



Branch Signals

An ARRL Affiliated Club since 1961



November, 2006
Volume 5 Issue 11

*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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First of Two Testing Sessions Nets 3 New Hams

To accommodate student schedules, the BCARC Volunteer Examiner team conducted a special testing session on November 4. Three of our students chose to take their chances by testing early. We are delighted to announce that Bob Neer, Dennis Van Winkle and Bob Morford all successfully passed their Technician tests.

Our regularly scheduled VE Exam session will take place on November 11 at 10:00 am in the basement training room of the Branch County 911 Center on Chicago Rd. Walk-ins are welcome and we will test for all license classes and CW.

We hope to add a few more locals to the new ham list on the 11th.



Happy Thanksgiving to all from the Officers & members of the BCARC

Bob Neer congratulated by WB8R. Bob is the son in law of the late Bud Sissem, K8TZI, for whom our club station is named. (Left Photo)

Nov 4 BCARC VE Team: W8SST, WB8ZSK, NS8T and WB8R (Right Photo)



Dennis Van Winkle gets his congratulatory handshake from BCARC President WB8R. (Left Photo)

Bob Morford congratulated by BCARC President WB8R. (Right Photo)



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*Remember to
Vote November 7*

Boy Scouts hold Jamboree on the Air

On the weekend of September 21 and 22, the Boy Scouts from the surrounding counties came together at Tip-Up Island in Quincy for their annual fall Jamboree. Part of this event was the 'Jamboree on the Air', an event to encourage Scouts across the world to discover the fun of amateur radio.

The weather was not cooperative for much of the weekend, but Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK, Randy Kruger, KI8BM, and Jan Hayden, KD8CYW braved the weather on Saturday to set up antennas and installed a HF and VHF station in the pavilion building on Tip-Up Island. They were able to put many scouts on the air to talk with other scouts across the country. Jan is one of the troop's Scout Masters.

Many thanks to Jan for inviting us to attend and for helping out and special thanks to Bruce and Randy for setting up the station so that the scouts could get on the air. The scouts had a great time and were exposed to amateur radio and I know that Bruce and Randy had a good time meeting all the scouts.

INDIANA-MICHIGAN-OHIO SKYWARN AND
THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OF NORTHERN INDIANA

Advanced Weather Spotter Training 2007

Join **Chris Novy WA9V**, **Todd Holsten WX9TOD** and **Jeff Trapp Ph.D.** on Saturday, March 10, 2007 to learn even more about how to safely spot dangerous weather events just in time for the 2007 spring storm season. Those who attended our 2003 IMO SKYWARN advanced training session will remember Chris Novy, whose lively presentation will definitely get everybody ready for the spotting season.

In addition to the headline speakers, we will be treated to an afternoon panel discussion with area meteorologists followed by some amazing door prizes.

Lunch and snacks are included. Certificates will be awarded. Register TODAY!

Saturday, March 10, 2007 — 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. EST

Registration begins at 7 a.m.

Elkhart Central High School, 1 Blazer Boulevard, Elkhart, IN

Fees: \$25 until February 15, 2007

\$30 after February 15, 2007

**Radar 201 —
Continue your
learning with
Todd Holsten!**

Register online at www.imoskywarn.org



NEWINGTON, CT, Oct 31, 2006 -- When Russian flight controllers encountered difficulties during a recent International Space Station cargo rocket docking, NASA called on a special -- although little-known -- Amateur Radio team to stand by if needed. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) Ops Team "ISS Ham Contingency Network" volunteers around the world immediately swung into action. Within 15 minutes of receiving the call from Johnson Space Center, Kenneth Ransom, N5VHO, reported the ISS Ham Contingency Network was ready to provide any necessary communication support.

"The ARISS teamwork was very effective," ARISS Secretary-Treasurer Rosalie White, K1STO said. "Its members learned a great deal, and they impressed NASA with how quickly the system was brought up."

During the October 26 Progress docking, NASA says, Russian flight controllers were unable to confirm whether an automated antenna on the rocket had retracted as commanded. If still extended, the antenna could interfere with the final latching of the supply ship to the ISS. To avoid disturbing the softly docked cargo ship and to aid the crew with docking maneuvers, the ISS orientation was allowed to drift freely.

During free-drift mode, however, the Tracking and Data Relay Satellite System (TDRSS) -- which handles communication between the crew and Mission Control in Houston -- can be lost. That's because the station's solar arrays may not directly face the sun, causing a drop in onboard power.

Awakened at 2 AM, ARISS Australian team member Tony Hutchison, VK5ZAI, put out a blind call on VHF to the ISS crew, although no answer was needed at that point. Others available to cover later passes included Gerald Klatzko, ZS6BTD, in South Africa; Gaston Bertels, ON4WF, at ON4ISS in Belgium; Dick Flagg, AH6NM, and Nancy Rocheleau, WH6PN, at Sacred Hearts Academy in Honolulu; and Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, and Mark Steiner, K3MS, at the Goddard Space Flight Center's WA3NAN. Each of these Earth stations has a track record of being able to sustain reliable communication with the ISS.

The call-up marked the first time that NASA had asked for such Amateur Radio assistance since the initial crew came aboard the ISS in November 2000. Ransom says that by remaining available to ensure solid communication while Mission Control staff dealt with the docking issue, the ISS Ham Contingency Network provided Mission Control with an additional layer of security.

Once the antenna retraction problem had been resolved, the contingency network was able to stand down, ARISS said, but NASA's request and the ensuing ham radio activity did serve as a valuable drill.

NASA says Expedition 14 Commander Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and flight engineers Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, and Thomas Reiter, DF4TR, opened the hatch to the supply ship last Friday to unload supplies. The Progress carried food, fuel, oxygen and air, clothing, experiment hardware and spare parts, as well as personal items from the crew's families. The new Progress joins the Progress 22 supply ship that arrived at the ISS in June. (Reprinted with permission from www.arri.org)

Exam Schedules

Nov 11

Sponsor: Branch County ARC
Time: 10:00AM (Walk-ins ok)
Contact: Larry Camp
 (517)278-0406
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Branch County 911 Center
 141 E. Chicago Rd
 Coldwater, Mi 49036

Nov 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

Nov 18

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

Dec 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

Dec 16

Sponsor: Cascades ARS
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2006 A5

Tekonsha names its Students of the Month

TEKONSHA — Tekonsha Community Schools is pleased to announce its Students of the Month for October.

Andrew Glenn is a senior. He is the son of Kristin Glenn and the grandson of Mary Eberts, both of Tekonsha. Andrew's favorite class is Eard. He says that it wakes him up very quickly in the mornings. Andrew is treasurer of the student council, runs cross country, and in his free time likes to listen to music and read books.

Adam Inman is a sophomore. He is the son of York and Julie Inman of Tekonsha. His grandparents are Howard and Diane Randall of Marshall. Adam's favorite class is U.S. history because it's exciting and so is the teacher Mrs. Fitzpatrick. Adam enjoys the outdoors very much; he likes to hunt, trap and fish. In his free time you can probably find him watching TV or maybe taking a nap. Adam also likes to play basketball.

Cassidie Fischer is in the sixth grade. She is the daughter of the late Kimberly (Howard) Fischer

and William Fischer. Her grandparents are Robert and



Andrew Glenn



Adam Inman



Cassidie Fischer

Madeline Howard of Ceresco. Cassidie likes to play basketball, soccer, enjoys reading books, drawing, writing stories and playing on the computer. Her favorite class is social studies because she enjoys learning about the past.

Teachers recognize students each month for academic improvement, citizenship, concern for others, school spirit and cooperation.

Andrew Glenn, KD8AGZ Named Student of the Month at Tekonsha Schools

Hamfest Schedule

Nov 18/19 Ft. Wayne

Dec 16 Lowell MI

Feb 24 Laporte, IN



Mike, KC8PMG, dressed in Bangladesh native garb, tells the BCARC about his pastoral trip to Bangladesh. A great program!