MI

Sep 11 Findlay, OH

Sep 18 Adrian, MI

Oct 2 Goshen

Oct 9 Kalamazoo

2005 Club Contacts

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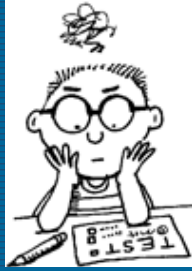
shadowman405@charter.net

Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST

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VE Test Session Schedule

Sep 17

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

Sep 17

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

Oct 13

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

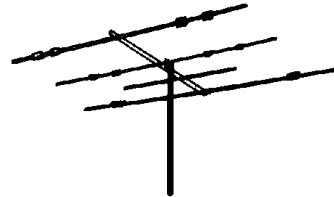
Oct 15

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

was installed recently. District 5 is now in possession of 6 new kits consisting of a VHF radio and accessories. The radios will be preprogrammed with frequencies common to the counties in the 5th District and they will be stored, likely in Kalamazoo, for distribution when needed by any District county.

See you on the air. . . .

Jim Voss, W8SST - E. C. Branch County



DX on the Bands

(info courtesy of ARRL)

MADAGASCAR, 5R.

Dino, IZ4AKV is QRV as 5R8HS from Nosy Be, IOTA AF-057, until September 8. Activity is mainly on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

OMAN, A4.

A43JS has been QRV on 20 meters between 1915 and 2300Z yesterday. QSL via A47RS.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6.

Abdullah, A61Q is usually QRV on 160 meters using CW around 0155z. QSL via EA7FTR.

ETHIOPIA, ET.

Michal, ET3TK has been QRV on 17 meters using CW around 1440z and then 40 meters CW around 1800z. QSL via OK1CU.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, HI.

Look for Inigo, EA2BXV and Roberto, EA2RY to be QRV as homecalls/HI7 from Punta Cana, IOTA NA-096, from August 27 to September 7. Activity will be on all bands using SSB, SSTV and PSK31. QSL to home calls.

ITALY, I.

Alberto, IW1RLF/IA5 will be QRV from Capo Sant' Andrea on Elba Island, IOTA EU-028, from August 29 to September 4. Activity will be on 6 and 2 meters. QSL via bureau.

Oct 15

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

Nov 19

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

Nov 19

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



ANTARCTICA.

Gustavo, LU1ZD is QRV from General San Martin Base on Barry Island, IOTA AN-016, and has been showing up on the Antarctic Net at 1900z. QSL via operator's instructions.

SOUTH SHETLAND ISLANDS.

Mario, LU1ZI is QRV from Teniente Jubany Station on King George Island, IOTA AN-010, and has been showing up on the Antarctic Net at 1900z. QSL via LU4DXU.

SUDAN, ST.

Jovica, T98A is QRV as ST0RM during his one-year UNHCR assignment here. Activity is on all bands, using mostly CW, with some SSB and digital. QSL via T93Y.

PALAU, T8.

Stations T88GG, T88BH T88YK, T88BE and T88CL are QRV until September 5. Activity is on all bands using CW and SSB. A few of these stations will also participate in the upcoming All Asian DX contest. QSL via operators' instructions.

UKRAINE, UR.

Special calls EN60EKR and EM60IG will be QRV from August 27 to September 4 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War Two. Activity is on all bands. QSL via UT4EK and UR7IA, respectively.

MICRONESIA, V6.

Nobi is QRV as V63NB and has been active on 30 meters around 1200 to 2000z. QSL via JA1JCF.

INDONESIA, YB.

Hot, YC0IEM will be QRV as YC0IEM/9 from Timor Island, IOTA OC-148, from August 29 to September 15. QSL via IZ8CCW.