

# BIG RAPIDS AREA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2004 FEBRUARY

## ARRL TO PROPOSE NEW ENTRY-LEVEL LICENSE, CODE-FREE HF ACCESS

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 19, 2004--The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test. The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals --developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

"Change in the Amateur Radio Service in the US, especially license requirements and even more so when Morse is involved, has always been emotional," said ARRL First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in presenting the Executive Committee's recommendations. "In fact, without a doubt, Morse is Amateur Radio's 'religious debate.'" The plan adopted by the Board departs only slightly from the Executive Committee's recommendations.

### The "New" Novice

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up, thus avoiding the need for the more complex RF safety questions in the Novice question pool. "The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. "It was also seen as important to limit the scope of privileges so the exam would not have to include material that is inappropriate at the entry level."

As an introduction to Amateur Radio, the Novice license served successfully for most of its 50-year history. The FCC has not issued new Novice licenses since the 2000 license restructuring, however. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing. Anticipating assertions that the new plan would "dumb down" Amateur Radio licensing, Harrison said those currently holding a ticket often perceive the level of complexity to have been greater when they were first licensed than it actually was. "Quite frankly," he said, "if you review the questions presented

in our license manuals throughout the years, you will be surprised how they compare to those of today."

### Technicians and Generals

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be consolidated into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants. ARRL already has proposed additional phone privileges for Generals in its "Novice refarming" petition, RM-10413, but the FCC has not yet acted on that petition.

### Morse Code Testing Retained for Extra

At the top rung, the Board indicated that it saw no compelling reason to change the Amateur Extra class license requirements. The ARRL plan calls on the FCC to combine the current Advanced and Amateur Extra class licensees into Amateur Extra, because the technical level of the exams passed by these licensees is very similar. New applicants for Extra would have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the written exam would stay the same. The League's plan calls for current Novice, Tech Plus and General class licensees to receive lifetime Element 1 (5 WPM Morse) credit.

"On the other hand, there's nothing particularly wrong with the existing Extra class license," he continued. "The change in the international regulations notwithstanding, the Board felt that the highest level of accomplishment in the FCC's amateur licensing structure should include basic Morse capability."

Sumner and Harrison say the current Technician entry-level ticket provides little opportunity to experience facets of ham radio beyond repeater operation. "The quality of that experience," Sumner said, "often depends on the operator's location."

Among other advantages, Sumner said the plan would allow new Novices to participate in HF SSB emergency nets on 75 and 40 meters as well as on the top 100 kHz of 15 meters. The new license also could get another name, Sumner said. "We're trying to recapture the magic of the old Novice license, but in a manner that's appropriate for the 21st century."

### Proposal Includes "Novice Refarming" Band Plan

The overall proposed ARRL license restructuring plan would more smoothly integrate HF spectrum privileges across the three license classes and would incorporate the "Novice refarming" plan the League put forth nearly two years ago in a Petition for Rule Making (RM-10413). The FCC has not yet acted on the ARRL plan, which would alter the current HF subbands. The Novice refarming proposal would eliminate the 80, 40 and 15-meter Novice/Technician Plus CW subbands as such and reuse that spectrum in part to expand phone/image subbands on 80 and 40 meters.

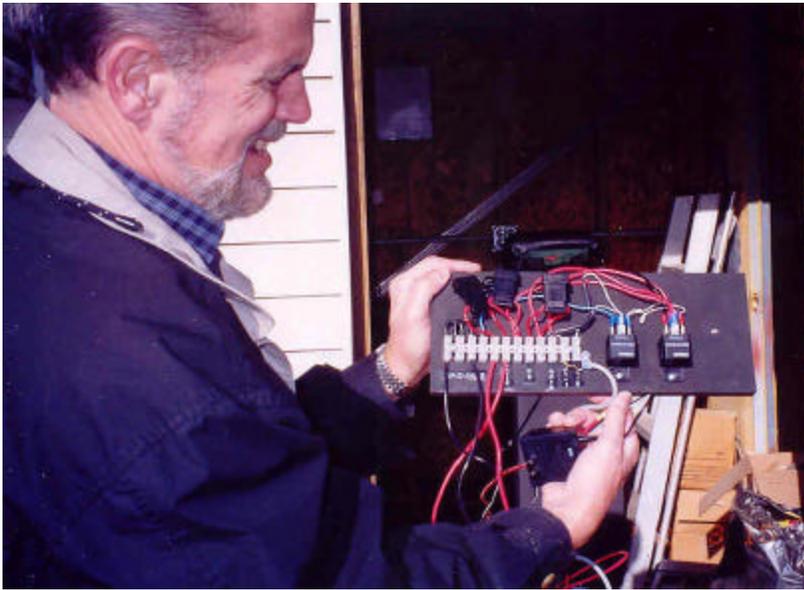
The ARRL license restructuring design calls for no changes in privileges for Extra and General class licensees on 160, 60, 30, 20, 17 or 12 meters. Novice licensees would have no access to those bands.

### Proposed Phone/Image HF Subbands (Includes Novice Refarming Proposal)

- 80 Meters: Extra: 3.725-4.000 MHz (gain of 25 kHz); General: 3.800-4.000 MHz (gain of 50 kHz);  
Novice: 3.900-4.000 MHz (new)
- 40 meters: Extra: 7.125-7.300 MHz (gain of 25 kHz), General: 7.175-7.300 MHz (gain of 50 kHz)  
Novice: 7.200-7.300 MHz (new)
- 15 meters: Extra: 21.200-21.450 MHz (no change); General: 21.275-21.450 MHz (gain of 25 kHz);  
Novice: 21.350-21.450 MHz (new)
- 10 meters: Extra and General: 28.300-29.700 MHz (no change); Novice: 28.300-28.500 MHz (no change);  
Proposed CW/Data-Exclusive HF Subbands (Includes Novice Refarming Proposal)
- 80 meters: Extra: 3.500-3.725 MHz; General: 3.525-3.725 MHz; Novice: 3.550-3.700 MHz
- 40 meters: Extra: 7.000-7.125 MHz; General: 7.025-7.125 MHz; Novice: 7.050-7.125 MHz
- 15 meters: Extra: 21.000-21.200 MHz; General: 21.025-21.200 MHz; Novice: 21.050-21.200 MHz
- 10 meters: Extra/General: 28.000-28.300 MHz; Novice: 28.050-28.300 MHz

# TWO METER REPEATER BACKUP

## DON MACCONNEL, WA4FRJ



It's no secret that the backup power system has been installed on the two meter repeater.

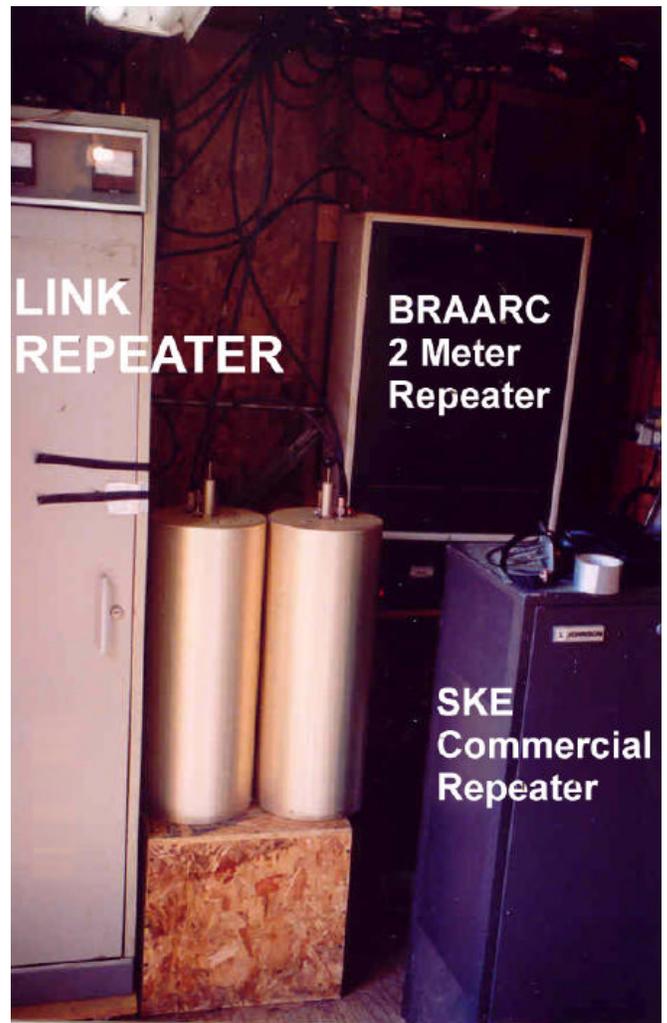
So far it hasn't been called into service, except for a test while Pete, W8PET, and Don, WA4FRJ, were installing the system. We hope that it isn't needed but thought you might want a look at the control board and a peek at our end of the building on the hill.

We are on the hill through the courtesy of SKE Electronics located on Michigan Ave. in Big Rapids. SKE's George Keen is an expert two way radio and broadcast engineer and has hands-on knowledge of amateur radio having been with Heathkit

back "in their heyday". We have never been charged a dime for power, tower or building space. Generally in our area antenna space rental goes for around a dollar a foot for each antenna. If we were on a rental tower our costs would be in the neighborhood of \$300 per month. In view of that, we are going to give SKE a plug.

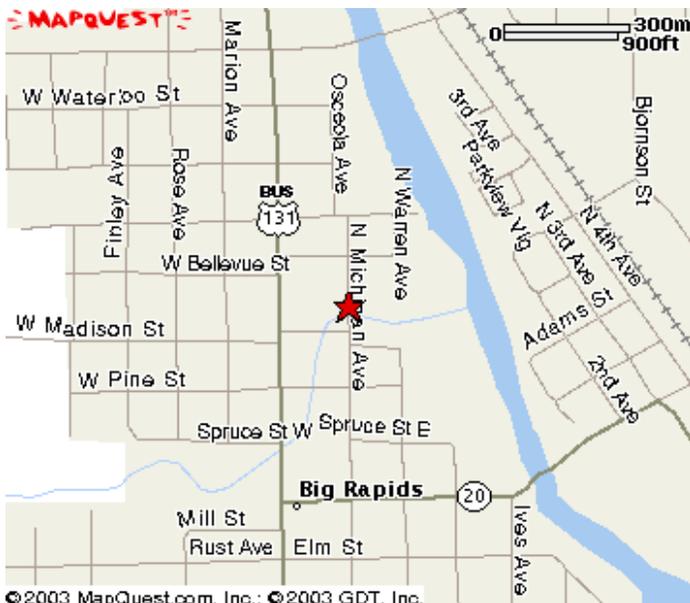
Among other items they sell are really nice Sony TV's, stereos, pagers and cell phones. For businesses they provide two UHF commercial repeaters. They also repair consumer entertainment electronics, an amazing service now days!

Pete is shown holding the backup power control board with its associated fuses, relays and electronic interface components. We hope it is rugged enough to withstand lightning and the wide range of temperatures in the building. Of course we hope the same thing for the three state battery charger and the two batteries. The picture in the building was taken on the west end. The club's two meter repeater, SKE's UHF repeater and the cabinet with the IRA link are shown. The large cans are used to allow the club repeater and the link system to use the same antennas. For interest, the east end of the building has WDEE's FM transmitter which runs something like 5kW. This is John's, KC8BAR, favorite. Definitely not a toy.



Now you've seen it and some day, if instead of a Morse "K" courtesy tag, you hear a voice say, "Battery," you will know that it is working to keep our repeater on the air!

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE 7:30 P.M. FEBRUARY 5<sup>th</sup> AT THE BIG RAPIDS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY LOCATED AT 435 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE IN BIG RAPIDS. BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETS AT 6:30 P.M. PROGRAM: Program Director Richard, KC8UB says "Join us for a journey to the most awful place in the world". Come enjoy the trip!**



**[PHOTO FROM CLUB WEB SITE]**

**WEB SITE VERSION OF THE NEWSLETTER NOW LOCATED IN "MEMBERS ONLY" SECTION**

Per vote of the BRAARC Board, the club newsletter will only be available on the "Member's Only" section of the website. This became effective Sunday, January 11, 2004. You will need a club address and a password to access this portion of the site. If you do not have an address yet, contact Thom W18W.

**NOTE!!** To view the changes in the website you may need to clear all caches and histories in your web browser. Consult your browser's help files for info on how to do this.

ADAPTED FROM THOM DURFEE'S WEB NOTICE

### **ARE YOU A VOLUNTEER EXAMINER?**

If you are but have not participated in any of our club VE exams, please contact George Rouman, W8OWN at 231-796-3114 or at one of the club functions. I, George, did have a member tell me he had just received certification, made a note, took it home and then promptly lost it. I would like to be contacted by that ham but would like any others to let me know as well. We would like to add you to our club VE list. We will be having an exam following the upcoming Tech/General class sessions and would like to bring you in on it.

## **IT IS "GET-INVOLVED-TIME JOIN IN AND MAKE OUR CLUB GREAT IN 2004**

The list of the club's Board of Directors and Committees has been revised as shown on the next page. This is not the last word, however. If you are on the list but no longer wish to serve, contact President Tim Stoecklein. His address and his phone number are on the membership list available in the September/October 2003 Newsletter or just let him know at the next club meeting. Furthermore, if you wish to be on one of the committees, contact him to be included. We are looking for anyone who will help and being on a committee is the best way for you to become involved! Don't be concerned that you have not been involved enough to function as a valuable member. If you volunteer, you will be given all the orientation and assistance you will need to fit into your committee. Also, there are many ad hoc committees that appear during the year. How about joining the Field day Committee or a committee to develop a special event or construction night? There are plenty of opportunities to get involved. Just ferret one out and become part of the action!

# REVISED LIST OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

January 9, 2004

## Board Of Directors:

Tim Stoecklein-President  
Dale Colby, Vice President  
Tom Behler-EC/RO Mecosta County  
James Orłowski-Secretary  
Sue Behler-Treasurer  
George Rouman-Newsletter Committee Chair  
Beverly Callewaert-Emergency Committee Chair  
John McDowell-Publicity Committee Chair  
Peter Chesebrough-Web Site Committee (Local)  
Thom Durfee-Web Site Committee Chair  
Fritz Pins – Repeater Committee Chair  
Gary Atteberry – EC/RO Osceola County  
Richard Osborne – Program Committee Chair

## Repeater Committee:

Fritz Pins-Repeater Trustee and  
Repeater Committee Chair

George Rouman  
Pete Chesebrough  
Jeff Barstow

Gary Atteberry  
Mark Thurston  
Jake Spence  
Tom Durfee  
Don MacConnel  
Thom Behler  
Dale Colby

John McDowell

## Publicity Committee:

John McDowell-Reed City area publicity  
Bill Eckels-Big Rapids area publicity

## Emergency Committee:

Beverly Callewaert-Committee Chair  
Pete Chesebrough  
Gary Atteberry  
George Rouman  
Jeff Barstow  
Don MacConnel  
Mark Watkins  
Fritz Pins  
Tom Behler  
Dan Dowdy  
Jim Orłowski  
Bob Croaker  
Bob Moody  
Walter Nalezty  
Matt Trombley  
Tim Stoecklein  
Sue Behler  
Program Committee:  
Richard Osborne, Chair

## Newsletter Committee:

George Rouman-Committee Chair and Editor  
Thom Durfee, Web Site Editor  
Sue Behler-Super Proof Reader  
Tom Behler-Content Reviewer  
Gregg McDaniell-Getting to Know You  
Articles  
Dale Colby-Photography

## Ad Hoc Field Day Committee:

Co Chair - Thom Durfee  
Co Chair - Tom Behler

This is a fun filled way to prove we can operate effectively under adverse conditions with emergency power sources in the field and have a fun filled experience.

Many hands will be needed to make this year's outing a success. Meetings will be held soon to line up the subcommittees and duties so please impress our chairmen by volunteering early.

Have any subjects you can suggest to our Program Chairman, Richard Osborne, KC8UB? He is soliciting any you may have to offer so contact him by mail, phone or in person. You will find his address and phone number on the Ham List that appeared in a recent Newsletter.

**BRAARC IS AN ARRL  
AFFILIATED AND SPECIAL  
SERVICE CLUB**

NEXT MONTHLY CLUB BREAKFAST:  
SATURDAY JANUARY 31, 2004 IN  
ROGERS HEIGHTS AT THE SEASONS  
RESTAURANT LOCATED 5 MILES



SOUTH OF BIG RAPIDS. NO  
BIG HAMFESTS OR OTHER  
EVENTS THIS MONTH TO  
DILUTE THE ATTENDANCE  
(FIRST TIME IN SEVERAL

MONTHS). SO SEE YOU THERE TO ENJOY A  
GOOD TIME AND A HEARTY BREAKFAST OF  
YOUR CHOICE.

## AUSTRIAN AUTHORITIES PULL PLUG ON BPL PILOT PROJECT

Do you suppose our own government has as many smarts? [Ed.]

The Austrian Amateur Transmitter Federation (ÖVSV--Österreichischer Versuchssenderverband) <<http://www.oevsv.at/index.shtml>> reports that a Broadband over Power Line (BPL) field test in the city of Linz has been cut short as a result of excessive radio interference.

ÖVSV, Austria's International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)

<<http://www.iaru.org>> member-society, said in December that the Government Ministry for Commerce, Innovation and Technology closed down Linz Power Company's BPL pilot project because it was generating interference on the HF bands. Shortwave broadcaster Radio Austria's future Zone service <<http://futurezone.orf.at>> says the case that brought

the issue to a head was a Red Cross report that emergency services radio traffic during a disaster response drill last May was the victim of massive BPL interference.

"The Commerce Ministry Order not only means the end of the Linz BPL pilot project," the Radio Austria report said, "but the end of the deployment of this technology in Austria, especially given the interference to radio communication in places of business." According to the broadcaster, measurements were said to have indicated that radiation from the BPL system exceeded permissible field strength levels by a factor of 10,000.

ÖVSV says radio amateurs in Austria have opposed deployment of all BPL experiments as neither legal nor compatible with "vital, worldwide shortwave radiocommunication." Among other problems with BPL, ÖVSV has cited its potential to disrupt emergency communications and safety-of-life services as well as military operations on HF and navigation and aeronautical communication.

Last fall, ÖVSV representatives and Linz amateurs got together with power company representatives in an effort to resolve BPL's incompatibility with HF radio operation. The meetings followed news reports of interference to emergency service communications and QRM complaints from several area hams. "Because of the racket, expensive installations, such as a 20-meter monobander on a high-rise building, become totally worthless," ÖVSV said.

The utility agreed to look into the possibility of a 100-meter protective zone around each amateur's location, notch filters for amateur frequencies, network system filters and the use of 5 GHz wireless local area networks.





THE NEWEST EDITION OF THE ARRL NEWSLETTER NOTED THAT SOME CORRECTION AND CLARIFICATION OF THE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE WAS NECESSARY SINCE IT CONTAINED SOME INCORRECT INFORMATION.

Austrian Amateur Transmitter Federation President Mike Zwingl, OE3MZC, explained this week that the Austrian Ministry for Commerce, Innovation and Technology last fall requested that the Linz Power Company's BPL project immediately halt all instances of interference. But the Ministry fell short of altogether shutting down the pilot project, which continues to operate. Zwingl said authorities did order a BPL shutdown at one location where BPL was causing harmful interference to a radio amateur, however. "The press did read it differently," he conceded. Zwingl said that BPL has been deployed over a large part of Linz, and all power lines--not just individual BPL users--are radiating HF interference. Legal action reportedly is pending.

## BRAARC TECHNICIAN CLASS TRAINING ANNOUNCED; SPREAD THE WORD



Club members of the recently appointed ad hoc Training Committee met on Thursday January 22<sup>nd</sup> and established a schedule for the upcoming 2004 class. The training will be held on Wednesday evenings at the Big Rapids Department of Public Safety at 435 North Michigan Avenue and will consist of eight sessions to prepare non-hams to pass the Technician Class exam and become licensed amateurs.

A pre-class session for all students will be held Wednesday February 18<sup>th</sup> to meet the students, orient them and collect money for the required text book, the ARRL publication, "Now You're Talking". The books will be ordered immediately and passed out to the students at the first actual class session on Wednesday February the 25<sup>th</sup>. The text is the only cost the student will have for the course. The course itself is free and all handouts and other materials will be supplied by the club with no charge. If the student has access to a copy of the 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of the text, purchasing a new text will not be necessary.

The class sessions and the subject matter for each are shown in the sidebar to the right. Along with the text a study guide will be supplied to each student and will concentrate heavily on preparing the student for the FCC exam itself.

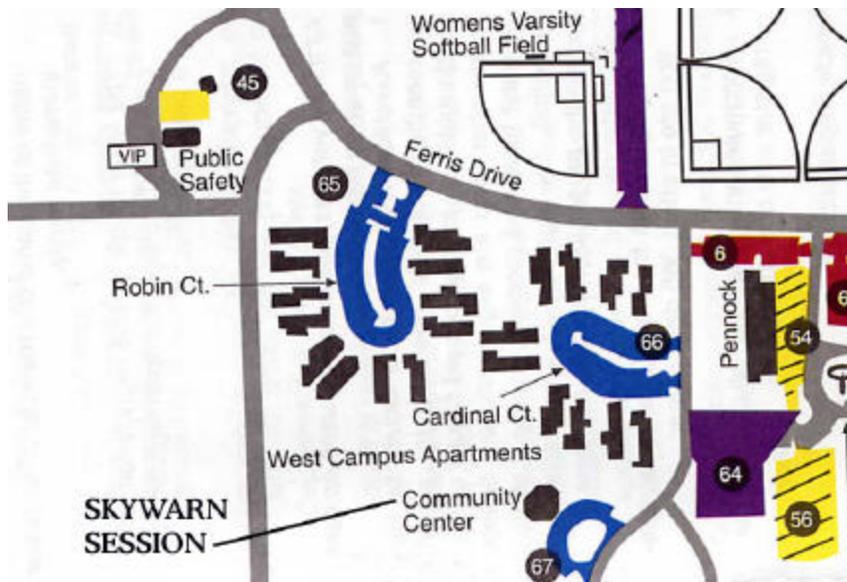
After the last class session, a VE Exam will be held in Big Rapids by the club's VE Team on Saturday the 17 of April. **All VE's be advised to clear that date for the exam session!** You will be contacted by George, W8OWN, in the near future.

Also in the works is a weekend cram course for the FCC General Class exam to be held in May 2004 on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup>, Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>. More on the details of this endeavor will be forthcoming in future newsletters.

### CLASS SYLLABUS FOR THE TECHNICIAN LICENSE

Week	Chapter	Title
0		Orientation Session
1	1	Federal Communication Commission Rules
2	2	Operating an Amateur Radio Station
3	3 & 4	Radio Wave Propagation and Amateur Radio Practices
4	5	Understanding Basic Electrical Principals
5	6	Circuit Components
6	7	Practical Circuits
7	9	Choosing an Antenna
8	8 & 10	Amateur Radio Signals and emissions and Radio Frequency Radiation Safety

## THIS YEAR'S SKYWARN TRAINING SESSION IS UPON US



THIS YEAR'S PROGRAM BY THE GRAND RAPIDS OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT 6:30 P.M. WEDNESDAY THE 24<sup>TH</sup> OF MARCH AT THE WEST CAMPUS COMMUNITY BUILDING ON THE FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

THE WEATHER BUREAU DEPENDS ON REPORTS FROM AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS FOR REAL TIME INFORMATION OF SEVERE WEATHER FROM WEATHER NETS AND INDIVIDUALS. BRAARC SETS UP THE EMERGENCY WEATHER NET ON THE 2 METER REPEATER WHEN WEATHER THREATENS AND KEEPS THE NWS INFORMED OF LOCAL CONDITIONS THROUGH THE ARRL EMERGENCY

SYSTEM. AND THE NWS ALSO FINDS IT VALUABLE TO RECEIVE DATA FROM HAMS WHO NOTE LOCAL WEATHER CONDITIONS, ON A ROUTINE BASIS. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE EXPOSED TO IMPORTANT INFORMATION OR TO BOLSTER YOUR KNOWLEDGE FROM PREVIOUS SESSIONS. ADD IT TO YOUR CALENDAR NOW AND WE WILL SEE YOU THERE.

**EARLY ALERT: KB8VEE, Tom Vandermel, to speak at the May 6<sup>th</sup> club meeting. Subject: The Emergency Communications Response Team concept (ECRT) and the standard operating procedures (SOP) for State Essential Elements of Information Reporting, (SEEI). He is also expected to handle any questions the audience may have on emergency preparedness.**

## A MAJOR REMINDER FOR ARES/RACES MEMBERS OR THOSE JUST INTERESTED: HAZMAT SESSION IS FEB. 28<sup>TH</sup>

Last month's Newsletter had a most important announcement of the Hazardous Materials Awareness training course for those who need the course for completing their RACES certification under the newly-adopted RACES standards. The course will be given on Saturday: February 28 from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. in the classroom of the new Big Rapids Department of Public Safety building, located at 435 N. Michigan Avenue in Big Rapids. The course instructor will be Randy Bell, a certified hazmat trainer, from the Big Rapids Fire Division. If you're interested in attending, please contact Tom Behler, EC/RO, (phone: 231-592-98854 or email: kb8tyj@arrl.net) so he can determine the number who will be attending.

## KUDOS TO GARY ATTEBERRY, WB8WIA

Gary explored the possibilities and carried out the contacts for our club to meet at the newly opened Big Rapids Department of Public Safety building. Our last meeting was at that location and everyone was highly pleased with the facility.

There is audio visual equipment of all types we might need and certainly that beats having to make special arrangements whenever we needed them. There is ample space for our present group and even enough to grow into. Make a special effort to come see for yourself.

Many thanks from all of us, Gary.

# MICHIGAN HAMFESTS

SATURDAY 7 Feb 2004 Hiawatha ARA <http://www.qsl.net/k8lod/> Contact Bob Serfas, N8PKN 1600 Bayview Drive, Marquette, MI 49855 Phone: 906-225-6773 Email: [n8pkn@aol.com](mailto:n8pkn@aol.com) Negaunee, MI

SATURDAY 14 Feb 2004 Cherryland ARC 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Admission \$5.00 Talk-in 146.860 Mhz Immaculate Conception Elementary School 720 2nd Street, Traverse City Friday Night before the swap there will be a Buffet Social Dinner at the Elks lodge from: 5:00 - 7:00 pm 625 Bay Street Traverse City, MI 49684 Contact: Joe Novak, W8TVT 201 South Spruce Street, Traverse City, MI 49684 Phone: 231-947-8555 Email: [jnovak@traverse.net](mailto:jnovak@traverse.net)

SUNDAY 15 Feb 2004 Livonia ARC Contact: <http://www.larc.mi.org> Bill Johnston, W8WSJ PO Box 51532 Livonia, MI 48151-5532 Phone: 248-486-6443 Email: [swap@larc.mi.org](mailto:swap@larc.mi.org) No other information.

SATURDAY MARCH 20<sup>TH</sup> Marshall High School in Marshall, Mi. Sponsored by the Southern Michigan Amateur Radio Society and The Marshall High School Industrial Arts Club. Open from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Talk-in on the 146.660 repeater and on 146.520 simplex. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door. Full food service available Contact Charles Williams, 15202 Ackerson Drive, Battle Creek, MI or call Charles Williams at 269-964-3197. Directions: from Big Rapids south on hwy 131 TO Kalamazoo and turn east on i 94 to the Marshall EXIT. In Marshall take north drive east and turn north on North Marshall to the high school parking lot. Either that or find another way, HI.

Call: _____	Class: _____	Name: _____
Address: _____		
City: _____	State: _____	ZIP: _____
E-mail Address _____		
Dues \$20.00: For 2003 _____ For 2004 _____ Donation _____		
Checks should be made out to the Big Rapids Area Amateur Radio Club.		
Mail this form to Sue Behler, KC8IFP, Treasurer, 511 Spring Street, Big Rapids, MI, 49307 or bring your dues to the next meeting.		

## NORWEGIAN CLUBS EXPERIMENTING ON 60 METERS



WHEN RIGS INCLUDE 60 METERS, COULD THIS BE A GOOD CHOICE TO USE FOR EMERGENCY TRAFFIC HANDLING?

Norwegian Radio Relay League International Liaison Officer Ole Garpestad, LA2RR, reports that registered club stations there have enjoyed special permission to test on 5 MHz for the past three years. Almost all of these club stations have one-letter call sign suffixes and, in some situations, they may use the LE prefix. The authorization is restricted for use in emergency communication or training, and Norwegian stations may not work stations outside of Norway on 5 MHz. Garpestad said Norway's elongated shape makes it impossible to communicate from one end of the country to the other on 80 meters, while 40 meters "has its shortcomings" during hours of darkness. "We are only allowed to use the two frequencies 5.410 and 5.420 MHz, all modes, 100 W," he said, "but only for communication between Norwegian club stations engaged in emergency communication or training for such communication, so this does not include any station outside of Norway."

# LOCAL HAM RECEIVES PRAISE IN THE QST'S LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

If you enjoy reading QST's "Letters to the Editor", you may have seen the mention of David Huhtala, KC8WGA, in the February 2004 issue.

Under the heading of "Memorable QSOs Wes Molenaar, KB9TXS, of St John, Indiana wrote in part:

**With great interest, I read the article "A Voice from the Ether—B. H. "Tex" Burdick, W5BQU" [Dec 2003, pp 48-49] because I agree with the author's statement about how memorable QSOs are with such landmarks and icons of our great hobby.**

**On August 4, 2003 I had such a memorable QSO with Ollie Blackburn, W0MB, from St Louis, Missouri, on 40 meter CW. (When Ollie told me he was 101 years old, I thought my copying skills had suffered another relapse—especially since I had just had a QSO with 10 year old David, Huhtala, KC8WGA, a few days prior. (Both of these hams sent great CW—real professionals.)**

**I just feel honored to have met one of these two very fine gentlemen and look forward to every QSO – you just never know who it may be. What a great hobby.**

David was one of the super students in our club's 2003 Technician Class sessions in which all who took the course obtained a license at the VE session. Not resting on his

laurels he went on from there to obtain his General Class license and is looking forward to Extra Class soon. David is active on our VHF repeater as well as HF bands, so look for him.

Copied from the QRZ Web Site is this information and photo of David:

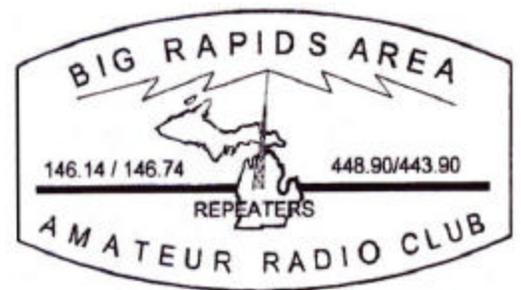
At the age of 11, I have been an amateur radio operator for 7 months and love the hobby! After my Dad (N8ZH) got his Extra, I started studying for my General and passed.

I am home schooled, play golf, and play trumpet in a middle school band.



Big Rapids is a college town with 10,569 people. It is the home of Ferris State University and located 55 miles north of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

73, David



P.O. BOX 343, PARIS, MI 49338

## ARRL TO SUBMIT NEW VERSION OF AMATEUR RADIO TO FCC SEE PAGE ONE