



Branch Signals

June 2012

Notes from Club
President, Justin
Lopshire Page 2

Amateur Radio
News from Around
Michigan Page 3

101 Lakes Bike Run
Recently Held Page 4



Branch Signals is published monthly by the Branch County Amateur Radio Club. This publication is posted to our website, www.branchcountyarc.com, but can be conveniently emailed to you as well. To subscribe, email the editor, Justin Lopshire, at skywave21@hotmail.com.

Summertime Activities Planned for the BCARC

At last, it's summertime in the Northern Hemisphere, and the lakes and pools are once again teeming with people in their ongoing quest to beat the heat. I've already had my first dip in the lake for the year, which actually occurred on the day before Memorial Day, which I believe is the earliest date that I've ever gone swimming in a lake! Either temperatures are warmer than usual, or I don't get out to the lake as often as I should!

The BCARC has some fun-filled activities planned for this summer. Of course, our club will continue to hold the Branch County Emergency Net (BCEN) Tuesdays at 7PM, with the exception of the third Tuesday of

the month, on the WD8KAF repeaters. Also, be sure to check out the new flier that we have published, advertising the BCEN at the next Club Meeting!

Speaking of Club Meeting, we have one coming up on Tuesday, June 19th, in the basement of the Branch County 911 Building, just west of Coldwater on US 12. This month, we will be mainly discussing our plans for this upcoming Field Day, on June 23rd and 24th.

For July, I'll be setting the gavel aside, and replacing it with silverware. No, I'm not going to call the meeting to order with a spoon and fork, but we will have a great time at a Club Picnic, in a place yet to be determined. That's where your participation begins! We will discuss this at the June meeting, along with who should bring what to the potluck-style event on July



17th.

In August, we'll be holding our Collaborative Foxhunt, which I guarantee will be easier than the Competitive Foxhunt was in May. A story on this event is also included in this issue of *Branch Signals*.

I look forward to seeing you at one or all of our upcoming events!

EmComm Notes

I am writing this column for Jan, KD8CYW this month as he is not yet back to 100%. I ask all to keep Jan and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers.

May was a slow month for Weather, with only one Skywarn activation. There were a few times that we were watching closely, but the weather chose other targets instead of us. Thanks go to WD8MGF, KD8OMD, NS8T, KX8R, N8VM and WB8R.

We once again conducted the Tornado Siren test on the first Saturday of May. Thanks to NS8T, KX8R, KC8UGV and KC8RYF for their fine help. This is an incredibly important event that we do each and every month. It is a simple task, but we are always in need of opera-

tors to help out. The entire task takes about 30 minutes or less and is painless. If you have not yet volunteered, please consider joining us. See WB8R for details.

For the third year in a row, we assisted our friends in Steuben County in the 101 Lakes Bike Run on May 12th. It was a picture perfect day with good, cool weather and more importantly, an event that went off without a hitch. There were no riders on the Michigan loop that were in any distress and our operators performed their assigned tasks with a great deal of expertise. It was scary good! Thanks to the following for volunteering part of their Saturday: KX8R, KC8RYF, KC8ZDA, KD8LSM, KC8UGV, N8VM, KQ8R, WVOSS, NS8T and WB8R. We continue to fine tune our operation in conjunction with Steuben County and this run was the best so far.



We look forward to continuing to improve our working relationship with our friends to the south.

While Jan is recovering, I will be handling the day to day EmComm activities including Skywarn activations. Please direct all questions, comments and concerns to me. Thank you for your continuing support.

73, Larry, WB8R

Club Calendar

June

2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 -Club Breakfast, 8:30-10AM, Stoagies Family Room Café, 91 East Chicago St., Coldwater

2-Monthly Siren Test, 1PM, throughout Coldwater

5, 12, & 26-BCARC Emergency Net, 7PM, 147.300+, 100Hz PL, & 443.300+, 123Hz PL

5-BCARC Board Meeting, 7PM, Coldwater Bob Evans Restaurant

19-BCARC Meeting, 7PM, Basement of the Branch County 911 Building, 141 East Chicago Rd., Coldwater

23 & 24-ARRL Field Day, 2PM Saturday-4:59PM Sunday, WD8KAF Club Station, Basement of Branch County 911 Building, 141 East Chicago Rd., Coldwater

MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DECLARE WEEK OF JUNE 17-23 "AMATEUR RADIO WEEK"

From Michigan ARRL

LANSING-The Michigan House of Representatives has issued a resolution recognizing the public service contributions of Michigan's Amateur Radio Operators, as they prepare for their annual emergency communications exercise. On June 1st, the State House passed House Resolution No. 287, a resolution to declare June 17-23, 2012, as Amateur Radio Week in the State of Michigan.

Amateur Radio (or "ham radio") operators from throughout Michigan will be joining Hams across the nation, attempting to talk to people around the world

using an amazing variety of differing methods. These range from the tried and true Morse Code to voice and digital communications, even to using amateur satellites as they demonstrate their unique dedication to public service during Amateur Radio Week. Michigan's local ham radio clubs will be active in their communities to raise awareness about Amateur Radio in preparation for the week's culminating event, an annual emergency preparedness exercise called "Field Day". Field Day is a 24-hour marathon event where the object is to contact as many other stations as possible during the contest, which will occur over the weekend of June 23 and 24. Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for Amateur Radio.

Field Day is designed to test operators' abilities to set up and operate portable stations under emergency conditions such as the loss of commercial electricity and normal avenues of communication. Most participants will set up their Field day stations in city parks, on village greens or even in shopping mall parking lots. The event is a serious test of skill, and a contest for fun, too. During the weekend, the radio operators try to contact as many other Field Day stations as possible, simulating the on-air skills needed to assist state, regional and local officials as well as agencies such as the Salvation Army and the American Red Cross during an emergency. More than 37,000 Amateur Radio operators across the country participated in last year's event, a far cry from the

handful of hams that participated in the first Field Day back in 1933.

The public is invited to stop by and watch the proceedings, ask questions and will often get a chance to join in, making a few contacts themselves under the watchful eye of a friendly ham operator. Anyone interested in visiting a Field Day site can do so by visiting the Branch County 911 Building in Coldwater on Saturday, June 23rd, starting at 2PM, in the basement. If you cannot make it to Coldwater, but would like to visit the site closest to you, use the online locator on the ARRL website at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-locator>, or scan the QR Code below. A copy of the Resolution from the Michigan House can be found on Page 4.



News from the ARRL

The ARRL Board of Directors has unanimously voted to approve the 9 cm band plan, as presented by the ARRL UHF/Microwave Band Plan Committee. Earlier this year, the committee asked radio amateurs for comments on a proposed 9 cm band plan, explaining that the purpose of these band plans is to share information about how the amateur bands are being used and to suggest compatible frequency ranges for various types of application. The committee also recognized that local conditions or needs may necessitate deviations from a band plan, and that regional frequency coordinating bodies may recommend alternatives for use in their respective regions.

The new 9 cm band plan includes the following notations:

- ***This band plan includes all other emission modes authorized in the 9 cm amateur band whose necessary bandwidth does not exceed the suggested bandwidths listed.***
- ***Weak Signal Terrestrial legacy users are encouraged to move to 3400.3-3401.0 MHz, as time and resources permit.***
- ***Broadband segments may be used for any combination of high-speed data (e.g. 802.11 protocols), Amateur Television and other high-bandwidth activities. Division into channels and/or separation of uses within these segments may be done regionally, based on need and usage.***
- ***Per ITU RR 5.149 from WRC-07, these band segments are also used for Radio Astronomy. Amateur use of these frequencies should be first coordinated with the National Science Foundation.***



Birthday Club

Calling all readers of *Branch Signals!*

We are currently looking for brave individuals to occupy this portion of the newsletter! Just send your date of birth to editor, Justin Lopshire, at sky-wave21@hotmail.com, and we'll make sure to let the rest of our readers know when you're getting ready to blow out another candle on your birthday cake!

Upcoming Meeting Programs

Join us in the cool confines of the basement of the Branch County 911 Building on Tuesday, June 19th, at 7PM, for Field Day discussions. We will also be planning for a July Club Picnic, at a location yet to be determined. We would love to see you there, and perhaps a friend (or your spouse) as well!

Michigan House Resolution No. 287

Rep. Lindberg offered the following resolution:

House Resolution No. 287.

A resolution to declare June 17–23, 2012, as Amateur Radio Week in the state of Michigan.

Whereas, Amateur radio operators are celebrating over a century of the miracle of the human voice broadcast over the airwaves; and

Whereas, Amateur radio has continued to provide a bridge between peoples, societies and countries by creating friendships and the sharing of ideas; and

Whereas, Amateur radio operators have also provided countless hours of community services both in emergencies and to other local organizations throughout these decades; and

Whereas, These amateur radio's services are provided wholly uncompensated; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan also recognizes the services amateur radio's people also provide to our many civilian Emergency Response organizations, including the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army; and

Whereas, These same individuals have further demonstrated their value in public assistance by providing free radio communications for local parades, bike-a-thons, walk-a-thons, fairs and other charitable public events; and

Whereas, The state of Michigan recognizes and appreciates the diligence of these "hams" who also serve as weather spotters in the Skywarn program of the National Weather Service; and

Whereas, Amateur radio once again proved its undisputed relevance in the modern world by providing emergency communications when other systems failed in the wake of Hurricane Irene, the paralyzing October Blizzard that hit the Northeast and Atlantic Seaboard; and

Whereas, The Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the leading organization for amateur radio in the USA; and

Whereas, The ARRL Amateur Radio Field Day exercise will take place on June 23-24, 2012 and is a 24-hour emergency preparedness exercise and demonstration of the Radio Amateurs' skills and readiness to provide self-supporting communications without further infrastructure being required; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of this legislative body declare June 17–23, 2012, as Amateur Radio Week in the state of Michigan.



101 LAKES BIKE RUN HELD RECENTLY

On Saturday, May 12, several bicycling enthusiasts participated in the Third Annual 101 Lakes Bike Run. The run, which originated in Angola, IN, featured an approximately 15 mile route through Branch County, mostly along Southern Road. The BCARC provided volunteers to assist along the way, just in case help was needed for any of the participants.

Picture courtesy Bill Shaw, KX8R