

# Branch Signals



An ARRL Affiliated Club  
Since 1961



## Your 2010 Club Officers

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The Fox Prepares

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## Collaborative Foxhunt Guidelines

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 17.

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

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 (147.300 100Hz PL) 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 or 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 20 seconds

followed by 40 seconds of silence. All transmissions will take place at 1-minute intervals beginning at 7:00 PM. The Fox power setting to be announced.

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.

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 to eat some ice cream, swap lies about the hunt and otherwise bask in the glow of a successful hunt (or a successful effort on the part of the wiley ole fox!)

## Upcoming

### Hamfests

August 15, 2010

Lapeer County Swap and Shop

Lapeer County Center Building

<http://www.w8lap.com>

August 21, 2010

SARA Inside/Outside Trunk Sale

Baker College, Owosso

<http://www.W8QQQ.org>

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August 21, 2010

PCARC Swapfest

All States Radio Club Complex

LaPorte, Indiana

<http://www.pcarc.net>

September 11, 2010

GRAHamfest

Home School Building

Wyoming, Michigan

<http://www.grahamfest.org>

September 12, 2010

Findlay Hamfest

Hancock County Fairgrounds

Findley, OH

<http://www.findlayradioclub.org>

September 19, 2010

Adrian ARRL Hamfest

Lenawee County Fairgrounds

Adrian, Michigan

<http://www.w8tqe.com>



## EmComm Corner

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

July was certainly a busy weather month with numerous Skywarn activations which involved Thunderstorm Warnings and Tornado Warnings. One of the Tornado Warnings turned out to be right on the money, however. Brad, K8BPD saw and reported a rotating wall cloud heading east from the Bronson area on the afternoon of July 22. He followed the wall cloud across the county towards Coldwater and he notified the NWS office in North Webster which gave them the information and lead time necessary to get the warning out to the residents of the county.

A confirmed EF0 tornado first touched down on Benkhe Road just south of Fenn Road, doing considerable tree damage and some minor structural damage to a couple of houses at that location. From there the twister skipped through some trees along Fenn Road and continued East. At Sanford and Fenn Roads, the winds from the tornado removed some metal roofing from a barn and silo and picked up a chicken coop which had been used for firewood storage and flattened it out on the ground, breaking it completely into many pieces. Many large branches were removed from trees.

Many pieces of the metal barn roofing were scattered in a bean field in the northwest corner of Sanford and Fenn Roads. The storm continued east from there, damaging trees as it traveled. Just before it got to Fillmore Road, the storm crossed Fenn Road to the north side and knocked down a great deal of corn. The path at Fillmore road was between 300-400 yards wide. The storm continued across Fillmore Road, doing damage to the corn to the east. It appears that the storm lifted and dissipated at that point, although there were plenty sightings of the rotating wall cloud as it moved out of Branch County into neighboring Hillsdale County.

Within a few hours of the storm Brad, K8BPD and Larry, WB8R were in the area armed with cameras and lots of batteries. They followed the track of the storm and took dozens of pictures and had a lengthy conversation with the folks that suffered the damage to their property on Sanford Road. Brad compiled the information for NWS and that gave them the information necessary for them to determine that a tornado did in fact strike Branch County.

Pictures of the storm damage and storm cloud pictures can be found on the NWS website at [http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display\\_cmsstory.php?wfo=iwx&storyid=55653&source=0](http://www.crh.noaa.gov/news/display_cmsstory.php?wfo=iwx&storyid=55653&source=0).

We were fortunate that there were no injuries and the property damage was less than it could have been. This experience certainly proves that IT CAN HAPPEN HERE! This is exactly why we do all the training.

Many thanks go to all those that participated in the severe weather nets and a special thank you to rookie Net Control, Justin, KD8JEL. Justin stepped in on short notice and did a great job. He has an excellent on air presence and works well under pressure.

Larry Camp, WB8R

Emergency Coordinator

## CLUBMEETING NOTICE

The August meeting of the Branch County Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, the 17th beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Branch County Communications Center (911). The meeting will be replaced by a Collaborative Fox Hunt.

## 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 7:00 pm at Bob Evans in Coldwater.

## MONTHLY WEBSITE PICK

<http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/index.php>

Ever wonder what ham radio satellite operation is all about? Find it here!



## From The Desk of the President

Hi Once Again,

So far, this has been a real busy summer. It seems like we have one or two net activations per week, we also helped the Battle Creek Club get started with their fox hunting program, also getting things together for the new repeater system. I'm trying to figure out where I found time to hold down a

forty hour a week job.

Tomorrow night at the club meeting, Larry is going to show off the new fox box that he has put together. That's going to make my job as the fox, so much easier. All I have to do it sit it someplace and forget it until it's time to go pick it up.

The assembly of the new repeater is going along very slow. The problem is, time. It seems like when one can do things, the other is busy. Larry being the busiest of all. Things started out quite fast, then work and other things seems to have slowed the process down. But, never fear, we will get it done.

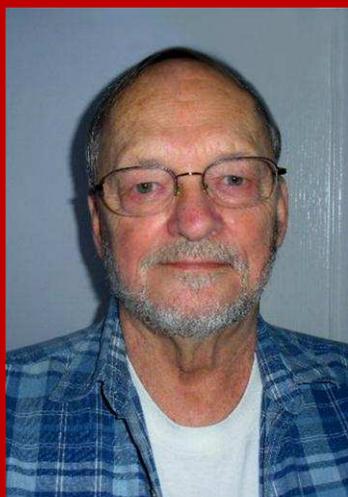
It looks like the Code Red notification system is coming to Branch County. It is a high speed system to notify the local government, businesses, and residents, of any pending disaster.

Another step forward for the county.

I know it's summer, and everyone is busy with things to do in nice weather, but I was a little disappointed with the attendance at the regular meeting on the 20th. There was only ten of us there, and that makes it almost impossible to conduct any kind of business.

August 17th is our next fox hunt. This is one where we all work together to find the fox. This is more real life than the competitive one in the spring, But just as much fun. Dust off the direction finding antenna's and come join us. But be very careful. If you're not careful, you may have some fun!!

Arnie, NS8T



Arnie Hayward



## A Tip of the Hat

A slant of the ol' sailor to all of the local Skywarn volunteers who have spent time tracking the nasty weather the past month. Your tireless efforts are greatly appreciated!

# WORDS OF WISDOM

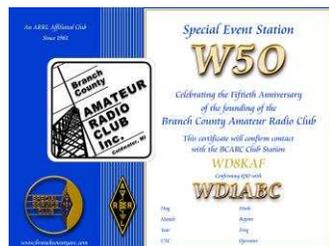
"It's not the class of license the amateur holds, but the class of the amateur that holds the license."

*Unknown*

## Special Event Station W50

On July 17, we activated the club station for our on the air 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration denoting the fact that our club was founded 50 years ago. We had applied for and received our special event callsign W50.

There were quite a number of visitors at the station that day, but unfortunately the HF bands simply did not cooperate. We made less than 50 contacts in about 11 1/2 hours of trying. We have received a few QSL cards requesting a certificate and we made a number of local contacts on 2M. In the next few weeks we will get the certificates printed and distributed. Our printing source is planning a lengthy vacation, so we will have to wait to get them printed. This will allow more time for all requests to arrive so we can do the printing all at once.



## New Repeater Update



We are making progress on getting the new Kenwood Repeater and our new CAT 700 controller ready to be put into service. We are working on an issue with our 100 watt amplifier and once we get that resolved, we will be ready to move forward. Thanks to Andrew, W8CSS for helping us get our communication cables squared away and functioning properly. This new controller has a lot of neat features and we can all look forward to hearing them soon.



## New Fox Box/ SMARS Fox Hunt



Our new Fox Box was battle tested at the SMARS fox hunt in Battle Creek on Saturday, July 10. NS8T, KC8UGV, W8CSS and WB8R hid the Fox Box and 17 hunters took off to find it. The hunt was purposely an easy one as many hunters had never participated in a Fox Hunt before. A great time was had by all and the next hunt is scheduled in Battle Creek for September 25. More details to follow.

We will have our next hunt on August 17. Please see the rules elsewhere in this issue.

