



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

April, 2006

Volume 5, Number 4

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April Meeting Announcement

On April 18, the BCARC will meet at our usual spot at the 911 Communication Center on Chicago Rd. near the airport at 7:00 PM.

The program for this month will feature our (in)famous panel of technical experts who will engage you in a scintillating game of who is telling the truth. Yes, our panel of accomplished liars will be there for another round of the Liar's Club!

For those that may be new to this or for those with less than stellar memories (I did not say old!) the Liar's Club is where our panel of experts will show various gizmos to all those present and each panelist will tell you what each item is and what it is used for. Only one will be telling the truth and the other two will be trying to convince you that their version is the correct one.

We can guarantee lots of laughs as you watch the panel perform for you. The person who can see through the smoke best will win a prize.



Our distinguished panel of Liars in Feb, 2005

Area Hamfests

May 6 Cadillac, MI
May 19-21 Dayton, OH
June 3 Hudsonville, MI
June 4 Chelsea, MI
June 18 Monroe, MI
July 16 Van Wert, OH
Aug 6 Angola, IN

2006 Club Contacts

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Arrow Club Again Plans Bus Trip to Dayton



Once again, ARROW (Arrow Communications Association of ANN Arbor) is planning a one-day motor coach trip to the Dayton Hamvention. This year, the date is Saturday, May 20, 2006.

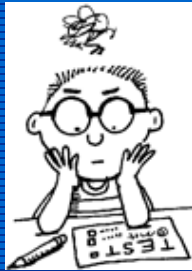
You'll travel in style with your friends in a fully appointed motor coach and avoid the expense and stress of driving and parking. As an added bonus, we will have an attended booth, and would be happy to sell your equipment there. You can also use the booth as a spot to drop off purchases.

The bus, like the one shown above, will depart for Dayton will depart from the Pioneer High School parking lot (at the corner of Stadium and Main in Ann Arbor) at 4:30 am and arrive in Dayton around 8:00 am. This will give you a full day to tour the exhibits, visit manufacturers' booths, attend the seminars, and go bargain hunting at the swap meet. Bagels and coffee will be provided.

Tickets for the trip are \$60.00 per person for non-members and \$50.00 for ARROW members, and are refundable up to May 1st.

To order tickets by mail, download the brochure at www.w8qpg.org and fill out the form and mail it in with your check.

For more information, call 734-238-0544.



VE Test Session Schedule

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: 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 13

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

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

April 15 is Date for MI QSO Party

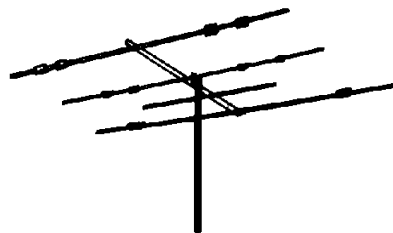
On Saturday, April 15, the BCARC will open our club station (WD8KAF) at the 911 Center to participate in the Michigan QSO Party. This operating event on the HF bands is a contest of sorts where stations try to contact as many other stations participating in the QSO Party as possible.

One of the best things about this event is that all hams and even non-hams present will be able to operate on the High Frequency bands regardless of license class. We will make sure that we always have a control operator present with the required license class. This will allow everyone to operate and will be a great opportunity to experience the *Magic of Radio* first hand.

We plan to start operations at noon and will continue until midnight or until we run out of operators. We will monitor the 2M repeater and after 6:00 pm it would be a good idea to give us a call on the repeater to make sure that we have not run out of operators and have called it a day.

New Ham Callsigns Heard Locally

Your editor has heard several of our recent crop of new hams on the air and has had the opportunity to chat with some of those making noise on the local repeater. I have had the pleasure of chatting with Mark, KD8CYV; Bill, KD8CYY; Nancy, KD8CYX. Kyle, KD8CYU was heard on the air with Bruce, WB8ZSK working out some radio or antenna problems. If you hear these folks or Dustin, KD8CYT; Jan, KD8CYW; or Leo, KD8CYZ on the air, be sure to give them a call and make them feel welcome on our repeater. We are sure glad to have all of them in our ham community!



DX on the Bands

(info courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletins)

SWAZILAND, 3DA. Vlad, UA4WHX is QRV as 3DA0VB. He is active mainly on 80 to 15 meters using mostly CW. His length of stay is unknown. QSL to home call.

Jun 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

Jul 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

Jul 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

Jul 22

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



MAURITANIA, 5T. Fernando, EA1BT is QRV as 5T6BT until April 16.
Activity is on all bands. QSL via EA4URE.

MALDIVES, 8Q. Simon, M0BOX is QRV as 8Q7BO from the Kuredu Island Resort, IOTA AS-018, until April 20. He is active during his spare time on 40 to 10 meters using mostly digital modes, and possibly SSB and SSTV. QSL to home call.

CHILE, CE. Marco, CE6TBN and Zoli, HA1AG plan to be QRV as XR4PI from Pupuya Island, a new IOTA, until April 9. Their operating times may vary. QSL via HA1AG.

PHILIPPINES, DU. Rag, LA6FJA is QRV as DU1/KI4KJP from Luzon Island, IOTA OC-042, until May 1. Activity is on 80, 40, 30, 20 and 17 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via WY4N.

LIBERIA, EL. Pat, EI5IF is QRV as EL2PM for about six weeks while here with the Irish Army Peacekeepers. Of late he has been active on 20 meters using SSB around 0900z. QSL to home call.

ARMENIA, EK. Antoni, EK8WA has been active using RTTY on 20 meters around 1300z. QSL via SP9ERV.

ENGLAND, G. Geoff, G0PFH is QRV as GX2UG from Holy Island, IOTA EU-120, until April 8. Activity is on 40 and 20 meters SSB. QSL via G2UG.

WALES, GW. Special event call GB0MPA is active until early May in commemoration of the RMS Carpathia, the ship that rescued 705 survivors from the RMS Titanic in April 1912. MPA was the callsign of the RMS Carpathia. QSL via GWOANA.

GUINEA BISSAU, J5. IK2ILH and IV3DHD will be QRV as J5UCW and J5UAF, respectively, from Caboxangue from April 9 to 12 in their spare time. Activity will be on 40 to 6 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL to home calls.

US VIRGIN ISLANDS, KP2. Joe, W8GEX is QRV as W8GEX/KP2 until April 23 on all bands. He may also be QRV on the 60-meter channel 5 frequency of 5403.5 kHz. QSL to home call.

Severe WX Training held March 21



Steve Eddy, KC9BQD, Warning Coordination Meteorologist from IWX at North Webster joined us for our annual Skywarn Training event on March 21.

There were 29 members and guests in attendance for a very well done training program.

Steve provided us with an excellent program and gave us information on advanced radar interpretation and shared the latest information on severe weather spotting.

Our thanks go to Steve for visiting our club and helping us to become better WX spotters which will provide better information for the protection of our communities.

Also of note was the excellent article in the [Coldwater Reporter](#) which was written by our own Mark Rogers, KD8CYV.



PERU, OA. Daniel, DL5YWM is QRV from Lima as OA4/DL5YWM until April 30. He is active during his free time and will try 160 and 80 meters. QSL to home call.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA, P2. Jerry, P29ZAD has been active using RTTY on 20 meters from around 0940 to 1330z.

WESTERN SAHARA, SO. A large group of operators will be QRV as S01R from Tifariti from April 11 to 16. They will be active with four stations on 160 to 10 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via EA5RM.

TURKEY, TA. Eric, SM1TDE is QRV as TA4/SM1TDE from Kemer until April 16. He also plans to be active as TA0/SA1A from IOTA groups AS-099 and AS-115.

GUATEMALA, TG. Marcos, EA1APV is QRV as HR6/EA1APV from Roatan Island, IOTA NA-057, until April 14. QSL to home call.

HONG KONG, VR2. Walter, VR2IG and Charlie, VR2XMT can usually be found active on 20 meters SSB after 1200z.

Future Program Notes

May

Our club will hold our annual competitive Foxhunt. This is where teams will compete against each other to see who can find our hidden Fox.

June

In June, the focus of our meeting program will be on Field Day, which takes place on June 24 and 25.

July

In July, our friends from the Ft. Wayne DX Association, Carl, K9LA and Vicky, AE9YL will entertain us with tales of their most recent adventures.