



# 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

November, 2005

Volume 4, Number 11

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## ARRL Legislative Action Committee

The battle over BPL continues in Michigan. W8SST and WB8R recently met with Rob Glazier, District Representative from The Jackson office of Congressman Schwarz.

We outlined the harm that BPL will do to the nation's Public Service and Emergency First Responders as well as amateur radio. We spoke about the recent relief efforts as a result of Katrina and Rita and tried to paint the picture of how much less effective those efforts would have been if BPL were in wide use around the country. We discussed the untold millions of dollars that will be needed to be spent to purchase new radio systems around the country to replace those systems rendered ineffective by BPL interference.

We gave Rob copies all of the letters written by the hams of Branch County along with a video disk detailing what BPL is and why Congressman Schwarz should co-sponsor H. Res 230.

This will be a long fight and both Jim and Larry will keep the pressure on our elected representatives to do the right thing.

## ARRL Division Election

All ARRL members in the Great Lakes Division by now should have received a ballot by mail which is to be used to choose our next Director and Vice-Director. If you have not yet mailed your ballot back to League HQ, there is still time to do so. In order for your ballot to be counted, it must be received NLT Noon Eastern Time on November 18. Be sure to use the enclosed envelope and follow the instructions carefully.

Remember that those who do not vote forfeit their right to



### Miscellaneous Pics



BCARC Mtg Oct 03



Amos and Jim



WB8BGY Feb 02



Carl and Vicky from  
Ft. Wayne DX Assn

complain about how the Division is run. Do your part and participate!

## *Emergency Coordinator's Words*

I'd like to pick up close to where I left off last month, concerning the requirements for maintaining ARES and RACES membership. Word is that there may be new requirements in the works and a couple of the likely essentials would be completion of FEMA courses IS-700 (*National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction*) and IS-800 (*National Response Plan (NRP), An Introduction*). While these two courses don't directly address amateur emergency communications, they do give us an inside view as to the workings of national guidelines relating to response to, and management of, emergencies. I'll be the first to admit that these courses are just a step ahead of reading the IRS income tax instructions, but it appears they will be a necessary evil. The courses can only be completed online, so if you're dealing with a dial up connection try to be patient. To make things easier you'll want to download the overview of each course and the final test so you've got them in front of you when it's time to take the test. It's an open book test, so you can't flunk. If you should receive a less than passing grade the first time you can take it over until you pass. As I said, these requirements are not in place as yet, but you can get ahead of the curve by starting to work on them now. Just copy me on the email you get when you pass the course. So far as to what else will be on the list – keep reading this column each month. I think we'll see a requirement for completion of a Damage Assessment course of some kind as well as.

If you are not currently an ARES or RACES member please contact me by email and I'll get you the necessary forms. ARES membership is pretty straightforward – just fill out the form and get your picture taken. RACES is a bit more involved, including a background check and a couple other stipulations.

Speaking of RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) – while our county has been very inactive in this area, look for a concerted effort in the near future to bring us up to speed. Another concern we need to address is lack of digital activity in Branch County. We're sadly lacking in PACKET and digital mode activity. I would ask anyone who has even the slightest interest in getting involved in this part of the hobby

## Area Hamfests

Nov 19/20 Ft. Wayne, IN

Dec 4 Mt. Clemons, MI

Feb 25 La Porte, IN

## 2005 Club Contacts

### President:

Larry Camp, WB8R

517-278-0406

wb8r@arrl.net

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI

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### Board of Directors:

Jim Voss, W8SST

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### Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST

517-278-4636

w8sst@arrl.net

to get in touch with me.

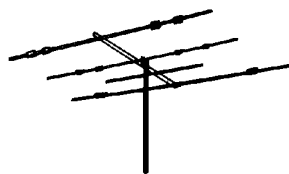
One last item – I'm still waiting on the hospital to tell me how much coax we need for the installation of the antenna there. I'll be contacting them again this week to remind them.

See you on the air. . . .

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

## *Thanks to ....*

Many thanks to Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK for helping out a fellow amateur. Bruce recently helped Rocky, K8ROK reattach his antenna at the top of his tower and get him back on the air.



## *DX on the Bands*

*(Info courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletins)*

**TANZANIA, 5H.** Harald, DL7VSN is QRV as 5H1HS from Zanzibar Island, IOTA AF-032, until November 17. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters, including the newer bands, using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

**WEST MALAYSIA, 9M2.** Enno is QRV as 9M2/PF5X and has been active on 30 meters around 1500z. QSL via PA0KHS.

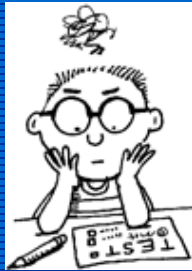
**TONGA, A3.** Alex is QRV as A35BO and has been active on 20 meters around 0700z. QSL via HB9FBO.

**TAIWAN, BV.** Jurgen, DJ3KR is QRV as BX3/DJ3KR until November 16. QSL to home call.

**PHILIPPINES, DU.** Station DX0TIC is QRV until November 10. QSL via operator's instructions.

**GUADELOUPE, FG.** A group of operators are QRV as TO5S from Les Saintes Island, IOTA NA-114, until November 12. Activity is on all HF bands, including 6 meters, using CW, SSB and PSK31. QSL via F1BCS.

**MAYOTTE, FH.** Serge, F6AUS will be QRV as TX0P from November 9 to December 7. This includes an entry in the upcoming CQ WW contest. QSL via operator's instructions.



## VE Test Session Schedule

### 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 PD  
405 E Lutz RD  
Pre-Registration Preferred  
Leave message on machine  
Archbold, OH 43502

### 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

### Dec 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

### Dec 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

**SAINT MARTIN, FS.** Jean, F5AHO will be QRV as FS/F5AHO from Tintamarre Island, IOTA NA-199, from November 9 to 18. Activity will be on 20 and 17 meters using SSB. QSL to home call.

**TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40.** Members of the Korean DX Club plan to be QRV as H40HL from Nendo Island, IOTA OC-100, from November 5 to 11. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters, including the newer bands, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via HL1XP.

**THAILAND, HS.** Champ, E21EIC is QRV as E21EIC/8 until November 16. Japan stations QSL via JR5XPG and all others QSL to home call.

**MINAMI TORISHIMA, JD1.** Operators JE7IZM/JD1 and JR6TYH/JD1 have been QRV on 40 meters at various times. QSL to home calls.

**JAN MAYEN, JX.** Ole is QRV as JX9NOA for at least a year. Given his current antenna situation, his activity may be on a few bands using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK. QSL via operator's instructions.

**SUDAN, ST.** Fernando, ST2BF has been QRV using CW from around 2200 to 0000z. QSL via W3HMK.

**BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, T9.** Roger, LA4GHA is QRV as T98GHA until the end of November. QSL direct to home call.

**COTE d'IVOIRE, TU.** Gerd, TU5JM has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 0800z and then around 1100 to 1500z. QSL via bureau.

**KALININGRAD, UA2.** Alex, UA2FT has been QRV on 160 meters from around 0030 to 0530z. QSL to home call.

**NAMIBIA, V5.** Jack, V51KC has been QRV using PSK31 on 15 meters around 1930z. He has also been active on 17 meters using PSK31 around the same time. QSL direct via IZ8EDJ.

**NORFOLK ISLAND, VK9N.** Ron, ZL1TW is QRV as VK9ANA until November 9. His activity is mostly on 40 meters, but will try 80, 30 and 20 m. as well. QSL direct to home call.

**CHRISTMAS ISLAND, VK9X.** Charlie is QRV as VK9XG and has been active using RTTY on 20 meters starting around

Dec 22

Sponsor: SMARS

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

Contact: Richard F. Holcomb  
(269) 969-3026

VEC: ARRL VEC

Location: Seventh Day

Adventist Church

264 West Michigan Ave

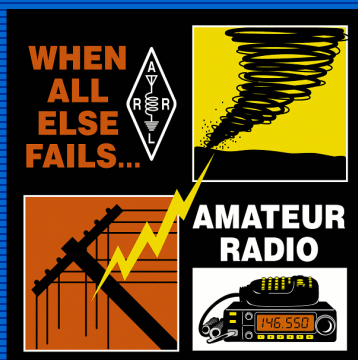
Battle Creek, MI 49015



### Technician Licensing Class 2006 in Planning Stages

The BCARC Instructor Team is currently discussing plans for the next licensing class.

While we are happy to have students of all ages, we are particularly interested in attracting teenagers and other young people. All we have to do is to look around at one of our meetings to see that the club members are certainly not getting any younger. At club meetings there is a lot of missing hair and often what hair is there tends to be gray. We need young blood in order to keep our hobby growing. If you know anyone that is interested in becoming a ham, be sure to send them our way.



2300z. QSL via W0YG.

**ANTARCTICA.** Bhagwati, VU3BPZ is QRV from the WTO Indian Antarctica Maitri Base and is here until April 2006. He can usually be found on 20 meters using SSB. QSL via operator's instructions.



## *Thanksgiving Thoughts*

As we approach the holiday season, we all have many things to be thankful for such as family and friends and all the good things around us each day. Please remember to give thanks for those who risk their lives to make our daily lives in this free country possible and to those who help others. Please accept the best wishes from the Officers and Board Members of the BCARC for the upcoming holidays.



## *Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange*

The December meeting of the BCARC will be held on December 6 in the meeting room of the Free Methodist Church at the corner of Bishop Ave. and Fremont St. in Coldwater. The menu will be determined at the November BCARC meeting. We expect the cost of the meal (including dessert) to be near \$10.00 per person.

## *2005 Christmas Gift Exchange Rules*

The gift exchange is open to all members and guests. In order to receive a gift, one must bring a gift. Gifts should be useful items that have a value of \$10 or more. A gift can come from your junk box or can be purchased and should be radio or computer related. Gifts should be wrapped in Christmas paper and need not have "to" or "from" tags or other identification on them. Be sure to remember which gifts you brought so you don't select your own gift!

If your spouse and/or children bring a gift, that will maximize your "take" from the exchange and may enable you to take home that "prize" gift that everyone covets. Those that bring gifts will be asked to draw a number, which will determine

## Our Club's Home



Branch Co. 911 Center



Tribander at 911



BCARC Club Station



Club's HF/6M Rig

the order of gift selection and opening.

The gift opening will proceed as follows:

Number 1 chooses a gift from the gift table, opens it, and MUST show it to everyone present.

Number 2 can choose a gift from the table or he can take Number 1's gift if he thinks that is a better gift than he could find amongst the unopened gifts. If number 2 chooses a gift from the table, he opens it and MUST show it to everyone present.

If Number 2 takes the gift from Number 1, then Number 1 goes back to the gift table and selects another gift, opens it and MUST show it to everyone.

Number 3 can choose a gift from the table, Number 1, or Number 2 and follow the same procedures listed above.

This same procedure is followed until the final person selects the last gift.

The third owner of a gift gets to keep it. An individual cannot retake a gift that was taken from him. Gifts must be able to be carried by one person. Gifts cannot consist of spouses, children or pets.

After all gifts have been opened, it is acceptable to trade your gift to anyone who is willing to trade with you. Be creative in the selection and packaging of your gift. This event is supposed to be fun so feel free to "ham it up" a bit to add some humor to the evening. Walk around and look over the gifts that are available for taking. Look at everything ... even those items that you have no intention of taking. Do what you can to "fake out" the crowd and when the time comes, pounce on that treasure!

Feel free to take pictures of the event and the haggling and conniving that will undoubtedly go on.

