



A Tip of The Hat

Kudos go out this month to Ed Trombley, our program presenter at the October meeting. All attending agreed that his was one of the most outstanding programs seen in many months. Thanks, Ed, for taking time to provide a great program!

Upcoming Ham Exams

30-Jan-2010
Sponsor: FULTON CTY RADIO CLUB
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: DAVID L NELSON
 (419)923-6603
Email: KA8KDS@EMBARQMAIL.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: ARCHBOLD POLICE DEPARTMENT
 405 E LUTZ RD
 IN THE BASEMENT
 ARCHBOLD, OH 43502

13-Feb-2010
Sponsor: EATON COUNTY ARC
Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOHN A DEWEY
 (517)645-2378
Email: DETTA@IA4U.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EATON CTY SHERIFF'S DEPT-EOC
 1025 INDEPENDENCE BLVD
 CHARLOTTE, MI 48813

27-Feb-2010
Sponsor: FULTON CTY RADIO CLUB
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: DAVID L NELSON
 (419)923-6603
Email: KA8KDS@EMBARQMAIL.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: ARCHBOLD POLICE DEPARTMENT
 405 E LUTZ RD
 IN THE BASEMENT
 ARCHBOLD, OH 43502

27-Mar-2010
Sponsor: FULTON CTY RADIO CLUB
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: DAVID L NELSON
 (419)923-6603
Email: KA8KDS@EMBARQMAIL.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: ARCHBOLD POLICE DEPARTMENT
 405 E LUTZ RD
 IN THE BASEMENT
 ARCHBOLD, OH 43502

10-Apr-2010
Sponsor: EATON COUNTY ARC
Time: 12 NOON (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: JOHN A DEWEY
 (517)645-2378
Email: DETTA@IA4U.NET
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: EATON CTY SHERIFF'S DEPT-EOC
 1025 INDEPENDENCE BLVD
 CHARLOTTE, MI 48813

24-Apr-2010
Sponsor: FULTON CTY RADIO CLUB
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: DAVID L NELSON
 (419)923-6603
Email: KA8KDS@EMBARQMAIL.COM
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: ARCHBOLD POLICE DEPARTMENT
 405 E LUTZ RD
 IN THE BASEMENT
 ARCHBOLD, OH 43502

Branch Signals Issue 1 January 2010

It's Confirmed – January's Program is gonna be a Gas!



Yes, It Really Does Burn ProPanel!

Think Ham Radio is the most exciting game in town? Richard Rowe of Alternate Fuels Racing would beg to differ! He has agreed to explain how propane gets him from one end of the quarter mile to the other in around 10 seconds. Don't miss this unique and exciting program, and who knows – maybe we can convince Richard to drop a two meter rig in that thing?

Tuesday, January 19th
7:00 P. M.
911 Communications Center
BRING A FRIEND!

ISSUE
1
 MONTHLY
 NEWSLETTER OF THE
 BRANCH COUNTY
 AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
 VOLUME 9
 JANUARY
 2010

Branch Signals



An ARRL Affiliated Club
 Since 1961



Your 2010 Club Officers

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The Fox Has Left The Building!

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Ed Trombley Presents Outstanding Program!

Sometimes the grass *is* greener in your own back yard! The first time I walked into Ed Trombley's office at Munn Reese, Inc. next door to the 911 Center, I knew there had to be a great program awaiting us. Practically every available surface in Ed's workspace, be it vertical or horizontal, is filled with an eclectic mix of radio memorabilia. From oversized finals from an AM transmitter to antiquated test gear to a classic WOWO studio microphone, a guy could spend hours investigating the great "stuff" accumulated there.

I had asked several times previously if someone might be available from Munn-Reese to give a program to our Club, maybe just an overview of what the company does. This time I hit the jackpot!

Ed gave the rather small crowd at the October meeting one of the best programs this amateur has seen in recent memory. He narrated a Powerpoint presentation detailing a number of the installations that Munn-Reese has been involved with in recent

years. From TV, to FM to AM, they do it all, taking a station from an idea to a properly working transmitter and all the steps in between. Ed brought a couple of 'show and tells' along with the highlight being a coaxial connector made for 8" hardline. It's all one person can do to carry it! By the way, Ed holds a current Amateur License, N8DCC and has been invited to join us at our next meeting. This was one program not to miss!



Ed Trombley

Upcoming Hamfests

February 21, 2010
Livonia Swap and Shop
Civic Park Senior Center
www.livoniaarc.com/Swap.htm

March 20, 2010
Michigan Crossroads
Marshall Activities Center
www.w8df.com/hamfest.html

April 3, 2010
Lowell Hamfest
Lowell High School
www.argyl.org

April 17, 2010
Milford Swap and Shop
Milford High School
www.qsl.net/w8ydk

April 18, 2010
N. Central Indiana Hamfest
Miami County Fairgrounds
www.nci-hamfest.net

June 20, 2010
Monroe Hamfest
Monroe Cty. Fairgrounds
www.mcrca.org

November 13/14, 2010
Indiana State Convention
Fort Wayne Hamfest
Allen County War Memorial Coliseum
www.fortwaynehamfest.com



EmComm Corner

This month's notes from Branch County's Emergency Coordinator, Larry Camp, WB8R.

Here we are at the end of the year already. And what a quiet year it has been. I certainly hope that we don't go to the opposite end of the spectrum next year.

Looking back at 2009, it really was a pretty good year.

Our relationship with Emergency Management continued to move forward on positive notes.

We became the custodians of a fairly large quantity of ham equipment that will be used in the Dispatch Center, Coldwater Police/Fire Departments and in the Communication Trailer.

The Comm Trailer has had some work done on the inside to add work surfaces in the radio room and in the main section of the trailer. The water tank that was located up front (radio room) has been relocated under the couch to get it out of the way. A small work surface was installed between the entrance door and the radio room door. This can be used as a dedicated location for the weather station. The AC power system has been upgraded to provide what we are going to need to operate the trailer. In addition to some ham gear to be installed, there will be a bunch of public service radio and computer gear installed. There is a 10 Kw generator that will provide the power when out in the field and away from

electrical service.

There is still a lot of work to be done with antenna supports to design, build and install, coax to run and radios and power supplies to install. It is just too darn cold to work outside, so this project is going to wait until spring unless we can come up with a warm place to park it while we work.

What will this trailer be used for, you ask? As easy as it would be to think that this trailer is there for our exclusive use, we must remember that it is an Emergency Management vehicle and its primary purpose is to be available for any type of emergency or non-emergency use that requires any communication coordination capability. There are any number of situations that come to mind: spills, accidents, incidents, crime scenes, weather related activities and the list goes on and on. Wherever its presence can provide shelter, warmth or cool, hot coffee, a restroom, meeting space or just a place for the people working a situation to get off their feet for a few minutes, it will be a much appreciated asset.

At any of these situations, the RACES group may be called upon to move the trailer where it needs to go, set up antennas and get the mother ship into

operation. In exchange for our support and assistance, we will have the opportunity to exercise a secondary use of the trailer and that will be to take it to public places such as the Strawberry Festival, Relay for Life, Applefest and of course Field Day and other events. This will allow us to showcase both Emergency Management and Amateur Radio. I think this is a pretty good trade.

We also had an opportunity to track and recover an object from near space when we were asked to find the payload of a weather balloon that was launched at Ft. Custer near Battle Creek. What a time that was. For the first time we had to find a transmitter that was hiding at 50,000 feet for a while and came down wherever the winds took it. I have to say that with a bit of luck but a bunch of skill, we were able to locate the tiny payload 40 odd miles from the launch area and 3 hours and 41 minutes after launch. We are ready to do it again!

And I said it was a quiet year. It was a great year! From my family to yours, we wish you the very best in 2010. See you soon.
73,

Larry Camp, WB8R
Emergency Coordinator/RACES Officer
Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc
wb8r@arrl.net



From The Desk of the President

Hi All,

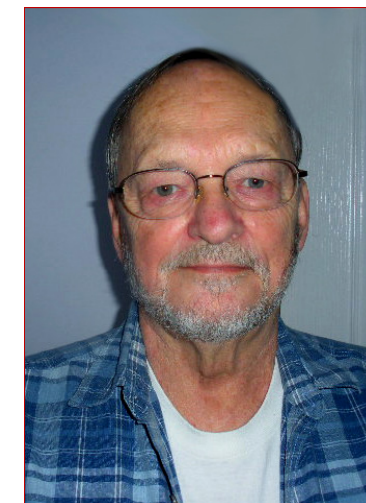
We are starting the year of our club's 50th anniversary. What a thrill to be President during this celebration. I have belonged to our club for 20 years, and I'm glad I decided to run, and was elected President. I am really looking forward to this coming year. The past year was a successful year for the club. Not only did we accomplish a lot, but we had fun doing it. One of the biggest programs we tackled was, monitoring the siren tests. We successfully did that for the year of 2009. Storm watching is another one of our programs. We really were not needed much this past storm season, but we were there just in case. Some of us feel we could do more for the public. Once Emergency

Management gets the trailer ready, I'm sure we will have that opportunity. Another project is, purchasing a new 2 meter repeater. We are about a quarter of the way to completing the funding of that project. When the major part of raising funds for this starts, we will need a little help from you. The board members are working hard to make the meetings interesting for the club members, and friends. If you have any ideas for a program, or an activity, don't hesitate to tell a board member. We'll check into it, that idea. And don't forget to bring a friend to a meeting when you can. This coming year looks to be a busy one for us. There are a few plans that are being carried over from last year, and then there is always something new coming around

the corner. So, of course, we will need volunteers to help. Believe it or not, its fun and it doesn't take much of your time. The best thing of volunteering is, you only have to volunteer for things that interest you, not every activity that is undertaken. Give it a try once; you'll see what I mean.

Thank you for your support.

Arnie, NS8T



Arnie Hayward

CLUBMEETING NOTICE

The January meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, the 19th at 7:30 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the Branch County Communications Center (911). The program is to be announced.

BOARD MEETING INVITATION

Got an idea? Got a gripe? Got nothing to do the first Tuesday night of the month? Club members are always welcome to attend the monthly board meeting at 7:30 pm at Bob Evans in Coldwater.

Website Monthly Pick

<http://www.qrz.com/db/w9evt>
Just in case you didn't happen to get this link from one of our local hams, it's worth your while to take a look at the ham shack of George Ulm, W9EVT. If you think you've seen the ultimate in a shack – guess again! I hope he posts photos of his antennas next and possibly a copy of his utility bill. Thanks to Larry, WB8R, for tipping us off to this great site. (Don't forget to clean up the drool on your keyboard!)