

AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB
SINCE 1961



VOLUME 6, ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2007



BRANCH SIGNALS

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

Club Repeaters: 147.300 + 100 Hz 443.300 + 123 Hz

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Efforts of Local Amateurs Pay Off

WALBERG COSPONSORS HR 264



Michigan's 7th District Representative, Tim Walberg, has signed on as a co-sponsor to House Resolution 462, known as the The Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007. H.R. 462 would request a study by the Federal Communications Commission of the interference caused by broadband internet transmission over power lines. Congressman Walberg joins District 1 Representative, Bart Stupak, and at least 8 others in co-sponsoring the bill authored by Representative Mike Ross.

HR 462

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 12, 2007

Mr. ROSS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To request a study by the Federal Communications Commission on the interference caused by broadband internet transmission over power lines.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the `Emergency Amateur Radio Interference Protection Act of 2007'.

SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE BPL SERVICE STUDY LEADING TO IMPROVED RULES TO PREVENT INTERFERENCE.

(a) Authority- Within 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall conduct, and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, a report on a study of the interference potential of systems for the transmission of broadband Internet services over power lines (in this Act referred to as `BPL service').

(b) Required Subjects of Study- The study required by this section shall examine the following:

- (1) The variation of field strength of BPL service signals with distance from overhead power lines, and a technical justification for the use of any particular distance extrapolation factor.
- (2) The depth of adaptive, or `notch', filtering for attenuating normally permitted BPL service radiated emission levels that would be necessary and sufficient to protect the reliability of mobile radio communications.
- (3) A technical justification for the permitted, radiated emission levels of BPL signals relative to ambient levels of man-made noise from other sources.
- (4) Options for new or improved rules related to the transmission of BPL service that, if implemented, may prevent harmful interference to public safety and other radio communications systems.

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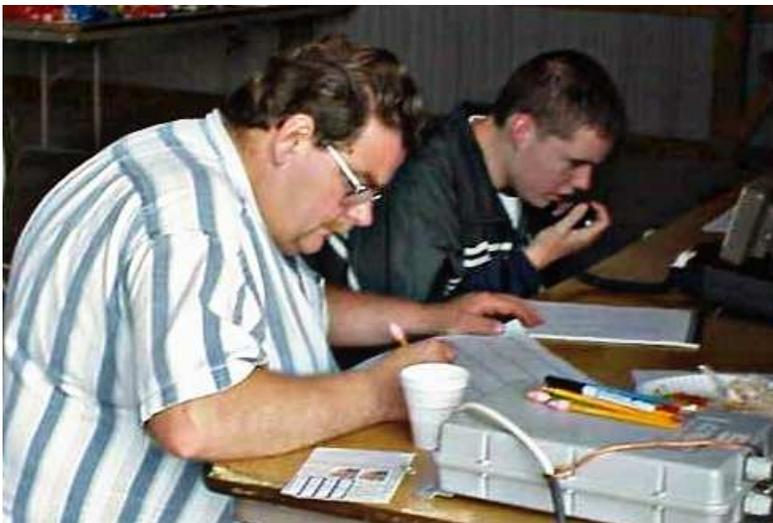
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Flashback Photo



Can you name this duo shown working the SSB rig during the 2001 Field Day operation at the Branch County Fairgrounds?

30 Years Ago This Month - October 1977

We are fortunate in having Mr. Richard Egbert, W8ETU, Great Lakes Division Director of ARRL, as guest speaker for the October meeting. Hams from Hillsdale, Calhoun and Steuben (Indiana) counties have been invited to attend this meeting and we anticipate a fine audience for Mr. Egbert. In addition to his prepared remarks, Mr. Egbert will answer questions from the floor.

The Coldwater repeater went on the air for tests on Friday, October 28 on the frequencies of 147.900–147.300 Mhz. Final installation is awaiting the construction of the cavity filters which are being built by WA8LGO and K8AXN. Walter Gage has made a generous contribution to the Repeater fund.

Warren Unterkircher has a new call to go with his extra-class license, W8WU. He also has a new rig, Kenwood TS820S. WOW!

We welcome two new members: Dennis Jaques, WD8OUO and Jim Gallagher, W9LSY.



Answer to last month's question: Shown in this photo from 2002 are Angola hams, Fred Kissinger, KC9BEV, and Judy Eaton, KC9BEU, in front of their amply equipped chase vehicle.

GOT DX?

TUNISIA, 3V. Dimitri, RW4WM will be QRV as 3V8SS from October 2 to 8. Activity will be mainly on the low ends of 30, 17 and 12 meters using mostly CW with some RTTY. QSL this operation via RW4WM.

MALAWI, 7Q. Ely, IN3VZE will be QRV as 7Q7CE from southwest of Lake Malawi from October 4 to 25. Activity will be on all bands using SSB and especially RTTY. QSL to home call.

BAHRAIN, A9. John, GM6TVR is QRV as A92HB. QSL via operator's instructions.

CHINA, BY Operators BY1TX/4 and BY1TT/4 will be QRV from Chang Dao, IOTA AS-146, from October 1 to 6. QSL BY1TX/4 via EA7FTR and BY1TT/4 via BY1TT.

BALEARIC ISLANDS, EA6. Javi, LU5FF is QRV as EA6/LU5FF from Can Picafort, IOTA EU-004, until November 16. Activity is on 30 to 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to home call.

TEMOTU PROVINCE, H40. Mike, KM9D and Jan, KF4TUG will soon be QRV as H40MY from Tikopia Island, IOTA OC-178. Their length of stay and activity are unknown.

TAJIKISTAN, EY. Nodir, EY8MM has been QRV using RTTY on 20 meters around 1230z. QSL via K1BV.

Thanks to the ARRL DX news.

HAMFEST CALENDAR

Sunday, October 14th

Kalamazoo ARC Hamfest
Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds
Kalamazoo, MI
<http://www.kalamazoohamfest.com>

Saturday, October 20th

The Great Lakeshore Super Swap
West Ottawa South Campus
Holland, MI
<http://www.hollandarc.org>

Sunday, October 28th

U.S.E.C.A. Swap
Polish-American Century Club
Sterling Heights, MI
<http://useca.rfc791.org>

NWS LOWER GREAT LAKES GOLF OUTING



The 5th Annual National Weather Service Lower Great Lakes Golf Outing promoting national preparedness will be Friday, October 12th, 2007, 11 am, at Walnut Creek Golf Course, Upland Indiana (near Gas City). This unique 18 hole golf scramble will help raise public awareness about emergency preparedness and planning while raising money for a worthy cause, the local Red Cross. Prizes and awards will be available for the winning team and individuals.

National Weather Service meteorologists will be on hand to answer your questions about preparedness and general weather information. Brochures and posters will also be available for anyone wanting more information. You don't have to play golf to come out to Walnut Creek and pick up information or talk with a meteorologist.

Trophies will be awarded to the first place team. Proximity prizes will be awarded to those winning longest drive, closest to the pin, etc. Men and women are all welcome!

A donation will be made to the local Indiana Red Cross chapter from proceeds of this outing. Teams of 4 are preferred but individual entries are welcome and will be combined into teams. Fees will be collected at the golf course on the day of the event but pre-registration is required.

For additional information or to sign up, contact Sam Lashley at sam.lashley@noaa.gov, or 574-834-1104.

When: Friday October 12th, 2007 - 11 am EDT.
Where: Walnut Creek Golf Course, Upland, Indiana (near Gas City) 40 minutes south of Fort Wayne on I-69
Cost: \$21 for Green Fees and Cart. \$10 Entry Fee. Payable at the Course on day of event.
Deadline: Pre-registration is required and the deadline is Monday, October 8th, 2007

VE TEST SESSIONS

Saturday, 13 October-2007

Sponsor: EATON COUNTY ARC
Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOHN A. DEWEY
(517)543-0398
Email: DETTA@IA4U.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EATON CTY. SHERIFFS DEPT. EOC
1250 INDEPENDENCE BLVD
CHARLOTTE, MI 48813

Saturday, 20 October-2007

Sponsor: CASCADES ARS
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: RICHARD H. MC GUIRE
(517)782-1430
VEC: W5YI.VEC
Location: JACKSON DISTRICT LIBRARY
244 WEST MICHIGAN
DOWNSTAIRS AUDITORIUM
JACKSON, MI 49204

Saturday, 3 November-2007

Sponsor: BRANCH COUNTY A.R.C.
Time: 10:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JIM VOSS
(517)278-4636
Email: W8SST@ARRL.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: BRANCH CO. 911 CENTER
141 EAST CHICAGO ROAD
BASEMENT TRAINING ROOM
COLDWATER, MI, 49036

Thanks to ARRL.org

HAMS HELP NAB BURGLARS

Some hams in Florida got an earful when they heard what turned out to be teenagers planning various robberies over the Jupiter Farms 444.400 MHz CERT repeater. On September 8, Al Moreschi, AG4BV, of Jupiter, and John Levey, KI4HTL, a retired police officer, of Palm Beach Gardens, overheard, according to Moreschi, "what sounded like men talking about committing a burglary and we were monitoring them on one of the local ham repeaters." Moreschi said he and his fellow hams notified local law enforcement agencies of the break-in, but the alleged thieves "didn't describe the house well enough to get the exact address." The amateurs kept listening for the vandals to show up again on the repeater. On September 21, they were in luck. This time the hams were ready and had set up recording devices to capture the break-in as it transpired. Moreschi said he and his fellow hams recognized the voices and started recording; they also called the police. The last transmission heard over the air by the suspects was, "Code Red, Code Red, Code Red. There are cops everywhere, dude!" Three suspects were captured and arrested: one at the scene, one who was walking down a nearby road and one at a local grocery store. An official with the local sheriff's office said that the suspects were charged with burglary for the two break-ins; the three are suspects in other local robberies, as well. The tapes made by the hams are in the custody of the sheriff. Moreschi said that the suspects might also be facing charges from the Federal Communications Commission for operating without an amateur license.

"We don't know how these kids got hold of the ham radios. Their transmissions came right over the CERT repeater, and that has a special tone and you have to have a special tone to key it up," Moreschi said.

(Thanks to The ARRL Letter)



GET READY FOR JOTA!



Jamboree on the Air will celebrate its 50th year this year when it gets on the air October 19-21. Normally a 48 hour event, this year's JOTA will be 50 hours long in recognition of the anniversary. The fun begins at 2200 (local time) October 19 and ends at midnight (local time) October 21.

An on-the-air operating event sponsored by the World Scout Bureau, JOTA was founded in 1958 by Les Mitchell, G3BHK. It has grown to become the largest international Scout event. More than half a million Scouts and Guides in more than 100 countries participate in JOTA, involving as many as 10,000 Amateur Radio stations.

The event relies on the Amateur Radio community and local hams for its success. Getting Boy and Girl Scouts (including Cubs and Brownies) on the air to talk with other Scouts around the world provides a great opportunity to expose youth to Amateur Radio. Some troops and clubs team up to make a big splash with lots of activities, radios and antennas, offering a variety of modes to experience. For others, JOTA provides an opportunity to coach a smaller group of Scouts and to just have fun talking on the radio. Scouts usually enjoy communicating by speaking into a microphone, but some radio amateurs are able to provide other modes, such as slow-scan TV or amateur TV, satellites, packet radio, RTTY or even EME!

For more information on the 2007 Jamboree on the Air, please visit the ARRL JOTA Web site <<http://www.arrrl.org/scouts/jota>> where you can find general rules, suggested exchanges and recommended frequencies. There will also be a place on the ARRL Web site to tell your JOTA stories at <<http://www.arrrl.org/scouts/jota/Stories/>> (Thanks to The ARRL Letter)

1939 MGM FILM PRESENTS RADIO HAMS

A film from Metro Goldwayn Mayer that promotes Amateur Radio has surfaced on the Internet. Produced in 1939 by Pete Smith, "Radio Hams" centers on a family called to dinner. All but the teenage son respond. When family members go looking for him, one by one they are snared into a world of ham radio high adventure. One that includes a rescue in Alaska and a tragic search for a downed aircraft at sea. Unlike most films promoting ham radio, this one is not a documentary. It's a fully scripted 10 minute dramatic presentation featuring a cast of professional actors well directed by Felix Fiest. E. Maurice Adler is credited with writing the screen play. "Radio Hams" is really a nostalgic look back at ham radio the way it never was, You can see it on-line at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vBGldfOVJQ4>

(Thanks to Amateur Radio Newsline Report and QRZ.com)



Next Meeting - Tuesday, October 16th

We'll be graced by a visit from none other than the ARRL Great Lakes Division Director, **Jim Weaver, K8JE**. Here's your chance to hear, firsthand, what's going on in the top echelon of the League. Bring any questions you have for Jim and don't forget to bring along a friend!

Thanks & a tip of the hat!



Ever notice how some folks always seem to be in trouble? On the other hand, some seem to have trouble keeping their name out of this column! Bruce Wilson, WB8ZSK would be one of the latter. Bruce provided almost everything needed to make our booth at the Applefest a rousing success. He then proceeded to stay the entire day, engaging kids and adults alike in ham stuff. Bravo Bruce!

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

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



**Preparing
 Makes Sense.
 Get Ready
 Now.**



**Homeland
 Security**
www.ready.gov

**NOTES FROM
 THE PRESIDENT**

If you've been following the sunspot cycle recently you've noticed that they are practically nonexistent. Bummer, you say! Yes, but the silver lining is that this likely means that we are at absolute bottom for this cycle and are about to begin the upswing. So let's assume you hold a Tech class license and could care less about sunspots and HF propagation. OK, I'll give you that. But I'd like to remind you that in a couple years the guys who are all down in the mouth right now will be at the club meetings all excited about that far out DX station they worked the month before. I've gotta tell you, there's nothing like the excitement of making that first contact with some far away station for the first time. If you've ever had the slightest inclination to study for your General, now is the time. You've got about two years before things start getting hot!
 73, Jim Voss, W8SST

VE TEST SESSION

If you've been thinking about upgrading, here is your chance to get it done close to home! The Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be sponsoring a test session for all license classes on Saturday, November 3rd. Testing will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. in the basement training room of the Branch County Communications building (911). The cost is \$14 and you'll need to bring two pieces of identification including one with a photo if possible. If you're already licensed, bring a photocopy of your license and additionally any pending CSCE forms. For info contact Jim, W8SST at 517-278-4636 or w8sst@arrl.net .



Coordinator's Corner



Here it is October again and fall is upon us. Football games, the turning leaves, cooler weather and the thoughts of things to come....like the Simulated Emergency Test!!!

On October 6, the Branch County ARES/RACES Team will be participating in the annual ARRL event known as the Simulated Emergency Test or SET. This is a nationwide event where emergency preparedness groups of hams across the country get together to test their systems and personnel to find their strengths and weaknesses in simulated exercises, using various means of communication.

By learning our strengths and weaknesses through events like our SET, we can build on our strengths and repair our weaknesses and do this before we have a serious emergency.

Our local Office of Emergency Management is participating with us and we will be activating our station at the EOC. We will be participating with the hams in the Michigan State Police District #5, the State EOC in Lansing, and we are even reaching over into District #1 to work with our neighbors in Hillsdale County and across state lines to our neighbors in Steuben County, Indiana. We will be activating the hospitals in Coldwater, Hillsdale and Angola to determine which communication methods work best to allow direct communication between these three hospitals in an emergency. To my knowledge this is the first time that this has happened using amateur radio.

All interested hams can participate and are encouraged to listen to the local repeater (147.300 + 100Hz) on Saturday, October 6. We are not advertising the starting time to offer a bit of suspense and likewise we are keeping the nature of the 'emergency' to ourselves as well. Hams should have their jump kits ready with fresh batteries for their HT's and everything that they would need for a 24 hour deployment. Don't forget that you may need your RACES and ARES ID cards for access to some locations.

At some point on Saturday you will hear an announcement on the repeater stating that the exercise has begun. The scenario will be announced and stations will be asked to check in to the net. Even if you are not available to be deployed, please check in as all participants count towards our final score. Likewise, if you can check in on emergency power, that will help the scoring as well. Remember that any radio powered by any source other than commercial mains is considered to be operated by emergency power. This includes mobiles and HT's. Net control will detail the specific information that we are looking for when you check in and he will give you your instructions.

We expect the exercise to last a few hours and we expect to have meaningful tasks to perform for all who check in. Our group has a very good participation record and I am convinced that this will continue on Saturday.

I thank each and every one of you for your dedication and determination to provide valuable services to your community. I am proud to be associated with such a great group of hams and you should be proud of being part of the organization.

See you on Saturday!

Larry Camp, WB8R

Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc

Emergency Coordinator/Races Officer

A background image of autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow.

SIMULATED EMERGENCY TEST
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6TH