

Branch Signals



An ARRL Affiliated Club
Since 1961



Your 2010 Club Officers

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Richard Has Left The Building!

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Dominican Amateurs Fired Upon In Haiti

Eight members of the Radio Club Dominicano ([RCD](#)) -- the Dominican Republic's IARU Member-Society -- and Union Dominicana de Radio Aficionados ([UDRA](#)) arrived in Haiti on Friday, January 15, to install an emergency radio communications station and a mobile station. Shortly after they arrived, the hams returned to the Dominican Republic for safety reasons.

The team -- using the call sign HI8RCD/HH -- had to shut down their operations after their convoy was fired on. Germinal Garcia, EB9GF, who is integrated in the Spanish Red Cross contingent, was able to contact colleagues at the RCD. According to IARU Region 1 Emergency Communications Coordinator Greg Mossop, G0DUB, the RCD initially reported that their team crossed the Haitian border at 1550 UTC, time arriving at the Dominican Embassy in Haiti at 1929 UTC when they started installing and testing their equipment.

"Within a few hours though, reports via the RCD Facebook page -- confirmed by a long telephone conversation between Hugo Ramón, HI8VRS, and Ramon Santoyo, XE1KK -- reported that the HI8RCD team of eight amateurs were back in the [Dominican Republic] border town of Jimani," Mossop said. "Their convoy, which included other non related Dominicans, was assaulted and one person is reported dead. The radio amateurs are uninjured, but they decided to leave the capital for safety [reasons] and return to the border unescorted. They report the situation as 'extremely unsafe.'"

On Saturday afternoon at 2104 UTC, Rafael Martinez, HI8ROX, posted

this to the RCD's Facebook page: "I regret to inform you that the communications equipment is returning to Jimani due to the lack of security that there is in Haiti. The convoy was attacked as the team was leaving the embassy, with several wounded people confirmed. I do not know how many. For the moment, our equipment is safe, but I'm not sure." Martinez is the RCD's Web master.

On January 19, Martinez told the ARRL that two non-ham members of the team suffered "bad injuries," but no one had been killed, as had been reported earlier: "The gentleman who was behind the RCD convoy was very severely wounded (not deceased), although the first news was that he had passed away. The gentleman only is very severely wounded along with another person."

The team was able to install two VHF repeaters in the Dominican Republic linking that country's capital -- Santo Domingo -- and Port-au-Prince, but only one is in operation: 146.880 (-600), CTCSS 100 Hz. Mossop said that these repeaters are being used by the Red Cross and Civil Defense "since there is no other way to communicate. The station at the embassy in Haiti could not be activated. To confirm, all members of the RCD team are safe and have returned to Jimani in the Dominican Republic."

On the morning of Monday, January 18, Martinez wrote that "the equipment that was returned to Santo Domingo is all being sent to Jimani and then sporadically to Port-au-Prince."

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.mcrcra.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.

Greetings....

Spring is fast approaching, even if it doesn't look that way outside (or on the thermometer).

Thoughts of spring lead us to Severe Weather Spotter Training. The good folks at IXW are doing every other year training in all of their counties in their forecast area. This translates to no NWS training in Branch County in 2010. There will be training in Hillsdale and St. Joseph counties in Michigan as well as Lagrange County, IN. These training sessions are open to the public and all interested persons are welcome. Car pooling would be a good way to conserve gas and have a chance to jaw with fellow hams. You can find dates and times on IWX training sessions by using this link:

http://www.crh.noaa.gov/wx/program_areas/outreach/index.php

Here in Branch County, we are working on our own program headed up by our home grown weather expert, Brad McConn, K8BPD. For those of you have had the opportunity to attend one of Brad's sessions, you know that he really does a great job and has a way of explaining things in plain, easy to understand language. This session is scheduled for March 16 (3rd Tuesday) at 7:00 PM and will take the place of our regular club meeting. Refresher training is important for each of us and all are encouraged to attend both an IWX session as well as our program here at home. Stay warm and think spring!

Larry Camp, WB8R
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Coordinator/RACES
Officer
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Other Skywarn Training

February 18th, 6:00 pm
**Commissioner's
Chambers**
114 W. Michigan
LaGrange, IN

March 8th, 6:00 pm
Location: TBD
Hillsdale, MI

March 25th, 7:00 pm
**St. Joseph County
EOC**
620 E. Main St
Centreville, MI

CLUBMEETING NOTICE

The February meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, the 16th^h at 7:30 p.m. in the basement meeting room of the Branch County Communications Center (911). Program 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. *(Editor's note – 7:00 this month)*

MONTHLY WEBSITE PICK

<http://55tools.blogspot.com/>

This is not a ham radio related website, But it's one that is a lot of fun. Each week photos of several old tools are posted on Thursday morning. It's up to all of us to guess what the items are. Answers are posted on Friday evening. Here's a recent post.



From The Desk of the President

Hi All,

Our first club meeting of 2010, seemed to be a very good success. There were nineteen members and guests in attendance to see a very interesting program. Many thanks to Richard Rowe, W8RCR, for giving his time to present a program on his 1970 Chevelle propane burning drag racing automobile. His program ended up being one of the more interesting programs we have seen in recent times. Thanks again Richard!

Another good moment of the evening was getting to see our old friend and long time club member, Warren Unterkircher W8WU, and his wife Jeannie. For you new hams, you don't know what you have missed.

Warren has many war stories to tell about his experience as a ham radio operator. I have the honor to have Warren as one of the three hams that was my Elmer when I started in 1989.

I would also like everyone to check out the club's web site as often as you can. Jim, KC8UGV, is doing a great job of keeping the site up to date. It is a learning process for him, but he is handling it very good. www.branchcountyarc.com

Also another attaboy goes out to Jim, WV0SS, for the new look of the news letter. I know that was no easy task to change the format of the letter.

It sure is a pleasure to volunteer my time with other volunteers like Jim K. Jim V., Larry WB8R,

and Bill KB8VWI.

Here are a few things you can get involved in real easy, the Tuesday night net, the board meeting on Feb. 2nd, then don't forget the regular club meeting at 7 PM on Feb. 16th.

See you at the meeting.

Thank You

Arnie NS8T



Arnie Hayward



A Tip of The Hat

Our undying gratitude this month is being given to Larry Camp, WB8R, for bringing a most interesting program to the club in January. Thanks, Larry, for thinking outside the box and realizing that a program doesn't absolutely have to be Ham related to be a really great program.

Upcoming Ham Exams

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: KALAMAZOO ARC

Time: 8:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: JOHN D TUCKER

(269)324-9085

Email: WB8ZVV@ARRL.NET

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: KALAMAZOO COUNTY SHERIFF
DEPT
1500 LAMONT AVE (OFF LAKE ST)
BASEMENT MEETING ROOM
KALAMAZOO, MI 49001

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

One Day Technician Class/Test Session Announced

The Branch County Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is sponsoring a One Day Technician Amateur Radio Class to be followed by an Amateur Exam Session. The test session will be open to prospective hams as well as hams who would like to upgrade to General or Extra Class. Both the class and test session will take place in the basement training room at the 911 Communication Center near the airport on the west side of Coldwater. This is how we do it: Interested students pay in advance for their books. We order the books and distribute them to the students as soon as the books are received. Students are expected to read the books, study, and take practice tests online in preparation for the final test on class day. On class day, the instructor will review the material, covering the areas that typically cause confusion and answer questions. If everyone has done their homework, this review will fill some gaps in student's knowledge and make sense of topics that may be a bit difficult to grasp.

The cost of the Technician book is \$25. Preferred payment is cash.

On class day, we will begin at 8:00 AM. We will take a break at about 10:00 AM and then go back to work until around noon when we will have a working lunch of pizza and pop. The cost of the lunch is included in the book cost. About 1:30 pm the class will end and we will transition into testing mode and around 2:30 pm we will begin testing. We expect to have things wrapped up and a bunch of new hams on their way out the door to await the arrival of their new call signs on the FCC database.

Here is our schedule:
February 25 Last Day to order books
March 6 Distribute Books to Students
April 10 Class Session 8:00 AM to 1:30 PM
Test Session begins at 2:30 PM

Please register with Arnie Hayward at 278-8507 or ns8t@charter.net



From the BCARC Constitution and Bylaws

What's The Deal With Dues?

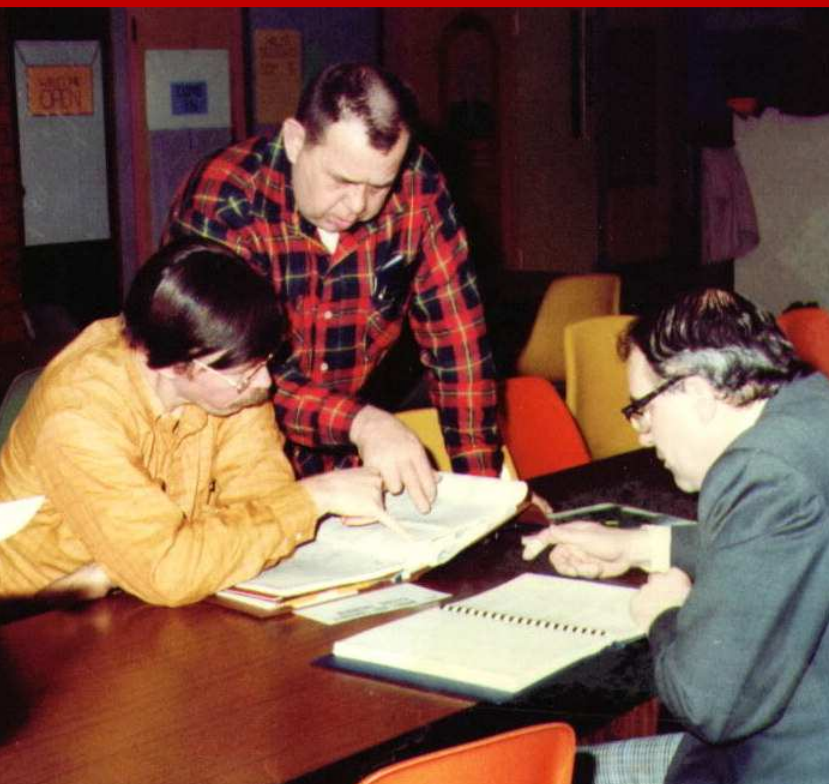
"Dues shall be levied upon the membership in an amount determined in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws for the purpose of providing funds for current expenses. Dues for new members joining after January will be prorated by the number of remaining months in the calendar year including the month

in which membership is requested. A spouse or child residing in the same household as a member shall be eligible for membership upon payment of twenty per cent (20%) of the current dues. Any full time student not qualifying under family membership can become a member by payment of fifty per cent (50%) of the

current dues. In all cases, annual dues must be paid before March 1, in order for a member to remain in good standing."

What's the bottom line? Dues are currently \$15 per year for adults. Your spouse or child may become members for an additional \$3 each. The full time student rate is \$7.50.

Flashback Quiz



Can You Name

The year?

The location?

The 3 hams?

THE K7RA SOLAR UPDATE

We've seen average daily sunspot numbers for this reporting week. (*last week in January*) Since last Thursday through Wednesday this week, the numbers rose more than 9 points to 28; the average solar flux slipped more than 2 points to 81.9. Geomagnetic indices were a tiny bit lower. Sunspot numbers for January 21-27 were 17, 30, 40, 32, 34, 28 and 15, with a mean of 28. The 10.7 cm flux was 82.6, 82.4, 84.6, 84.6, 81.2, 79.8 and 77.8, with a mean of 81.9. The estimated planetary A indices were 4, 2, 4, 4, 3, 3 and 2, with a mean of 3.1. The estimated mid-latitude A indices were 4, 2, 4, 2, 3, 1 and 0, with a mean of 2.3. The predicted solar flux for January 29-31 is 76, 80 on February 1-2, 82 on February 3-5 and 88-89 for the following five days. We don't see any geomagnetic upset predicted until February 16, with the planetary A index only rising to 10, which is hardly an upset. (*Thank you, ARRL*)

Extra Class Question

What is the approximate bandwidth of a slow-scan TV signal?

- A. 600 Hz
- B. 3 kHz
- C. 2 MHz
- D. 6 MHz