



Branch Signals

July 2012

EmComm Corner,
with Larry Camp
Page 2

Notes from Club
President, Justin
Lopshire
Page 2

Club to Host Picnic
at Gilead Lake Park
Page 3

BCARC Field Day
2012 Photo Gallery
Page 4



Rep. Kurtz Visits BCARC Field Day, Page 3

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.

I am writing this column for Jan, KD8CYW as he is undergoing treatment for his illness. I ask all to keep Jan and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he goes through this lengthy process and recovery.

We have had only one Skywarn activation in June. The storm was one of those pop up thunderstorms that we were expecting because of the weather conditions with a cold front approaching, but what we didn't expect was for it to blow up as quickly as it did. The storm caused a lot of damage in a path that began west of Bronson and continued easterly staying south of US 12 until it got to the eastern side of the county where it passed into Hillsdale County. There was significant home damage west of Bronson and again south of Coldwater near Little Rose Lake. The bulk of the damage was done on the

eastern side of Marble Lake south of Quincy where a sunroom of a home was absolutely flattened by a large tree coming down in the wind.

Fortunately there were no injuries. From what we were able to observe, the path appeared to be all straight line winds and relatively narrow, leading to the thought that it may have been a microburst that caused the damage. This cause has not been confirmed by IWX as of this writing.

We once again conducted the Tornado Siren test on the first Saturday of June. Thanks to NS8T, KX8R, KC8UGV, KC8SHD 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 operators 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.

As a result of our third year of assisting the Steuben County Community Foundation's Bike 101 Lakes, we were presented with a \$100 donation to our club from the Steuben County Community Foundation. We are currently studying where the application of those funds will bring the greatest impact to our preparedness capabilities. Planning for the 4th annual Bike 101 Lakes has begun and you can mark May 11, 2013 on your calendar.

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

Notes from the President

Justin Lopshire, KD8JEL

IT'S VACATION TIME!

It's July, and if you're reading this during the first week of the month, chances are that I have been absent from the Branch County area. As a matter of fact, I'm absent from the entire region. I figured it was about time to take a vacation that would put me well out of the area, so that I could enjoy other parts of this great country.

While I'll be away for several days, I will still be in touch with many of you, concerning our Club Picnic on the 17th of this month, at Gilead Lake Park. More on this can be found in the article on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Our club participated in the ARRL Field Day exercise on Saturday, June 23rd, at the



pizza, well after it had cooled off. He also brought a box of microwave popcorn and some refreshing soft drinks. I brought some more soft drinks and potato chips, and also bought a cheap foam cooler for storing ice for said soft drinks.

We had our share of setbacks, including what we believed was a faulty antenna, but after taking the old longwire down and hanging the backup antenna, and realizing the backup did not have 160m capabilities, we realized that the antenna connections were not in the correct areas on the tuner. Also, the CW keys were plugged into the wrong jack. Finally, two hours into the event, the CW station was up and running. Overall, the guys in the phone station logged more stations than the CW ops did, but

See **NOTES**, page 4

Club Calendar

July

6, 13, 20 & 27-Club Breakfast, 8:30-10AM, Stoagies Family Room Café, 91 East Chicago St., Coldwater

6-Monthly Siren Test, 1PM, throughout Coldwater

3, 10, 24 & 31-BCARC Emergency Net, 7PM, 147.300+, 100Hz PL, & 443.300+, 123Hz PL

17-BCARC PICNIC! 6PM, Gilead Lake Park, Booth Road, east of Rierson Road, in Bronson

PRB-1 Notes from Larry

As we discussed at a BCARC club meeting earlier in the year, the Michigan Section of the ARRL has several projects in progress concerning convincing the Michigan Legislature to pass a bill codifying the Federal Regulation PRB-1 into Michigan law.

As you will remember, PRB-1 states in part: *“that local governments must reasonably accommodate amateur operations...”* Many communities in Michigan may or may not be aware of this Federal requirement to accommodate amateur operations and thus they may illegally restrict an amateur from installing effective antennas and support structures. If the amateur believes that the community has wrongfully re-

expensive undertaking for the amateur as well as the community. If the amateur should win his case (and we think the likelihood of winning is good), then the community may be responsible for reimbursing costs and fees suffered by the plaintiff, effectively doubling the cost to community.

If the meat and potatoes of PRB-1 is codified into Michigan law, the local units of government are much more likely to be aware of the regulation, thus potentially preventing undue restrictions which stand a good chance of being overturned and thus saving local governments money. It is our plan to gather the necessary support to get such a bill passed in the Michigan Legislature.

We currently have HB 5027 setting in committee. We are redou-

bling our efforts to gather additional sponsors for the bill and pushing to get the bill onto the House floor for a vote. We are also actively working with two Senators to get a Senate Bill introduced.

At the BCARC Field Day, we were visited by Representative Ken Kurtz and I had a good discussion with him about HB 5027 and our need for co-sponsors and to get the bill onto the floor. I am anticipating a meeting with Ken soon to talk in more detail. I also have secured a meeting with our State Senator, Bruce Caswell on July 11. At that time I will present all of the relevant documents and hopefully secure his assistance as well.

Periodically, I will report on our progress here in *Branch Signals*.

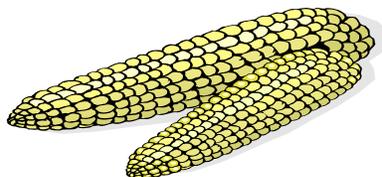


CLUB PICNIC!

The Branch County Amateur Radio Club is pleased to bring back a summertime activity, sure to please your palate! The Club is sponsoring a picnic, Tuesday, July 17th, at 6PM, at Gilead Lake Park, on Booth Road, east of Rierson Road. The Club will be providing the meat needed to make some juicy hamburgers for everybody in attendance. However, we will need everybody's assistance to make sure this event is as successful as it can be. Please sign up by responding to this email with the amount of people you plan to bring with you, as well as what you plan to bring to the picnic. As the RSVP's come in, I will send out updated lists, showing the items that are being brought to the picnic. Items that we are looking for include, but are not limited to:

- Hamburger Buns
- Condiments
- Chips
- Drinks (pop, tea, water, etc) **NO ALCOHOL, sorry! :-{**
- Baked Beans
- Corn on the Cob
- Disposable Plates and Cups
- Disposable Silverware
- Napkins
- Tablecovers

We're also looking for a way to get a grill to the Park. Jim King has offered usage of his grill. If you can assist in providing any of the above, or something that's not listed that you believe would be a good addition to a picnic, please let Club President, Justin L o p s h i r e , k n o w .



Area Nets

This month, we'll talk more about nets on the HF bands. For your convenience, you can go to http://www.n1yz.com/HFNET_LIST.HTM for a list of some of the more popular nets throughout the country. Or, if you prefer, scan the QR Code below to see this list on your smartphone!



Birthday Club

Calling all readers of *Branch Signals!*

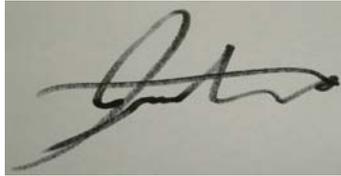
We are currently looking for brave individuals to occupy this portion of the newsletter! Just send your date of birth to editor, Justin Lopshire, at sky-wave21@hotmail.com, and we'll make sure to let the rest of our readers know when you're getting ready to blow out another candle on your birthday cake!

NOTES from Page 2

fun was had by all who attended. We have a few pictures from Field Day printed at the bottom of this page.

Don't forget to RSVP for the Club Picnic by emailing myself, at skywave21@hotmail.com.

Until the next time we see each other, stay safe!



Justin Lopshire, KD8JEL
President, Branch County Amateur Radio Club



IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to renew your Club Membership for 2012! It only costs \$15 to join, which allows you to have club privileges, and opportunities to vote at Club Meetings! For more information, see Bill Kubiak, K8SVWI, at the next Club meeting.

Pictures from Field Day 2012!



BREAKFAST!

Join us every Saturday morning, from 8:30-10AM, at Stoogie's Family Room Café, at the corner of East Chicago and Jefferson Street in Coldwater, for some great food and fellowship!

