



AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB
SINCE 1961



VOLUME 8, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2009



BRANCH SIGNALS

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

Club Repeaters: 147.300 + 100 Hz 443.300 + 123 Hz

WHAT'S INSIDE?

- New Call on the Air! - p. 2
- VEC Test Sessions - p. 2
- February Program - p. 3
- President's Notes - p. 3
- EC's Corner - p. 4



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It's PRB Time

Well, it's time to be contacting your legislators and speaking your mind! We have an effort on our hands to get PRB legislation passed here in Michigan. Here's some details from the PRB Committee website...

*"...It delineates **three rules** for local municipalities to follow in regulating antenna structures: (1) state and local regulations that operate to preclude amateur communications are in **direct conflict** with federal objectives and **must be preempted**; (2) local regulations that involve placement, screening or height of antennas based on health, safety or aesthetic considerations must be crafted to reasonably accommodate amateur communications..."*

You can find more information on PRB-1 by visiting the Committee's website at <http://www.prb1michigan.org/>. I'll be providing more details in the months to come as well. Stay Tuned!!

February Program

The February Club Meeting will feature Mike Murray, KC8PMG. Mike will be presenting a program and filling us in on his recent trip to Bangladesh.

SAME HAM! DIFFERENT CALL!!

KD8CYY is now W8ILL

Our own Bill Shaw, KD8CYY is the latest to join the ranks of locals that hold vanity call signs.

While your editor was digging information out of Bill, he explained “They call me Will a lot up at school, and since I was already filing the paperwork for the School’s vanity call, I figured I would throw mine into the mix” (quote paraphrased)

Bill’s Vanity is effective as of 01/03/2009. Congratulations Bill!!!



CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS PICTURE??

This picture came from somewhere. It’s your turn to find that place!
 The first person to email me (w8css@arrl.net) with the correct answer will have their name stuck right here in the next newsletter!

Last Month’s Award goes to : Brad, K8BPD. (only by a few hours)
 Answer: The installation of the additional antennas at the EOC.

VEC TEST SESSIONS

February 13th
 Grand Rapids, MI

February 14th
 Flint, MI
 Port Huron, MI
 Traverse City, MI
 Ann Arbor, MI
 Charlotte, MI

February 16th
 Mount Clemens, MI

February 18th
 Prescott, MI

February 21st
 Fenton, MI
 Jackson, MI

February 26th
 Corunna, MI

February 28th
 Muskegon, MI
 South Lyon, MI



For details about any of the above see:
<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml?State=MI>

Next Club Meeting - Tuesday, February 16th

Program: Mike Murray, KC8PMG will be presenting a program and filling us in on his recent trip to Bangladesh. Bring a friend!! See you there!!

BRANCH COUNTY A.R.C.

Meeting Every Third Tuesday - 7:00pm

Basement Training Room.

Branch County Communications Center

At The Branch County Airport



WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.BRANCHCOUNTYARC.COM



Thanks, and a tip of the hat!

While I can't think of anything that comes to mind this month, this space is always available for your input!

Have Material, Will Travel

**JOIN US ON THE WEEKLY TWO METER NET
TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. ON 147.300 & THE
70CM NET RIGHT AFTER ON 443.300**

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Oh, Hello. First off, I want to apologize for my tardiness this month. As I'm about to explain, I've been a bit busy lately.

If you were at the January Club Meeting, you can skip this part....

For those of you that are not aware, I've recently accepted a position with a technology company in Lansing. It's a step in the right direction for me, and an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

I'm now working second shifts on Sunday, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

So, as you can guess, this means that I will not be around very much. This means that I will not be at the club meetings through at least May. I hope to get things straightened out then.

I've been told that I don't need to worry, and everything meeting-wise will be covered. That's a very comforting thought.

Between school and work, my only "free" (and I use that term loosely) is Saturday. Hey, I can still plan that antenna party! Cool! All of

this basically means I'm asking you not to be alarmed when I'm not around. I'm still here, I'm still in contact. If you have a concern, contact me...either by phone or email. For best results, an email is probably the best bet.

I'm working on a few ideas to fill the April meeting gap, they're not set in stone yet. Stay tuned for that!

Think Warm Weather!!

-Andrew Glenn, W8CSS



Coordinator's Corner



I, for one am enjoying the fact that we are not being called out day and night to go out in the inclement weather to watch for impending danger. Instead, with all the snow and ice and the poor road conditions, we go about our daily lives out in inclement weather watching for impending danger. Warmer weather would be nice, though.

As mentioned in the January column, there are some areas that our ARES/RACES group will work on during 2009:

- RACES Leadership will participate in advanced FEMA training.
 - IS 300 and IS 400 Training has been made available to us.
- Damage Assessment Training
- Handheld GPS Training
- Participation in Communications Trailer design and outfitting
- Continued Skywarn improvements
- Enhanced radar capability at the EOC
- Continued integration into the County's Emergency Management plans
- Improved participation in Hospital Nets (CHC, Club Station, Dispatch Area, CPD/CFD).
- Periodic activation of CPD/CFD and CHC on our ARES/RACES Nets
 - Continued integration of D-Star equipment into our communications plans

Our Severe Weather Spotter training is scheduled for March 17. The training will be held in lieu of our normal club meeting. We encourage all interested persons to attend this worthwhile event.

Make your plans now to attend the Advanced Skywarn training to be held in Goshen, IN on March 28. Additional information is available on our Skywarn website and our club website. Space is limited, so get your reservations in now. Let us know that you are interested so we can make car pooling plans.

Larry Camp, WB8R

Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer

Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc