

AN ARRL AFFILIATED CLUB
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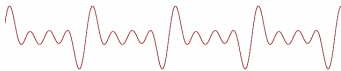
BRANCH SIGNALS

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

Club Repeaters: 147.300 + 100 Hz 443.300 + 123 Hz

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Tom Twite, K8CHS SK...

For those of you that are unaware, our own Tom Twite, K8CHS passed away recently. Tom had been a member of the club for many years after moving to the area from Alpena.

He was an enthusiastic ham with some definite opinions concerning the state of amateur radio today as well as strong opinions on the current state of our society in general. He was a supporter of the BCARC, having served as a member of the Board of Directors of the club.



Tom will always be remembered for his willingness to drink coffee with friends and to discuss the topics of the day. He always had an opinion that he was willing to share.

Tom was the holder of the prestigious DXCC (DX Century Club) award from the ARRL and was a

great proponent of hams communicating around the world to spread good will.

The club has made a monetary donation in his memory to the American Diabetes Association.

Tom was a good friend to all and he will be sorely missed.

73, Tom.

FOX HUNT—ROUND TWO

It's now time for our August Edition of our annual Foxhunt. This foxhunt will be a collaborative one, as opposed to competitive. Here are the rules for the hunt, much of them are the same from the attempt in May.

All hunters should be present at the 911 Center west of Coldwater on US 12 and be ready to receive their instructions at 6:45 pm on Tuesday, August 18.

Hunt timeframe will be a maximum of 1 hour 30minutes.

This Fox Hunt is Collaborative – All teams will work together towards the common goal of locating the hidden transmitter. Communication between teams is encouraged and the 2M repeater will be used to facilitate that communication.

The Fox will be hidden within a 10-mile radius of the intersection of Marshall and Chicago streets in Coldwater. The Fox will be hidden in a public place that does not require the hunters to either pay admission nor require any swimming, flying, or contact with any poisonous wildlife. (We hope!).

No weapons are allowed. We may want to use the same Fox again.

The hunt will commence from the parking lot of the 911Center with the first Fox transmission at 7:00 PM.

The Fox will be transmitting on 147.550 MHz.

The Fox will transmit for one minute followed by 4 minutes of silence. All transmissions will take place at 5-minute intervals beginning at 7:00, followed by 7:05, 7:10, etc.

The Fox may change power settings during the hunt.

Remember that in order to successfully complete the hunt, the teams must locate the transmitter. Finding the Fox is not enough.

Time synchronization will be available from the Hunt Master prior to the start of the hunt.

When the transmitter is located, the hunt is concluded.

Our primary concern during the hunt is for the safety of all participants.

FOX HUNT—ROUND TWO (CONT)

If you drive slowly or stop your car in or near the roadway, remember to turn on your 4-way flashers. Be careful when exiting your car near the flow of traffic.

Think safety all the time.

We will notify the authorities that we are conducting a hunt.

At the conclusion of the hunt, we will all meet at the Dairy Queen. For those that have not yet participated in a Fox Hunt, please join us at the 911 center to see the hunters and their equipment and to feel the excitement. Listening to the events unfold on the air is lots of fun and there will certainly be plenty of opportunities to ride along with the hunters so you can witness the carnage first hand. Once the Fox has been found (hopefully) we will meet at the Dairy Queen in Coldwater to swap lies and either congratulate ourselves on a successful hunt or congratulate the Fox on the skunk job that was put on the hunters! Either way it will be lots of fun!

Arnie, NS8T is going to be our Fox. For the first time he will be going it alone. Apparently Arnie and Larry are undergoing a trial separation for the purposes of the Fox Hunt. Larry will be tracking him down using Arnie's own equipment in the effort to find out once and for all who is the real power in this dynamic duo!

You will want to be there to witness this historic event. Arnie and Larry have been joined at the hip for 20 years and this will be the first time we have ever competed against each other. Can you say separation anxiety?

I look forward to seeing you all there. It will be loads of fun for sure!

Questions? Call Larry WB8R at 517-617-4883 or email at wb8r@arrl.net

Next Club Meeting - Tuesday, August 18th

Program: Join us as we have our annual collaborative fox-hunt. This time it's us against Arnie! Who will win?

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!

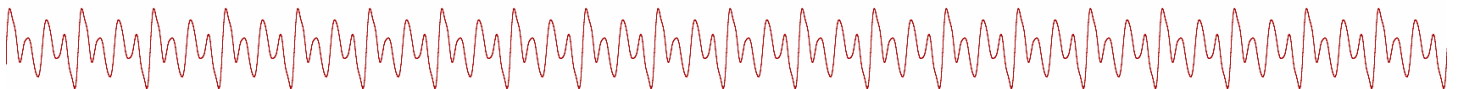
WWW.BRANCHCOUNTYARC.COM



Thanks, and a tip of the hat!

Nothing especially noteworthy comes to mind this month. Have something to put here? Let me know: w8css@arrl.net

**JOIN US ON THE WEEKLY TWO METER NET
TUESDAYS AT 7:00 P.M. ON 147.300 AND A
440 NET RIGHT AFTER ON 443.300**



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Here we are again, summer all most over. As I type this, it's quite warm outside, with a temperature of 87 degrees.

The ARRL recently put out a quiz for us amateurs to take. I gave it a shot, however I didn't do so good. Give it a go if you feel so inclined. You can find it at <http://tinyurl.com/mjqzfp>

My thanks to Arnie for taking the realm as the fox in August. For com-

plete details, and other information about the upcoming foxhunt, see this newsletter.



We have word on good authority that the folks from the Battle Creek group will be doing a high altitude balloon launch at some point in the near future. While we don't know when that will take place, it's certainly something to keep an eye on. The initial plans indicate that the balloon is projected to come down somewhere within the county. Foxhunt, anyone? There are a few other details about the

launch that are unconfirmed, so I will omit them from this newsletter. Rest assured, however, as we receive additional information, we'll pass it along.

Till next time..
Andrew, W8CSS





Coordinator's Corner



There are a lot of things for us to be thankful for and one of them is the quiet severe weather season that we have been experiencing. In July we had just one time that the weather threatened enough for the troops to gather on the local repeater to keep in touch and watch for developments. As it turned out, nothing developed and we were able to go back to our normal activities.

We are in the planning stages for the outfitting of Emergency Management's new (to them) Communications Trailer. We have some initial plans made and much of the equipment is already on hand. The next step is to take the initial plans and put them in a logical format, determine what we need in terms of counters, cabinets, electrical requirements, antenna mounts, etc and determine the schedule for the actual build process.

We will be conducting another Fox Hunt in place of our usual club meeting on August 18. This hunt will emphasize cooperation between the teams in an effort to track down a simulated jammer. We will be using an amateur frequency, but it is not a difficult leap to a scenario where someone buys an old public service transmitter at a garage sale that just happens to have police and /or fire frequencies in it and it sounds kinda neat to send them on wild goose chases or to just interrupt their communications. That is the primary purpose for our interest in Fox Hunting. Right up near the top of reasons why we do it is because it is loads of fun!

Remember, ham radio is fun with a serious side. The serious stuff is what we do. See the rules and other details elsewhere in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Fox Hunt.

Larry Camp, WB8R

Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer

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