

AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB
SINCE 1961



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 9

SEPTEMBER 2007



BRANCH SIGNALS

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BRANCH COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

Club Repeaters: 147.300 + 100 Hz 443.300 + 123 Hz

Wanted To Buy!

Any of the following crystals to fit a Regency ACT-10 model scanner manufactured in 1974.



Contact Andrew, KD8AGZ, at aglenn_151@yahoo.com if you can help.

Latest Crop of Club Liars Left Cold

TWITE TRUMPS TRICKSTER TRIO!



The Liars

YOUR CLUB OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Voss, W8SST
517-278-4636
wvoss@charter.net

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI
517-639-4390
banjonut@yahoo.com

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Arnie Hayward, NS8T
517-278-8507
ns8t@arrl.net

Bill Slade, WD8MGF
517-238-2112
ns1ade@cbpu.com

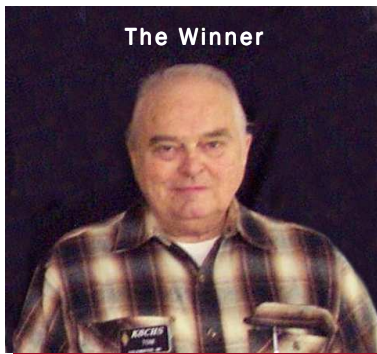
Larry Camp, WB8R
517-278-0406
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EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

Larry Camp, WB8R
517-278-0406
wb8r@arrl.net

It appears that there really is something to be said for experience. The annual Liars Club panel was unable to fool Tom Twite, K8CHS, concerning the identity of 5 of the 7 mystery items presented at the August 21st club meeting. While we don't want to go so far as to call Tom 'old' he did happen to be the most senior member present. Most of the 23 members and guests attending were able to discern

answers, but it was Tom who took home the fifteen dollar prize. The contest is named show which featured a to convince the contestants items described the real always told the truth about 'liars' this year were well previous panels. In the



The Winner

two or three of the correct answers, but it was Tom who took home the fifteen dollar prize for the popular 80's television panel of 'liars' who would try that their descriptions of various identity. One of the panelists the item in question. All of the seasoned, having served on photo above are (l to r) Arnie Hayward, NS8T; Bill Kubiak, KB8VWI and Randy Kruger, KI8BM. When the BCARC version of the Liars Club was first envisioned it was imagined that items which were associated with or which looked like they might be associated with amateur radio would be used. However, after several years it became more and more difficult to come up with suitable items. Consequently, in recent years it was decided to use anything which might be easily fibbed about. Judging from the reaction of those in attendance at the August meeting, it doesn't matter what the items are so long as we continue to have talented liars on the panel — and we certainly did this time!

Flashback Photo



2002

Can you name the two hams standing in front of their decked out storm chase vehicle? This photo was taken at the July 2002 club meeting.

34Years Ago This Month - September 1973

Dues of 50 cents per month were approved at the August meeting. The program was a NASA film, The Flight of Apollo 17. Dues to join the ARRL were at \$7.50 per year. Locals attending the Findlay Hamfest were; Don, WB8DMB; Amos, WA8LGO; John, WB8DFK; Jerry, W8PCB; George, WB8FBC; Walt, K8TIY and Dale, WB9FHD. The September meeting was to be held at Girard School.

30 Years Ago This Month - July 1977

The BCARC met on September 8, 1977 in the mall of the Branch Area Careers Center. The film, "Though the Earth Be Moved" a documentary of the 1964 Alaskan earthquake, was shown. Alice Conrad, Walt Gage and Bob Machan had just upgraded to General and Jim Conrad achieved his Extra Class license. Tickets for the Adrian Hamfest were \$1.50 in advance and \$2 at the door.



Answer to last month's question: Shown in this photo from 1982 are (clockwise from bottom left): Muirl Robinson, W8QK; Tom Lenon, K8XE; standing in dark blue—Jim Shaw, N8NG; in light blue—Phil Sattler, W8ARM; seated in plaid—Amos Fleming, WA8LGO and Jim Conrad, W8MQ. How did you do?

GOT DX?

ISLE OF MAN, GD. Bob, MDOCCE has been active on the 14247 kHz net around 2015z.

NAMIBIA, V5. Alfons, DJ8VC is QRV as V5/DJ8VC until September 8. Activity is on 160 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. He plans to be active as V55V/p in the upcoming IARU Region 1 Field Day contest and upcoming WAS SSB contest. QSL these two operations direct.

SARDINIA, ISO. Flaviano, I2MOV is QRV as ISO/I2MOV from Dolianova, IOTA EU-024, until November. Activity is on 40 to 6 meters using mostly CW. QSL to home call.

IRELAND, EI. In celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, special event station EI75IRTS will be QRV on August 26, September 2 and 9. QSL via bureau.

NEPAL, 9N. Stig, LA7JO is QRV as 9N7JO and has been active on 20 meters CW around 0230z and 1430z. QSL direct via his Thailand address.

FIJI, 3D2. Tomas, LY1F will be QRV as 3D2MT from August 28 to September 4. Activity is on 80 to 10 meters using mainly CW. He plans to be an entry in the upcoming All Asian contest. QSL via VK2CCC.

Thanks to the ARRL DX news.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Saturday, September 8th

Grand Rapids Area Hamfest
 Kent County Fairgrounds
 Lowell, MI
<http://www.grhamfest.org>

Sunday, September 16th

Adrian Hamfest
 Lenawee County Fairgrounds
 Adrian, MI
<http://www.w8tqe.com>

Sunday, September 16th

Shiawassee Hamfest/Trunk Sale
 Bennington Township Hall
 Owosso, MI
 Email: wb8gus@arrl.net

IS ONE OF THESE HATS YOURS?



If you see your callsign on one of these beautiful hats then we have a deal for you! We need to clear these babies out, so please make arrangements to be at the next club meeting to pick your hat up and pay the piper. The price is \$2 per hat plus \$1 per letter in your callsign. Don't get caught without one!

HAVE A RESERVED SEAT AT EVERY MEETING



I sure hope somebody else wants to sit in this seat next year. I'm always the last guy to get to the coffee and cookies and there's nothing left but those awful lemon cookies. If you're interested in running for an office please contact me at 278-4636.

VE TEST SESSIONS

Saturday, 8 Sept-2007

Sponsor: ARROW COMMUNICATIONS ASSOC
Time: 9:00 AM (No walk-ins)
Contact: CLAYBOURNE MITCHELL
 (734)662-6663
VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)
Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS BUILDING
 4624 PACKARD ST
 CANDIDATES MUST PRE-REGISTER
 OR CALL ROGER @ 734-663-4625
 PITTSFIELD TOWNSHIP, MI 48108

Saturday, 8 Sept-2007

Sponsor: CENTRAL MICHIGAN ARC
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOSEPH H. DENOMME
 (517)589-5263
Email: N8VYS@voyager.net
VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)
Location: AMERICAN RED CROSS
 1800 E. GRAND RIVER AVE
 CROPSCHOT ROOM
 LANSING, MI 48912

Sunday, 16 Sept-2007

Sponsor: CORUNNA VE TEAM TRUNK SWAP
Time: 11:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: THOMAS E. CARPENTER
 (517)579-0599
Email: K18AS@CHARTER.NET
VEC: [ARRL/VEC](#)
Location: BENNINGTON TOWNSHIP HALL
 OWOSSO, MI 48841

Thanks to ARRL.org

If there is an emergency, does your family have a plan?

September is **National Preparedness Month!**

To learn more about how you and your family can prepare for emergencies or get involved visit: www.ready.gov or www.citizen Corps.gov

APPLEFEST APPROACHES!



Wanna help? Saturday, September 15th. Contact Jim at 278-4636 or w8sst@arrl.net

PAY YOUR ARRL DUES EASILY

Joining and rejoining ARRL now take just a few clicks on the Internet. If one goes to <http://www.arrl.org/join.html> new or renewed memberships take only five minutes. There is even real-time credit card processing and verification. Your card information is kept by a bank. If you pay using the ARRL Visa card, you will not only pay your dues, but US Bank will also kick a small percent of the amount of your dues to ARRL. It's a true win-win situation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Max Benjamin, WB8RYR, long time supporter of the BCARC, celebrated his 102nd birthday on July 30th. While Max has been inactive as of late, he was a fixture on our VHF net for many years.

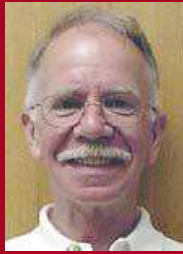


NEW EMCOMM DIRECTOR



Dennis Dura, K2DCD, is on board as the first ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager. Dura's major responsibilities include addressing the development and implementation of an organizational disaster response plan as well as a continuity operations plan, complete with supporting procedures and training. Integral to these plans are the recommendations of the National Emergency Response Planning Committee (NERPC) report. Dennis brings considerable professional experience in emergency, disaster and support communication with government and private agencies to this new post. You will be able to get a good look into Mr. Dura's plans for ARRL and ARES at the Great Lakes Division Convention in Cleveland. He will lead the EmComm seminar on September 22nd. See www.2007glc.com/ for information on the Convention.

Next Club Meeting - Tuesday, September 18th



September will bring a visit from our Section Emergency Coordinator, Dale Williams, WA8EFK. We can always count on Dale to bring us up to speed on the latest developments in the Section and leave us with a challenge of some kind. Don't miss it!

BRANCH COUNTY A.R.C.

Meeting Every Third Tuesday
 Branch County Communications Center
 At The Branch County Airport
 7:00 P.M.



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

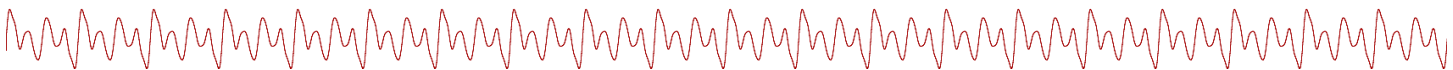
WWW.BRANCHCOUNTYARC.COM

Thanks & a tip of the hat!



Our topper tips to a trio of ladies this month. The three are daughters of Bud Sissem, K8TZI, whose name graces the BCARC Club Station. In gratitude for our naming the station after their father they gave a gracious donation of \$100 to the club recently in addition to the equipment they initially gave to help outfit the station. Thanks to Beverly, Kathy and Gayle!!

**JOIN US ON THE WEEKLY TWO METER NET
 TUESDAY - 7:00 P.M. - 147.300 - ALL WELCOME!**



ARMAD



HAM IT UP FOR THE TROOPS

VISIT WWW.ARMAD.NET FOR DETAILS

**NOTES FROM
 THE PRESIDENT**

OK, here's my pitch. We're approaching the end of another year and the call has been sounded for volunteers who would be willing to serve on the nominating committee. From reactions that I've seen over the years, this must be somewhat akin to being exposed to the plague or hemorrhagic fever. Of course, there are those who might eventually volunteer thinking that they would, in that way, be safe from being asked to run for an office. To a certain extent that is true, but not in all cases. So let's be blunt about this. You don't have to be called by the nominating committee to run for office. Your phone can place calls as well as receive them! It's time for some new (excuse the expression) blood in the chairs and you're the one to do it. Pick up the phone tonight and give me a call. Almost every one of us who now hold or have held a position in the club

started out knowing very little about what we were about to do! You can be assured that those who have had the job previously are ready and willing to assist in any way possible. That's the way this thing works—friends helping friends. Heck, we may have even made a mistake along the way. How else is it that you get experience anyway? Fortunately, any mistakes one might make in this undertaking are guaranteed to be non-earth shaking and more than likely will go unnoticed. There's the challenge then - let's see who will step up to the plate. As a great man once said, "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself!". Call me if you would like to volunteer for the nominating committee or, better yet, throw your name in the ring for President, Secretary/Treasurer or Board Member. I can guarantee you this - you won't ever be sorry you did.

Jim Voss, W8SST



Coordinator's Corner



Well, we thought that things had settled down a bit with the severe weather as we moved ever-closer to fall, but Mother Nature reminded us who is in charge.

After a period of inactivity, we got slammed two days in a row on the 23 and 24th of August. Once again, we were extremely fortunate in that damage in Branch County was minimal, but several communities near Lansing and elsewhere in the state were not so fortunate.

One of the strong points of our ARES/RACES group is that our dedicated personnel are always on the watch for pending severe weather and are usually out ahead of the curve and in position before the weather arrives in our county. This lead time is invaluable in that we are able to get set up in position and ready when the proverbial "stuff" hits the fan.

This advance preparation is a direct result of our personnel paying attention to the weather and having their jump kits ready to go at a moment's notice. We are able to get people into the field early enough to provide valuable information to both NWS and to the 911 Center before they hear it from other sources.

Our people are our greatest resource and we are very appreciative of those that have taken the time and effort to become highly trained and disciplined.

We have a major exercise coming up in early October. This exercise is the annual ARRL *Simulated Emergency Test* otherwise known as the "SET". We have not yet been given the scenario, but we should have it soon. While we cannot divulge the scenario because that would take the element of surprise out of the exercise, we will be able to get us all ready for most every situation that we are likely to face. The whole purpose of the exercise is to find out where our strengths are and more importantly, where our weaknesses are. It is a pretty sure bet that we will be delivering information to our Served Agencies and retrieving information from them. Various forms of written information will be moved around the county and around the state via various modes during this exercise.

Even as boring as it sounds, it is a fun test of not only our group's systems and abilities, but a test of our own individual capabilities. We all need to remember that exercises are the place to find our shortcomings, not during the real thing.

We will be setting up a training session to get us all prepared for the SET, so watch for the training announcement. We will also be talking about getting prepared for the storms of winter which will be here much sooner than we all care to think about.

If you have questions, suggestions, or ideas how we might improve our ability to prepare for and respond to emergencies, please feel free to contact me or any of my assistants.

Larry Camp, WB8R

wb8r@arrl.net

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST

OCTOBER 6 - 7, 2007