



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

December, 2005

Volume 4, Number 12

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November BCARC Meeting Unusual

The November meeting of the BCARC was an unusual meeting in that due to holiday activities and stormy weather there were not enough members in good standing at the meeting to constitute a quorum, therefore making the transaction of business impossible. The primary business of the evening was the election of Officers and two members of the Board of Directors. Since we could not complete our task that evening, the Constitution calls for the business to be delayed until the next meeting. We were successful in obtaining enough volunteers to fill the openings, but opportunities still exist for nominations from the floor at the December meeting.

ARRL Division Election

Congratulations are in order for Jim Weaver, K8JE and Gary Johnston, KI4LA who were recently elected to the position of ARRL Great Lakes Division Director and Vice-Director respectively. Jim is completing his first term as Director and Gary had previously served as both Vice Director and then as Director after the resignation of then Director George Race, WB8BGY.

We all look forward to more of the same great leadership that both Jim and Gary have shown in the past. *Congratulations!*



Christmas Dinner and Gift Exchange

The December meeting of the BCARC will be held at 6:00 PM on December 6 in the meeting room of the Free Methodist Church at the corner of Bishop Ave. and Fremont Street in

Area Hamfests

Dec 4 Mt. Clemons, MI

Dec 18 Lowell, MI

Jan 14 Flint, MI

Feb 12 Mansfield, OH

Feb 25 La Porte, IN

2005 Club Contacts

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Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST

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Coldwater. Dinner will be served at 6:30 PM.

The menu will be as follows:

Choice of Roast Beef or Chicken Breast

Twice Baked Potatoes

Green Beans Almondine

Tossed Salad with Thousand Island or Ranch Dressing

Dessert

Coffee, Iced Tea, Water, Lemonade

The cost for this meal will be \$10.00 per person. This is an extremely good price for what we expect to be a very nice meal. Thanks to Jim Voss for doing all the work on this year's dinner.

If you have not already made your reservations, you can easily do so by calling Arnie, NS8T at 278-8507. There will be a limited number of meals available without reservations, but we cannot guarantee how many can be accommodated, so the best plan is to call Arnie now to ensure that you will have a spot. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 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



VE Test Session Schedule

Dec 10

Sponsor: Eaton County ARC
Time: 12 Noon (Walk-ins ok)
Contact: John Dewey
(517)543-0398
Email: DETTA@IA4U.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Eaton Cty Sheriff's
Dept-EOC
1250 Independence Blvd
Charlotte, MI 48813

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

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 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

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.



Christmas Wishes

As the Christmas holiday nears, our thoughts turn to family and friends as we celebrate the Holy season together. Your club Officers and Board of Directors would like to offer you and your family their best wishes for a joyous Holiday.

Jan 12

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



Technician Class Announced

The BCARC will once again be offering a Technician licensing class in 2006. This class will be open to potential hams of all ages and will be held in the basement Training Room at the 911 Communications Center near the airport in Coldwater. Classes will be held from 9:00 to 11:00 on Saturday mornings. The Schedule is as follows:

Dec 3

Organizational Meeting and Ham Radio Demonstration at the 911 Center. The costs for book and class materials will be \$20.00. Students should be prepared to pay for class materials at the organizational meeting.

Dec 17

Book, class materials and first assignment will be distributed to students.

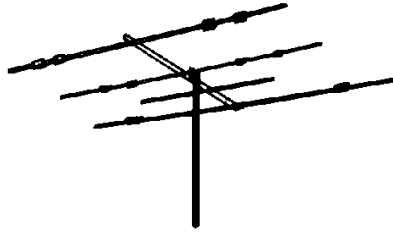
Jan 7 - Feb 28

Classes meet weekly

Mar 4

ARRL VEC Test session for all license classes (including testing for CW)





DX on the Bands

(info courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletins)

MONACO, 3A. Operators N0FW, K4ZLE and N9NS are QRV as 3A/N0FW and 3A/N9NS/p until December 13. They are active on all bands, and will participate in the ARRL 160 Meter CW and 10 Meter contests. QSL via W8QID.

JAMAICA, 6Y. Kenny, K2KW and Tom, N6BT are QRV as home calls/6Y5 until December 5. They will be active as 6Y0A in the ARRL 160 Meter contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL contest call via operators' instructions and all others via WA4WTG.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Roberto, IW1RIH will be QRV as 8Q7IH from Rannalhi Island, IOTA AS-013, from December 5 to 12. QSL to home call.

MALTA, 9H. Andrea, IK1PMR and Claudia, K2LEO are QRV as 9H3MR and 9H3LEO, respectively, from Gozo Island, IOTA EU-023, until December 21. Activity is mainly on the lower bands using CW and RTTY. They plan to be active in the ARRL 160 Meter contest as well. QSL via IK1PMR.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, A6. To commemorate 34 years of independence, in celebration of National Day on December 2, A6 stations will affix /ND to their call signs. QSL via operators' instructions.

ANTARCTICA. Thorsten, DD1TG will soon be QRV as DP0GVN from Neumayer Station during the Antarctic summer. QSL to home call.

ENGLAND, G. Special event station GB5RSR is QRV from the Ribble Steam Railway in Preston, until December 28 as part of the Christmas celebration here. QSL via M0DJC.

SWITZERLAND, HB. In connection with their 19th telethon, the USKA-Valais group is QRV as HE1TELE until December 31. QSL via bureau.

JAPAN, JA. Operators JI2ZLM/2 and JF0BPT/2 are QRV from Shino Island, IOTA AS-117, in the Honshu Coastal Islands Group until December 3. QSL to home calls.

ARGENTINA, LU. In celebration of 50 years since the first operation from the Argentine Station on South Sandwich Island, members of the Radio Club Pampeano will operate special event station LR50U from December 7 to 12. Activity will be mainly on the HF bands using CW and SSB. QSL via operators' instructions.

ARUBA, P4. Ken, K6KA and Kay, K6KO will be QRV as P40TA in the ARRL 160 Meter contest and P40K in the upcoming ARRL 10 Meter contest. Ken also plans to operate the Stew Perry contest the following weekend from grid square FK52. QSL via WM6A.

BRAZIL, PY. A group of operators will be QRV as PQ7Q from the Olinda Lighthouse, ARLHS BRA-068, in the ARRL 160 Meter contest as a Multi/Single entry. QSL via PY7VI.

SURINAME, PZ. Ronald, PA3EWP and Rob, PA2R are QRV as PZ5WP and PZ5PA, respectively, from Paramaribo until December 14. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL both calls via PA7FM.

POLAND, SP. In celebration of the founding of the Polish QSL Bureau, special event station SP80QSL is QRV until mid-January 2006. QSL via bureau.

GREECE, SV. Steve, G4EDG and Jeff, G4ELZ will be QRV as home calls/SV8 from Kithira Island, IOTA AS-113, from December 4 to 11. Activity will be CW only. QSL via G4ELZ.

CAMBODIA, XU. John, KF0RQ will be QRV as XU7ACQ from December 3 to 28. His activity will be mainly on 20 meters between 1400 to 1700z. QSL to home call.

INDONESIA, YB. A group of operators plan to be QRV as YE5M from Siberut Island, IOTA OC-215, from December 6 to 9. QSL via operators' instructions.

