



# Branch Signals

An ARRL Affiliated Club since 1961



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*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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**Fox Hunt August 15,  
7:00 PM at the 911  
Center Parking Lot.**



*NS8T Showing off his  
new Fox Figurine*

## It's Fox Hunt Time Again!

August 15 is the date for our annual Collaborative Fox Hunt. A collaborative hunt means that the teams will work together to locate the hidden transmitter by coordinating via the repeater to share bearings, locations, ideas, theories and hunches.

Last year the hunters were unable to locate the transmit site, although they got close enough to be easily seen by the fox. This exercise is an extension of the individual team hunt that was held in May with the difference being that the individual team effort refines individual technique and the collaborative hunt puts lessons learned into practical use.

On the practical side, hidden transmitter hunt experience can be helpful if a local ham has an equipment problem that causes a radio to lock in transmit and effectively kills our repeater. (Yes, this has happened several times.) On a more serious note, malicious interference to our repeater or worse yet, interference to the 911 system or other public safety radio system can be located and appropriate steps taken to resolve the interference and potentially save lives.

Now is the time to get your equipment and team ready and plan to join us on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at the 911 Center.

## 2006 Technician Class Announcement

The BCARC is proud to announce our next Technician licensing class will be offered this fall. The classes will be held again on Saturday mornings at the 911 Center Training room and will be followed by a testing session that will be open to all prospective hams as well as those currently licensed that wish to upgrade their licenses. All license class tests will be offered by the BCARC VE Team.

This schedule is a change from our previous classes that have been held during the winter/spring months. Another change this year will be class length.

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*Nifty Fox! Thanks to  
Nancy, KD8CYX*



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*WB8ZSK ready for Visitors!*



*Youngsters try out Morse Code*

## Tech Class

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In an effort to get the class completed in less time, the classes will run from 9:00 AM to noon for six consecutive weeks.

The class schedule is as follows:

- Sep. 9            10:00 AM-Noon Organizational Meeting at 911 Center
- Sep. 18          Order books for class (New textbook, \$25.00)
- Sep. 25          Distribute books and first assignment
- Sep. 30          First Class
- Nov. 4            Last Class
- Nov. 11          Testing Session

By utilizing this new schedule of 3 hour classes, we can compress the class to six weeks which should allow us to zoom from zero to hams in 8 weeks instead of the normal 10 or 11.

If you know anyone who might be interested in becoming a ham, please get the information to them and encourage them to join the class.

More information and publicity will be coming soon.

## Applefest/Amateur Radio Awareness Day

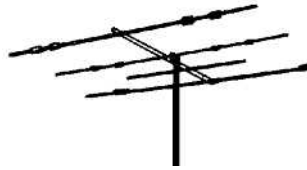
The 2006 Amateur Radio Awareness Day which coincides with the annual Coldwater Applefest will be held on September 16 in downtown Coldwater.

In 2005, we set up our booth in front of the old Kerr Building where we would have access to the roof and a place to mount our 40M dipole. The antenna worked quite well and we made contacts throughout the day. We had show and tell equipment in addition to HF and VHF/UHF gear in operation. Of course a code oscillator was a great attention getter and the young people seemed really drawn to it.

We plan a similar operation again this year and would like to invite all amateurs and other interested parties to stop by and say hello. If you have some time to spend with us greeting the public and sharing your experiences that would be most welcome.

We will make a major push to recruit students for our upcoming licensing class and hope to create significant interest in the class and ham radio.

## DX on the Bands



### Swain's Island, KH8, added to ARRL DXCC List

With the addition of Section II, Criteria Rule 1c) to the Political Entity criteria, certain former separation entities may now qualify as Political Entities. One such entity has been determined to be American Samoa. American Samoa is now a Political Entity for DXCC purposes.

As a result of the reclassification of American Samoa, and upon the filing of a request and substantiating evidence, and with the concurrence of the DXAC and the Awards Committee, Swain's Island has been added to the DXCC List.

Swain's Island, entity number 337, qualifies as the first separation entity from American Samoa, now a Political Entity. The distance between American Samoa and Swain's Island has been determined to be in excess of 350 km as required by DXCC Rules Section II, Paragraph 2, Section b). QSOs made with Swain's Island on or after 0001z, July 22, 2006 will count for DXCC credit. The prefix is KH8.

For additional information, including the DXCC Reference Number for Swain's Island, contact Bill Moore at the DXCC Desk at [dxcc@arrl.org](mailto:dxcc@arrl.org).

#### **SAMOA, 5W.**

Operators KT8X, K8AQM, N8CC and JF3MYU are QRV as 5W0DW, 5W0TR, 5W0JB and 5W0KI, respectively, until August 10. They may be active as 5W0XX in the IOTA contest. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW, SSB and RTTY. QSL 5W0KI and 5W0XX via JF3MYU and all others via KT8X.

#### **PHILIPPINES, DU.**

Peter, DK2PR is QRV holiday style as DU9/DK2PR from Mindanao Island, IOTA OC-130, until August 15. He may also try a side trip to islands in the IOTA OC-235 group.

#### **ST. PIERRE AND MIQUELON, FP.**

Paul, K9OT and Peg, KB9LIE are QRV as FP/homecalls until August 6 from Miquelon Island, IOTA NA-032. Activity is on 80 to 6 meters using CW and SSB. This includes an entry in the IOTA contest and the upcoming NA CW QSO Party. QSL to home calls.

### Club Notes

Carl, K9LA and Vicky, AE9YL visited our club in August and Carl presented a great program comparing ham radio in 1926 with the current version. Carl and Vicky are good friends of our club and we all appreciate their willingness to share their time with us.



*Carl Setting up for the show*

### Hamfest Schedule

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, MI

Oct 21 Holland, MI

*DX* from page 3

### SCOTLAND, GM.

Steve, MM1ERS and Colin, GM3VCQ are QRV from Arran Island, IOTA EU-123, until August 1. They will be active as MM3M in the IOTA contest. QSL via G4FAL.

### WALES, GW.

Several members of the North Wakefield ARC are QRV as GB4CI from Caldey Island, IOTA EU-124, until July 31. They will be active as GW5X in the IOTA contest. QSL both calls via M3ZYZ.

### THAILAND, HS.

Dej, E21YDP and Champ, E21EIC will be QRV from Si Chang Island, IOTA AS-107, during IOTA Contest. They are active as E21YDP/p on RTTY and E21EIC/p on CW and SSB. QSL E21YDP to his home call. Japanese stations QSL E21EIC via JR5XPG. All others via E21EIC.

### DENMARK, OZ.

Ole, OZ2TF, Jan, OZ5JR, Klaus, OZ7KDJ and Erik, OZ9V are QRV as OZ8MW/p from Anholt Island, IOTA EU-088, until August 1. This includes an entry in the IOTA contest. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL via operators' instructions.

### SWEDEN, SM.

Holger, KD8KW is QRV as 7S7S/6 from Kopmannebro and 7S7S from Gunnebo during the first part of August. QSL via operator's instructions.

### GREECE, SV.

George, SV8GXC and Marcel, PA9M will be QRV as SV8GXC and SV8/PA9M/p, respectively, from Chios Island, IOTA EU-049, from July 29 to August 10. Activity will be on 160 to 6 meters using CW, SSB, RTTY and PSK31. QSL via SV8GXC.

### DODECANESE, SV5.

Dov, 4Z4DX will be QRV as SX5P during the IOTA contest. QSL to home call.

### TURKEY, TA.

Berkin, TA3J will be QRV as TA3J/0 from Antalya-Sican Adasi, IOTA AS-115, during the IOTA contest. QSL direct via TA3YJ.

### UKRAINE, UR.

A number of Ukraine operators will be QRV as EM5F from Ankudinov Island, IOTA EU-182, in the IOTA contest.

## Exam Schedules

### 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

### Oct 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

### Oct 21

**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

### Oct 21

**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