



# Branch Signals

An ARRL Affiliated Club since 1961



July, 2006  
Volume 5 Issue 7

*The Official Newsletter of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc.  
Club Repeaters: 2M 147.300 + 100 Hz 440 443.300 + 123 Hz*

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**Club Meeting July 18,  
7:00 PM at the 911  
Center.**



*Mike Spencer KC8ZLB  
and Andrew Glenn,  
KD8AGZ get ready to  
snag 'em at FD!*

## Field Day – The Propagation Gods Smiled

The 2006 version of Field Day took place on the weekend of June 24 and 25. The weather was perfect, the turnout pretty good, and the propagation was very good considering where we are at in the sunspot cycle.

This year's FD took place at our club station at the Emergency Operations Center at the 911 building near the airport. The rules allowed us to use existing antennas when working from an EOC. As always the folks at 911 were gracious and very accommodating.

We had a total of 26 individuals that made an appearance at this year's event. We put our new wire antenna to good use and it provided us with many contacts. We recently put up a new Alpha Delta DX-LB antenna for 160, 80, and 40 M. The antenna is only 100 ft. long so we had no problem fitting it into the space available. (Thanks to Bruce, WB8ZSK; Leo, KD8CYZ; and Larry, WB8R for erecting the new antenna) This antenna complements the tribander that has been the focal point of the club's antenna system.

The club's TS-480AT has a built in tuner that will match narrow slices of the 3 bands covered by the new wire antenna. We need to be able to go anywhere on those bands to give ourselves maximum communication flexibility in an emergency.

Please see *Field Day* on page 2

## NS8T Receives Commendation

Periodically the Michigan State Police honor an amateur radio operator for their service to their community and their dedication to the hobby. In 2005 the MSP District 5 honored our own Arnie Hayward, NS8T.

The original plan was for the Certificate of Appreciation to be presented to Arnie at a meeting of District 5 counties in 2005. Arnie had a schedule conflict that precluded his attending with Dave Smith (KC8ZFR) who is the Branch County Emergency Management Coordinator. Dave finally caught up with Arnie at our June meeting. Congratulations go to Arnie on this prestigious honor.



2006 Club ContactsPresident:Larry Camp, WB8R517-278-0406wb8r@arrl.netSec'y/Treasurer:Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI517-639-4390bhkubiak@cbpu.comBoard of Directors:Steve Williams, N8CTI517-369-7194shadowman405@charter.netArnie Hayward, N8ST517-278-8507ns8t@arrl.netBill Slade, WD8MGF517-238-2112nslade@cbpu.com

## Field Day

Continued from Page 1

When purchasing our new antenna we recognized the need for an external tuner in order to be able to cover all of 160, 80, and 40 meters. At the club's June meeting Steve Williams, N8CTI graciously donated a MFJ 969 Deluxe Versa Tuner II to the club station. Thank you, Steve for your generosity.

We made use of the club's HF rig and Paul, KG8WI set up another HF station in the training room (it gets noisy in the ham shack). Andrew, KD8AGZ was working to establish contact on Packet Radio, but was not able to hook up with anyone. We need different VHF antennas in order to get our Data Controller up and running.

Nancy Slade, KD8CYX had a ball working stations from around the country. I think she is hooked now and that means that husband Bill may have to share his TS-820 with her!

Now here are the statistics:

**Contacts:**

We made contact with 44 states. We were unable to hear or contact AK, HI, OR, ND, SD, and NM. We made contact with 5 Canadian Provinces and were able to contact a station in the Virgin Islands (KP2) and Costa Rica (TI8). We made a total of 348 contacts (289 SSB and 59 CW).

**Bands used:**

SSB: 6, 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters. No activity was heard on 160M.

CW: 10, 15, 20, 40, and 80 meters. As with SSB, no activity was heard on 160M.

As mentioned above, we had great turnout of both new hams and old-timers alike. We had a great time chatting about all things radio and any other subject that came to mind. All those involved were excited about a great Field Day and anxiously await next year's event. Thanks to all for their efforts.

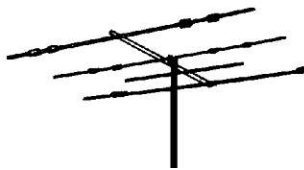


*Randy explains the finer points*



*Ray and Paul look on*





## DX on the Bands

### Montenegro is newest ARRL DXCC entity!

A new ARRL DXCC entity has come into being! As expected, the United Nations admitted the Republic of Montenegro as its 192nd member June 28, and that action automatically makes the tiny Balkan nation the 336th current DXCC entity.

"According to the ARRL DXCC List criteria, entities on the UN list of member-states qualify as political entities," said ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG. "Therefore, effective June 28, 2006 (UTC), ARRL has added The Republic of Montenegro to the DXCC List. Claims for DXCC credit will be accepted immediately."

Current Montenegrin radio amateurs reportedly may continue using their YU/YT/YZ/4O/4N-prefix call signs until the International Telecommunication Union designates a new call sign block for the new country.

In anticipation of Montenegro's new nation status, the International DX Festival Montenegro, with information on the web at, <http://www.yu6scg.cg.yu/international-dx-festival.html>, has been set for July 20 until August 12. That's when several international operators will join forces with Montenegrin Amateur Radio operators from at least three different stations using a common call sign in an effort to meet the DX community's need to work the newest DXCC Entity. Festival organizers have set the ambitious goal of 200,000 contacts for the event, which will use all HF bands.

Montenegro declared its independence on June 3 following a national referendum May 21.

**MONTENEGRO, YT.** YT6ML, Doc, was on 14197 kHz at 0600Z and then on 18138 kHz at 1030Z. YU6DZ, Rajko, showed up on 14018 kHz around 1600Z and then on 7012 kHz after 0230Z. YU6AO continues to show up on the HF bands.

**ANGOLA, D2.** Janne, D2DX, plans to return to Angola by the end of June. Look for him using CW, SSB and PSK31 on 80 through 10 meters. QSL via OH2BAD.

**MONTSERRAT, VP2M.** Graham, M0AEP, will be QRV as VP2MDD using SSB and CW on 80 through 6 meters until July 14. QSL via M OARP.

**MOZAMBIQUE, C9.** The team of Frosty, K5LBU/C91CF, Tom, WW5L/C91TA, Art, N4PJ/C91JR, and Tom, NQ7R/C91TK will be active using CW, SSB and RTTY/PSK on 160 through 6 meters until July 13.

### Club Notes

Jim Blackman, N8KNM recently underwent surgery and is reported to be home and doing well. We look forward to seeing Jim at a club meeting soon!

Jon Voss, K8SST has begun his new job at Hillsdale College. Jon works in the IT department as a Technical Support Specialist. Way to go, Jon!

Thanks go to Bill, WD8MGF for taking charge of running the Severe WX Nets!

### Hamfest Schedule

July 16 Van Wert, OH

Aug 5 Escanaba, MI

Aug 6 Angola, IN

Aug 12 Jackson, MI

Aug 12 Lima, OH

Sep 10 Findlay, OH

Sep 17 Adrian, MI

Sep 17 Owosso, MI

Oct 8 Kalamazoo

Oct 21 Holland, MI

*DX from page 3*

**SCOTLAND, GM.** The Five Bells Group with G1JZP, G0VTL, G1GSN and G4ODA will be QRV as GM4SIV from St. Kilda (EU-059) until July 8. QSL via G4SIV, bureau ok.

**TANZANIA, 5H.** Ralph, SMOLRK, has returned to Dar-es-Salaam. He will be QRV again as 5H3RK but the length of his stay is not known yet.

**VANUATU, YJ.** Tommy, VK2IR, will be QRV using SSB on 80 through 10 meters, signing YJ0IR until July 15. QSL via W3HMK.

**AFGHANISTAN, T6.** T66T has been worked on 14020 and 10120 kHz. QSL via OH6MKL.

**IRAQ, YI.** Carlos, N4THW, is in Iraq for the next four months on a military air base. He states that he has already applied for a YI license and is expected to be on the air soon. Carlos plans to be on 80 through 10 meters, including the newer bands.

**MACAU, XX.** During the IARU HF World Championship look for the Associacao dos Radioamadores de Macau (ARM) headquarters XX9A station from Macao SAR, China to be QRV. The team will operate four stations from Taipa Island (AS-075). QSL via XX9BB, KAM PO (SAVIO) LEONG, P.O. Box 6018, MACAU, MACAU

**SOUTH KOREA, HL.** Members of the Korean Amateur Radio League (KARL) will be operating their headquarters station HL0HQ this weekend in the IARU HF World Championship. Eight to ten stations will be QRV simultaneously on 160 through 10 meters on CW and SSB.

**SPAIN, EA.** Several members of URE, Las Palmas Section will be active from July 19 to 21 as ED8URL in commemoration of the 44th Anniversary of URE, Las Palmas Section, on all bands and modes. QSL via Bureau to EA8URL.

*Note: don't forget to join us at the club meeting at 7:00 pm on July 18 at the 911 Center. Carl, K9LA and Vicky, AE9YL will be our guests and will have a great program for us!*

## Exam Schedules

### 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

### Aug 19 and Sep 16

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