



# 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](http://www.branchcountyarc.com)

Club Repeaters: 2M 147.300+ 100 Hz 440 443.300+ 123 Hz

October, 2005

Volume 4, Number 10

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## BCARC Participates in Amateur Radio Awareness Day Sep. 17

On September 17, the BCARC participated in Amateur Radio Awareness Day by setting up a ham radio information booth and a battery powered HF/VHF demonstration station on the streets of downtown Coldwater during the recent Applefest. Our operation was located in front of the old Kerr Hardware building on Chicago St. We were fortunate enough to be able to install a temporary 40 meter dipole on the roof of the building. The antenna worked very well and a number of contacts were made with the outside world using both CW and SSB.

We had a great number of Applefest goers stop by to ask what we were doing and some shared stories about friends and relatives that are hams or that previously were hams. Several veterans stopped by to trade a few war stories about their days as military radio ops. A number of hams also stopped by to give moral support as well.

Bruce, WB8ZSK had a great time with a key and code oscillator with the young people that stopped by. Actually he was seen tracking them down and dragging them back to the booth so they could experience their names being spelled out in CW and giving it a go with the key themselves. The general consensus among the young folks was that CW was a "cool" way to communicate.

Many brochures about our radio club were passed out along with promotional materials from the ARRL. Jim Voss has created a dynamite tri-fold multicolor brochure promoting our club that was put to good use at the Applefest. The ultimate

## Amateur Awareness Day Pics



intention of having the brochures is to place them in strategic locations such as Radio Shack and other locations where technically oriented people might visit.

Thanks go to Jim Voss, W8SST, Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK, Steve Williams, N8CTI, Arnie Hayward, NS8T and Larry Camp, WB8R for their efforts to bring attention to our hobby.

## ARRL Legislative Action Committee

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 letter was an explanation of what we are trying to accomplish and what assistance we need in order to do our share to stop the spread of BPL in this country.

We were able to garner a total of 24 letters from the hams of Branch County and have forwarded them to U.S. Representative Joe Schwarz and to the ARRL Great Lakes Division leadership who will get them into the hands of the League's lobbyist firm in Washington. The lobbyist will hand deliver the letters to Rep. Schwarz as an opportunity to open a dialog with him concerning H Res 230.

This is still a very important issue and we need ALL hams to write that letter and send it to W8SST or WB8R for forwarding to the appropriate people.

Here are some remarks from our Division Leadership about our activities in this regard:

*Great work! My personal Thanks to everyone that took the time to write and to you for causing it to happen.  
The folks in Branch County sure know how to get a job done.*

*73, Dick*

(Dick Mondro, K8FQT, Great Lakes Division Vice Director)

*I wish to add my personal thanks to you and the members of the Branch County ARC who wrote to Representative Schwarz on behalf of H.Res. 230. It is just this very type of action that will make the ARRL Legislative Action (Grassroots) Program a great success in protecting Amateur Radio and, through this, the public. Please share my thanks with the members.*

*73, GL,*

*Jim, K8JE*

(Jim Weaver, K8JE, Great Lakes Division Director)

## Area Hamfests

Oct 9 Kalamazoo

Oct 22 Holland

Oct 23 Blossomland  
(Benton Harbor)

Nov 19/20 Ft. Wayne

## 2005 Club Contacts

### President:

Larry Camp, WB8R

517-278-0406

wb8r@arrl.net

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI

517-639-4390

wkubiak@wmconnect.com

### Board of Directors:

Jim Voss, W8SST

517-278-4636

w8sst@arrl.net

Arnie Hayward, N8ST

517-278-8507

ns8t@arrl.net

Steve Williams, N8CTI

517-369-7194

shadowman405@charter.  
net

### Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST

517-278-4636

w8sst@arrl.net

By no means is this effort at an end. In fact we are just beginning the fight. We need help to be successful.

Many thanks go to those that have written letters and helped in other ways, but we need more participation if we are going to be effective. Our club is leading the fight here in Michigan and we need everyone's help in order to get the job done.



## Special Thank You

A very special thank you goes to Peggy Voss, N8GTH for her support of various club activities over the years. Voss Art has donated many specialized display items and signs for our club. The artwork that was on display at the Applefest and the signs that hang in the club station are recent examples of her generosity. Thank you, Peggy. We sure appreciate your help!

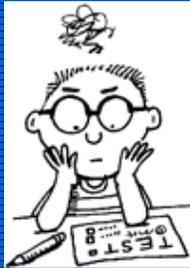
## October Meeting Notice

The October meeting of the BCARC will take place Oct. 18 at 7:00 PM at the 911 Communication Center. Our program will be an opportunity to chat with each other, drink coffee and eat a few cookies (all of our cookies have the fat removed from them) and yak with your fellow hams. This program has been popular in the past and gives us the opportunity to have conversations with each other that are more than a couple of minutes long.

The Club Station will be on the air and available for those that would like to make a few contacts.

Please bring a friend (ham or non-ham) with you to join in the fun.





## VE Test Session Schedule

### 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

### 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

## ARRL Division Election Pending

In the very near future, all Michigan ARRL members will be receiving a ballot from HQ asking all to vote for candidates for Great Lakes Division Director and Vice Director.

I urge you to think it over and decide which of the candidates for each position will be the best choice for the Great Lakes Division (Michigan, Ohio, and Kentucky) and cast your ballot accordingly.

## Congratulations!!!

Congratulations go to Denny Brauker, KC8ZFT who recently upgraded to General Class at a Jackson test session! Way to go, Denny, we knew you could do it! Have fun with your new privileges.

## Emergency Coordinator's Words

A short column this month with thoughts on the Simulated Emergency Test. We had a fairly miserable turnout for the exercise, but managed to score between 190 and 200 points. Doesn't sound like much, but a total higher than some whole states have scored in years past. Hearty thanks to those who answered my email and were willing to format some radiograms to pass around. (WB8R, N8CTI, KD8AGZ, WD8MGF, and KQ8R) It's great training for situations like those recently experienced after the hurricanes. Thanks to all of you who participated, and especially to WB8R, who opened up and operated the WD8KAF club station for us during the test.

One thing sorely missing from our available tools was a packet station. Between now and the next SET I will be asking those of you who have been, or would like to be, on the air with packet and/or other digital modes to get serious about getting your systems up and running. Also, next year we'll likely be emphasizing operating without using any existing infrastructure. To our credit, yesterday's list showed the majority of stations operating on emergency power.

Speaking of emergency power, I got the first couple hours of use from my little carry around jumpstart battery. For those of you who have been thinking about buying one I can tell you that I was very pleased with it's operation.

Nov 19

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Jackson, MI 49204



More Awareness Week  
Pictures by KI8BM



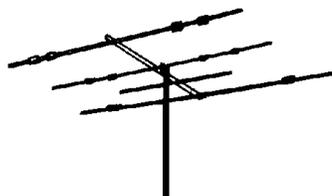
I hate to mention it, but it appears that the bulk of severe weather may be over for the season. A hearty thank you to all who assisted with SKYWARN spotting this year. Couldn't be done without you!

See you on the air. . . .

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

## Help Wanted

Dallas (Rocky) Rockwell is looking for someone who would be willing to climb his 60' Rohn 25 tower to reattach an antenna. If you're interested in helping out, please call Rocky at 279-7179.



## DX on the Bands

*(info courtesy of ARRL)*

### **MAURITANIA, 5T**

Jean is QRV as 5T0JL and has been active on 80 meters around 0500z. QSL via ON8RA.

### **UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6**

Abdullah, A61Q has been active on 30 meters around 1530z. QSL via EA7FTR.

### **REUNION ISLAND, FR**

Serge, F6AML is QRV as T05R until October 23. Activity is on 40 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. During this time, he plans to take a side trip to Mayotte where he will be QRV as TX5M from October 10 to 14. QSL direct to home call.

### **JERSEY, GJ**

Ramon, XE1KK will be QRV as GJ/VE7RKK on October 5 and 6 on an FM LEO satellite. QSL to home call.

### **GUERNSEY, GU**

Prior to his Jersey stop, Ramon, XE1KK will be QRV as GU/VE7RKK on October 3 and 4. He will be active on the HF bands and satellites. QSL to home call.

### **KURE ISLAND, KH7K**

A number of operators are QRV as K7C from Kure Atoll, IOTA OC-020, until October 6. Activity is on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL via K4TSJ.



### **GREECE, SV**

Geza, HA4XG will be QRV as J43XG from Rio from October 1 to 15. Activity will be on 40 to 10 meters, including the newer bands and 2 meters, using CW, SSB and FSK441. He is here on holiday, so his operating time is during early mornings and evenings. QSL to home call.

### **CRETE, SV9**

Stephan, DK3TNA is QRV as SV9/DK3TNA until October 12. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using SSB. QSL direct to home call.

### **CANADA, VE**

Mike, VE6AO is QRV as CK6AO to celebrate Alberta's 100th anniversary, and can often be found on 20 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

## Radio Equipment Available

One of the people that stopped by the club's booth at the Applefest and later attended our club meeting was Mary Ellen Newton. She told us of her father's involvement in ham radio and in his career in broadcasting. She provided the following list of items that her father has at his home that are available to good homes.

*Maurice E. Hope, W8EMD received his license in 1931 and started the radio club at State High on the WMU campus with several other radio friends. This club later became the Kalamazoo Amateur Radio Club. Mr. Hope worked as a transmitter engineer for WKZO AM radio and television.*

*Amateur Radio equipment:*

*Capacitors*

*Inductors*

*Transmitters and receivers and parts*

*2-way radio fm sets*

*Numerous antique tubes and amateur radio equipment*

*Antique radios and equipment (parts to make the radios work)*

*Contact Person if interested in equipment: Mary Ellen Newton (daughter) 517-238-4114.*