



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

June, 2006

Volume 5, Number 6

In This Issue

- Fox Hunt Results
- Field Day Plans Set
- VEC Test Sessions
- Area Hamfests
- DX on the Bands



After the Fox Hunt the Hunters enjoyed some Hot Chili on a Cool Evening

On May 18, the BCARC met at the 911 Communications Center on Chicago Road near the airport at 7:00 PM for our annual competitive foxhunt. It was a cool evening and Nancy Slade, KD8CYT rose to the occasion and came to the event with a large pot of hot chili and all the fixin's for all who attended. It really hit the spot! Thanks, Nancy.

Our own wiley old fox, Arnie, NS8T out did himself once again. The best part of the entire evening was when the hunters were gathered at the 911 Center getting their gear ready for the Fox's first transmission and the Fox himself pulls into the parking lot! It has been a long time since your editor has seen so many confused looks on so many faces!

Area Hamfests

June 3 Hudsonville, MI
June 4 Chelsea, MI
June 18 Monroe, MI
July 16 Van Wert, OH
Aug 6 Angola, IN

2006 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:

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

Arnie said that he always misses the beginning of the hunts because he is always hidden at that point and this time he wanted to see for himself what took place at the beginning. He sure threw everyone a curve ball that evening!

Dan Sprow, KC8RYF was the winner of this year's competitive hunt followed closely by Dave King, KQ8R. Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK and Kyle Morris, KD8CYU were the third place winners. Andrew Glenn, KD8AGZ and Mark Rogers, KD8CYV finished in fourth place. It is interesting to note that both Dan and Dave hunted alone. Another interesting point is that the first and second place winners came from Hillsdale County. This was also true in 2005. Is there something in the water in Hillsdale County that enhances direction finding or something in Branch County water that hinders it? Hmmm.

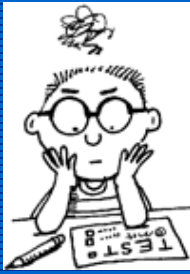
A great time was had by all and we are especially grateful for Nancy Slade's thoughtfulness in bringing the Chili.



2006 Field Day Planned for June 24-25

The 2006 ARRL Field Day will take place on June 24 and 25. We will be setting up shop at the 911 Center and will have both outdoor and indoor stations in operation.

Once again the rules allow us to make use of fixed antennas provided that they are in place as part of the Emergency Operating Center. Our Tribander and wire antenna fall into that category, so we are spared the "fun" of erecting those antennas on the spot. This also means that our indoor station is in an air-conditioned environment and we have yet to spot a mosquito, gnat, or fly hovering around our operating



VE Test Session Schedule

Jun 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

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

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

position. How much better could Field Day be?

For those who like to brave the elements, we expect to set up an outdoor station complete with all the flying insects associated with June in Michigan. We will do our best to order moderate, dry weather, but we all understand that our order may be on backorder, so we will have to deal with what mother nature gives us. Bring your jacket, hat, sun blocker and insect repellent just in case! Previous FD's have found us wearing winter coats, parkas and raincoats and other times as little as modesty allows. We have braved temperatures from 50 to over 100 degrees and have dealt with rain, hail, thunder, lightning and high winds. You just never know what mother nature will give us, but one thing is for sure and that is that *Ham Radio can get the job done!*

We expect to be on hand at the 911 Center about noon on Saturday, June 24 to get things set up and plan to make the first radio transmissions at 2:00 pm when the contest officially begins. We will operate through the night and will be able to operate up to 2:00 pm on Sunday afternoon.

For those who might be hearing about Field Day for the first time, Field Day is an annual operating event whose purpose is to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio. This gives us a great opportunity to exercise our club station as well as to give us practice setting up a station and antennas from scratch from a makeshift location.

This is a fun event where all hams can get together to have some fun, work some stations on the HF bands (even if you don't have the license to do so on your own!), learn some things about how to operate in less than the best conditions, and spend some serious ham time with your friends.

The complete Field Day rules can be found at:
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2006/rules-fd-2006.html>.

Look for an email FD Flier that will be published just before

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

Aug 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
If no answer, call 419-654-4044

Sep 16

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



the event to pass along the very latest information. Please make it a point to stop by at some point during the FD period and say hello, even if you can't stay very long. We will be glad to see you.

Your club will be providing cold drinks and some snacks to help keep us going. See you there!

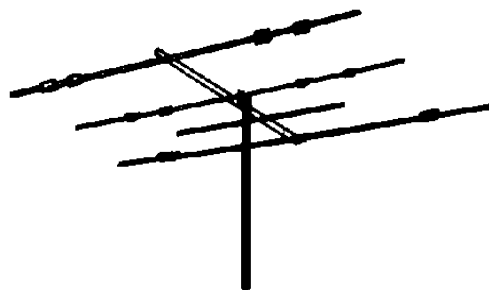
June Club Meeting Topic to be Field Day, Past and Present

Our June club meeting will be held on June 20 at 7:00 pm in the basement training room of the 911 Center located at 141 East Chicago Rd near the airport on the west side of Coldwater.

The program will be a PowerPoint presentation about past Field Days, which will include all the old newspaper clippings, and photographs that have been collected over the years. We have data from as far back as 1980.

We will talk about all the fun that we have had at the various Field Days and the fun that we plan to have this year. The business portion of the meeting will be short and sweet so that we can get to the fun part as quickly as possible.

Please plan to join us for the FD tune-up on the 20th and also for the actual FD on Saturday and Sunday, June 24 and 25. Look for an email flyer with detailed plans as we get closer to the date. A good time will be had by all.



DX on the Bands

(info courtesy of ARRL DX Bulletins)

TIMOR-LESTE, 4W.

Michael, PA5M is QRV as 4W6AAB in his spare time until June 2. QSL via PA7FM.

2006 Fox Hunt Pics



Dan Sprow, KC8RYF proudly shows off his winnings after placing first in the May Fox Hunt. Dan won \$20 and a Kenwood Communications speaker (speaker courtesy of Jepson Electric). Not bad for a couple of hours work!



Dave King, KQ8R shows off his prize as second place winner. He won \$10 and a Kenwood microphone. (Mic courtesy of Jepson electric)



Third place winners (shown here in previous picture – they slipped out before I could get a shot of them) Kyle Morris, KD8CYU and Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK won \$5 for their efforts.

CYPRUS, 5B.

ON5SY and ON4ON are QRV as 5B/OO5S and 5B/OQ1C, respectively, until May 30. They are active holiday style on 40 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL both calls via ON4ON.

EAST MALAYSIA, 9M6.

Members of the Borneo ARC will be QRV as 9M4SSB from May 29 to 31. Activity will be on 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meters using SSB. QSL via 9M6BRC.

CANARY ISLANDS, EA8.

In commemoration of Canary Islands Day on May 30, several operators are QRV as ED8CID and EF8CID until May 30. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via EA8AUW.

ALAND ISLANDS, OH0.

OH2BH and OH0MM will be QRV as OH0B and OH0E, respectively, and will be active on 30, 17 and 12 meters.

SEYCHELLES, S7.

Sal, IZ8CLM is QRV as S79RS until June 5. He is active daily after 1400z in his spare time using SSB and RTTY. QSL to home call.

GREECE, SV.

Operators SV1HER, SV1GRM and SW1GZL are QRV as SY8V from Kythira Island, IOTA EU-113, from the Moudari lighthouse, ARLHS GRE-120, until May 28. QSL via SV1HER. Meanwhile, HA0HW, HA4DX and LZ1PJ will be QRV as J48HW, J48DX and J48PJ, respectively, as well as SV8/homecalls, from May 27 to June 5. Activity will be on all HF bands, including 6 meters, using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via home calls.

CAMBODIA, XU.

Vincent, F4BKV will be QRV as XU7BKV from the DX Shack in Sihanoukville from May 29 to June 2. Activity will be on the HF bands using SSB and PSK31.

UK SOVEREIGN BASE AREAS ON CYPRUS, ZC.

Grigg, G0OAB will be QRV as ZC4DG from May 27 to 31. QSL to home call.

CAYMAN ISLANDS, ZF.

Jim, W4JO and Mike, K4MBO are QRV as ZF2JO and ZF2MO, respectively, until June 2. QSL ZF2MO via K4MBO and ZF2JO via W4YCH.





The parking lot at the 911 Center fills up as the participants prepare for the hunt. Note the Fox himself (Arnie, NS8T) is standing there in the midst of the crowd! Boy did that throw everyone for a loop!

Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day, 2005



Make plans now to join us at Applefest on September 16!



Carl & Vicky Return!

In July, our friends from the Ft. Wayne DX Association, Carl, K9LA and Vicky, AE9YL will join us. Carl will compare and contrast ham radio of 1926 with the current state of the art. Carl will discuss what being a ham in 1926 was like and how far we have come in 80 years. This will be a program that you will not want to miss!

In August we will hold the second of our annual Fox Hunts. This time, all teams will work together to find the fox. This is tougher than it sounds as last year the hunters were skunked by the fox. Remember, revenge is sweet!

In September we are planning to participate in the annual Applefest in downtown Coldwater by setting up an amateur radio station and information booth as part of Amateur Radio Public Awareness Day. This will take place on Saturday, Sep. 16 and will be a great time. Plan to join us in the fun.

Club Activity Reminder

Our club has a number of activities that go on throughout the year that range from quick and easy things to major projects.

The thing that all club events have in common is that member help is required to make them happen. Whether it is simply checking into our Tuesday night net on our 2M repeater (7:00 pm) or attending a club meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of every month to teaching a class, working on emergency preparedness exercises such as Skywarn spotting, organizing or participating in Field Day, or providing your services as a Volunteer Examiner so your fellow hams have an opportunity to upgrade their licenses, all club activities are powered by the membership.

It is easiest to do nothing, but that is just what you get in return from your activities. Ham radio is fun with a serious side that brings an enormous sense of satisfaction from doing good things for others and being a part of good things. Your club encourages your participation and contribution for the good of your club and your community.