



# 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

March, 2006

Volume 5, Number 3

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## VE Testing Session Held March 4

On March 4, the BCARC Winter 2006 Technician class culminated in a VE Test Session held at the 911 Center. We are happy to announce that we now have 6 new Technicians, one new General, and one new Extra in our midst!

Starting at the top, Bill Slade, WD8MGF, successfully upgraded from General to Extra Class. Next on the list is Leo Wilson (Bruce, WB8ZSK's son) who successfully passed his code test, the Technician test, and the General test.

Next on the list is Jan Hayden and Bill Shaw who passed their Technician and General tests.

Kyle Morris, Dustin Brauker (son of Denny Brauker, KC8ZFT), Mark Rogers, and Nancy Slade all successfully passed their Technician tests.

See pictures of the happy hams elsewhere in this issue.

Now begins the long wait for the new callsigns to appear on the FCC database. I bet all you old-timers remember the weeks of waiting for the mailman to bring that first ticket. How times have changed!

Congratulations to all who were rewarded for their hard work and many thanks to our VE team members Jim Voss, W8SST; Arnie Hayward, NS8T; Dan Sprow, KC8RYF; and Larry Camp, WB8R for making the test session happen.

While I am on the subject of thanks, the efforts of the class instructors are greatly appreciated as well. They are: Arnie Hayward, NS8T; Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK; Jim Voss, W8SST; and Larry Camp, WB8R. Thanks, fellows.

## Area Hamfests

Mar 18 Marshall, MI  
Mar 19 Toledo, OH  
Mar 25 Michigan City, IN  
Apr 8 Milford, MI  
May 6 Cadillac, MI  
May 19-21 Dayton, OH  
June 3 Hudsonville, MI  
June 18 Monroe, MI

## 2006 Club Contacts

### President:

Larry Camp, WB8R  
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wb8r@arrl.net

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI  
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wkubiak@wmconnect.com

### Board of Directors:

Steve Williams, N8CTI  
517-369-7194  
shadowman405@charter.net

Arnie Hayward, N8ST

517-278-8507  
ns8t@arrl.net

Bill Slade, WD8MGF

517-238-2112  
nslade@cbpu.com

### Emergency Coordinator:

Jim Voss, W8SST  
517-278-4636  
w8sst@arrl.net



**SKYWARN**

## *March Meeting Announcement*

There will be no business meeting of the BCARC in March as we will be receiving our annual Skywarn training. We expect a large crowd and we don't think we need to bore the non-members with a half hour of our club business.

The training will be provided by the meteorologists from the NWS office in North Webster.

We will meet at our usual spot at the 911 Center at 7:00 PM on March 21. Because we expect to have a full house again, the hot tip is to arrive early to get the best seats. The room will be open at 6:30 pm and all are welcome then.

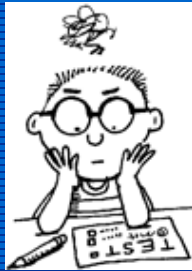


## *Michigan QSO Party*

The BCARC will participate in the 2006 Michigan QSO Party on April 15 from the BCARC Club Station at the 911 center in Coldwater.

What is a QSO Party you ask? Well, a QSO (amateur conversation or contact) Party is sort of a contest to see how many contacts you can make with other stations participating in the event. These other stations may be in various Michigan counties or other states or even other countries. One of the goals is to see if you can make contacts in all of Michigan's 83 counties.

Branch County is even somewhat rare in this event and you can be assured of many stations wanting to work you. You



## VE Test Session Schedule

### Mar 18

**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  
If no answer, call 419-654-4044

### Apr 13

**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

### Apr 15

**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  
If no answer, call 419-654-4044

### Apr 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

may even be the object of a pile-up or two.

We would like to put two stations on the air, one on 10, 15, and 20 meters and the other one on 40, 80, and 160 meters. Both phone and CW will probably be used at one time or another.

The contest runs from noon on the 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) to midnight. We guarantee a lot of fun, an opportunity to learn something, and a good tune up for field day. We plan to keep operating as long as people are willing to hang around.

This is a good opportunity for hams of all license classes to get in some HF seat time and learn how to operate in a contest environment. New hams in particular will have a chance to dive in head first and have some serious fun. There will be plenty of time for all to operate. More details will be coming up as we get closer. If you have questions or would like more information please contact Larry at [wb8r@arrl.net](mailto:wb8r@arrl.net).

*Happy Hams!*



Ready to Test!

(P.S. Please feel free to ask Arnie how to set the date in his new camera!!!!)

May 3

**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

May 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  
If no answer, call 419-654-4044

Jun 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  
If no answer, call 419-654-4044



Mark Rogers (new Tech) accepts congratulations.



Kyle Morris (new Tech) has his turn up front.



Dustin Brauker, son of Denny, KC8ZFT (new Tech)



Bill Shaw, son of Jim, N8NG passed his Tech and General!



Jan Hayden passed his Tech and General tests!



Leo Wilson, son of Bruce, WB8ZSK, passed his CW, Tech, and General tests. Way to go Leo!!!!



Bill and Nancy Slade show off their CSCE's after Bill upgraded to Extra and Nancy got her Tech license. Congrats!



The BCARC VE Team for this session. Down front is Jim Voss, W8SST and in the back from l to r is Arnie Hayward, NS8T; Larry Camp, WB8R; and Dan Sprow, KC8RYF

## *Scanner Law Signed by Governor*

I am pleased to report that Governor Granholm signed the attached legislation on March 2, 2006 and it became enacted on that date. These changes to Section 508 MCL will take effect 90 days from that date. The holders of all classes of amateur radio licenses will become totally exempt from the receiver restrictions. I suggest that anyone carrying a transceiver capable of receiving public safety frequencies also carry a copy of this Act along with your Amateur Radio License.

73,

Dale WA8EFK

ARRL Section Manager – Michigan

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 508. (1) A person who has been convicted of 1 or more felonies during the preceding 5 years shall not carry or have in his or her possession a radio receiving set that will receive signals sent on a frequency assigned by the federal communications commission of the United States for police or other law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical, federal, state, or local corrections, or homeland security purposes. This subsection does not apply to a person who is licensed as an amateur radio operator by the federal communications commission. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(2) A person shall not carry or have in his or her possession in the commission or attempted commission of a crime a radio receiving set that will receive signals sent on a frequency assigned by the federal communications commission of the United States for police or other law enforcement, fire fighting, emergency medical, federal, state, or local corrections, or homeland security purposes. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a crime as follows:

(a) If this subsection is violated in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of at least 93 days but less than 1 year, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 1 year or a fine of not more than \$1,000.00, or both.

(b) If this subsection is violated in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor or felony punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of 1 year or more, the person is guilty of a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than 2 years or a fine of not more than \$2,000.00, or both.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply to a person who carries or has in his or her possession a radio receiving set described in subsection (2) in the commission or attempted commission of a misdemeanor punishable by a maximum term of imprisonment of less than 93 days.

(4) This section does not apply to the use of radar detectors.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days after the date it is enacted.

*Thanks to Dale and his team for all their hard work!*